

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia Washington

BilAnalysis

Bill No. HB 1921

Bidding Procedures/State Agencies/EducInsts.
Brief title

Public Arg: 2/26/97

Reps. Honeyford/Smith/Thomas
Sponsor

Staff Contact S. Lundin
Comm. on Govt. Admin.
Phone: 786-7127

BACKGROUND:

1. Normal contracting procedures.

In general state agencies and institutions of higher education make purchases using either a formal competitive bidding process or a less formal quotation process from vendors. Exceptions are made to this general requirement including for purchases of a value of less than \$400.

In general state agencies and institutions of higher education award contracts for public works using a formal competitive bidding process or a less formal small works rote process. Exceptions are made to these general requirements including for awarding contracts for public works of below a specified amount.

2. Women and minority-owned and controlled businesses.

The office of women and minority businesses develop overall goals for the participation of qualified women and minority-owned and controlled businesses in contracts set by each state agency and institution of higher education certifies businesses as being women or minority-owned and controlled businesses and adopts standard contract clauses for the inclusion of women and minority-owned businesses.

Each state agency and institution of higher education is required to comply with the annual goals established for the agency or institution and to adopt a plan to insure that minority and women-owned and controlled businesses are afforded the maximum practicable opportunity to directly and meaningfully participate in the public contracts let by the agency or institution for public works and the purchase of goods and services.

If it is necessary for a state agency or institution of higher education to meet these goals, a contract may be let to the next lowest responsible bidder in turn or all bids may be rejected and new bids obtained. An apparent low-bid must be in compliance with contract provisions required developed by the office of women and minority-owned businesses.

Continued

SUMMARY:

The authority is eliminated for a state agency or institution of higher education to award a contract to a women or minority-owned and controlled business that is not the lowest responsible bidder. Instead, a contract at the amount of the lowest bid may be offered to a women or minority-owned and controlled business.

Instead of the apparent low bidder being required to be in compliance with the contract provisions for women and minority-owned and controlled businesses, the next lowest bidder that is offered a contract must be in compliance with these contract provisions.

FISCAL NOTE: Not Requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill passed.