

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1861

As of March 17, 2017

Title: An act relating to the University of Washington's alternative process for awarding contracts.

Brief Description: Concerning the University of Washington's alternative process for awarding contracts.

Sponsors: Representatives Pollet, Haler, Stanford, Tharinger and Santos.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/08/17, 52-45.

Committee Activity: Higher Education: 3/14/17.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Expands reporting requirements of contractors related to the use of Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises certified minority-owned, women-owned, veteran, and small business entities, and disadvantaged business enterprises.
- Removes the termination date of the University of Washington alternative contracting process.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Staff: Clint McCarthy (786-7319)

Background: The University of Washington (UW) has an alternative process for awarding contracts to construct projects in which critical patient care or highly specialized medical research is located. UW Medicine regularly renovates and upgrades its medical facilities and clinical spaces. Oftentimes these projects are highly technical and require specific certifications to ensure that UW Medicine facilities maintain the highest safety standards for patients and health care professionals. To ensure that these projects meet federal safety standards and can be executed in a timely and cost-effective manner, UW uses an alternative contracting process that produces a Critical Care Roster. The Critical Care Roster is a list of qualified firms that have proven expertise and capacity to perform this work to further UW Medicine's public health mission. As a public institution, UW is required to have this

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process regularly audited by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to ensure compliance with state contracting laws.

Summary of Bill: UW is directed to publish a notice of the existence of the critical patient care or specialized medical research facilities rosters for different trade specialties or categories of anticipated work with the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises in addition to the requirement in statute to publish in a newspaper of general circulation. UW is directed to seek input from the women-owned and minority-owned business community on requirements for eligible contractors to be accepted and remain on the rosters. UW is required to have one representative from the minority-owned community and the women-owned business community on the committee that evaluates the contractors submitting qualifications. The evaluation criteria for selection of contractors to be included on the roster is expanded to include the following:

- the contractor's record of including the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises certified minority, women, veteran, and small businesses; and
- the contractor's past history of use of small businesses, disadvantaged business enterprises, and minority women business enterprises over the last five years on projects of \$5 million or less.

The UW Business Diversity Program is directed to establish aspirational goals based on the projected subcontracting opportunities. The UW report to the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board is expanded to include use rates on projects of Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises certified small business entities, disadvantaged business enterprises, veterans, and women- and minority-owned businesses.

The termination date for the UW alternative award process of June 30, 2017, is removed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The bill enables targeted recruiting for firms to be on the critical care roster. This is going to be a transparent process by using the minority and women owned business community, so that members can see what the process is like. Through aggressive outreach, UW has identified a firm that will apply to be on the roster. It would be the first minority owned firm on the roster.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Gerry Pollet, Prime Sponsor; Joe Dacca, University of Washington - Director of State Relations; Jim Evans, University of Washington.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.