
Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee

SB 5385

Brief Description: Concerning work performed by institutions of higher education.

Sponsors: Senators Liias, Holy, Saldaña, Shewmake and Wilson, C..

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increases bid limits for public works projects that require competitive bidding at public institutions of higher education.

Hearing Date: 3/15/23

Staff: Elizabeth Allison (786-7129).

Background:

Public Works.

Public work is all work, construction, alteration, repair, or improvement, other than ordinary maintenance, executed at the cost of the state or of any municipality. Every city, county, town, port district, district, or other public agency authorized to execute public work must follow specified requirements for competitive bidding for public works projects estimated to cost over a certain dollar amount. That amount varies depending on the entity and how many trades may be involved in the project. The awarded contract must go to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest responsive bid, otherwise referred to as the lowest responsible bidder.

Small Works Roster.

State agencies and local governments may create a small works roster of contractors for certain work estimated to cost \$350,000 or less. Bids may be solicited from contractors on the appropriate small works roster to assure that a competitive price is established and to award

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contracts to the lowest responsible bidder. However, if the estimated cost of the work is from \$150,000 to \$300,000, a state agency or local government that chooses to solicit bids from less than all the appropriate contractors on the appropriate small works roster must also notify the remaining contractors on the appropriate small works roster that quotations on the work are being sought. Notice may be given by newspaper, mail, or electronically.

Bid Limits for Public Institutions of Higher Education.

The bid limit established for a competitive sealed bid process for a regional university, state university, or community and technical college (CTC) is limited to an amount equal to or more than \$90,000 for any building, construction, renovation, remodeling, demolition, or other maintenance and repairs. If the work only involves one trade or craft area, the amount may be equal to or more than \$45,000.

Summary of Bill:

The bid limits established for public works projects at a regional university, state university, or CTC are increased. For any building, construction, renovation, remodeling, demolition, or other maintenance and repairs, the bid limit is increased from \$90,000 to \$110,000. For work involving only one trade or craft area it is increased from \$45,000 to \$90,000.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.