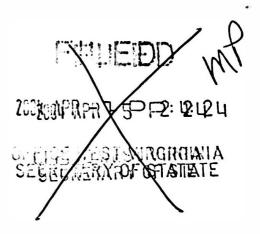


In Effect 90 Days From Passage

FILED

2004 APR - 7 P 2: 24

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE



ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

Senate Bill No. 694

(SENATORS MCCABE, GUILLS AND HUNTER, original sponsors)

[Passed March 13, 2004; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §5-22-1 of the code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to establishing the West Virginia fairness in competitive bidding act; requiring that competitive bids for government construction projects be awarded to the lowest qualified responsible bidder; providing clarification of the term "lowest qualified responsible bidder"; establishing procedures and requirements to be followed in awarding contracts for government construction projects; and providing criminal penalties for violation of the procedures and requirements to be followed in awarding government construction projects.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §5-22-1 of the code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 22. GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS.

Enr. Com. Sub. for S. B. No. 694] 2

§5-22-1. Bidding required; government construction contracts to go to lowest qualified responsible bidder; procedures to be followed in awarding government construction projects; penalties for violation of procedures and requirements debarment; exceptions.

(a) This section and the requirements set forth in this
 section may be referred to as the "West Virginia Fairness
 In Competitive Bidding Act".

4 (b) As used in this section, "the state and its subdivi5 sions" means the state of West Virginia, every political
6 subdivision thereof, every administrative entity that
7 includes such a subdivision, all municipalities and all
8 county boards of education.

9 (c) The state and its subdivisions shall, except as pro-10 vided in this section, solicit competitive bids for every 11 construction project exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars in total cost: Provided, That a vendor who has been 12 debarred pursuant to the provisions of sections thirty-13 14 three-a through thirty-three-f, inclusive, article three, chapter five-a of this code may not bid on or be awarded 15 a contract under this section. All bids submitted pursuant 16 to this chapter shall include a valid bid bond or other 17 18 surety as approved by the state of West Virginia or its 19 subdivisions.

20 (d) Following the solicitation of bids, the construction 21 contract shall be awarded to the lowest qualified responsi-22 ble bidder who shall furnish a sufficient performance and 23 payment bond: Provided, That the state and its subdivi-24 sions may reject all bids and solicit new bids on the 25 project. As used in this section, the term "lowest qualified responsible bidder" means the bidder that bids the lowest 26 27 price and that meets, as a minimum, all the following requirements in connection with the bidder's response to 28 the bid solicitation. The bidder must certify that it: (1) Is 29 30 ready, able and willing to timely furnish the labor and 31 materials required to complete the contract; (2) is in 32 compliance with all applicable laws of the state of West 33 Virginia; and (3) has supplied a valid bid bond or other surety authorized or approved by the contracting public 34 35 entity. The contracting public entity may not award the 36 contract to a bidder which fails to meet these minimum 37 requirements. As to any prospective low bidder which the 38 contracting public entity determines not to have met any 39 one or more of the requirements of this section or other 40 requirements as determined by the public entity in the 41 written bid solicitation, prior to the time a contract award 42 is made, the contracting public entity shall document in 43 writing and in reasonable detail the basis for the determi-44 nation and shall place the writing in the bid file. After the 45 award of a bid under this section, the bid file of the 46 contracting public entity and all bids submitted in re-47 sponse to the bid solicitation shall be open and available 48 for public inspection.

(e) Any public official or other person who individually
or together with others knowingly makes an award of a
contract under this section in violation of the procedures
and requirements of this section is subject to the penalties
set forth in section twenty-nine, article three, chapter fivea of the code of West Virginia.

(f) All bids shall be opened in accordance with the
provisions of section two of this article, except designbuild projects which are governed by article twenty-two-a,
chapter five of this code and are exempt from these
provisions.

60 (g) Nothing in this section shall apply to:

61 (1) Work performed on construction or repair projects by
62 regular full-time employees of the state or its subdivisions;

63 (2) Prevent students enrolled in vocational educational64 schools from being utilized in construction or repair

Enr. Com. Sub. for S. B. No. 694] 4

projects when the use is a part of the student's trainingprogram;

67 (3) Emergency repairs to building components and 68 systems. For the purpose of this subdivision, the term 69 emergency repairs means repairs that if not made immedi-70 ately will seriously impair the use of building components 71 and systems or cause danger to those persons using the 72 building components and systems; and

(4) Any situation where the state or a subdivision thereof
reaches an agreement with volunteers, or a volunteer
group, whereby the governmental body will provide
construction or repair materials, architectural, engineering, technical or any other professional services and the
volunteers will provide the necessary labor without charge
to, or liability upon, the governmental body.

5 [Enr. Com. Sub. for S. B. No. 694

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

.... Clerk of the House of Delegates

L) male President the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

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PRESENTED TO THE
GOVERNOR
DATE 3.3.04
TIME 10:45 pm

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