

1864

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 15, 2015

Introduced by Sen. MARCELLINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and
when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to arbitration
provisions in state contracts

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Section 165 of the state finance law is amended by adding a
2 new subdivision 9 to read as follows:
3 9. ARBITRATION PROVISION. A. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION
4 "ARBITRATION PROVISIONS" SHALL MEAN ANY REQUIREMENT THAT AN EMPLOYEE OR
5 INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR PERFORMING WORK UNDER SUCH VENDOR'S CONTRACT OR
6 SUBCONTRACT TO SUBMIT CLAIMS ARISING UNDER TITLE VII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS
7 ACT OF 1964 OR ARTICLE FIFTEEN OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW TO PRIVATE ARBI-
8 TRATION FOR RESOLUTION; THIS SHALL NOT INCLUDE ARBITRATION THAT IS
9 MANDATED BY A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN SUCH VENDOR AND
10 EMPLOYEE AND/OR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.
11 B. (I) WITH RESPECT TO CONTRACTS DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPHS (II) AND
12 (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUCH SUBPARAGRAPHS,
13 STATE AGENCIES AS DEFINED IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL NOT CONTRACT FOR THE
14 SUPPLY OF COMMODITIES, SERVICE OR CONSTRUCTION WITH ANY CONTRACTOR WHO
15 DOES NOT AGREE TO STIPULATE TO THE FOLLOWING, IF THERE IS ANOTHER
16 CONTRACTOR WHO WILL CONTRACT TO SUPPLY COMMODITIES, SERVICES OR
17 CONSTRUCTION OF COMPARABLE QUALITY AT A COMPARABLE PRICE OR COST: THE
18 CONTRACTOR SHALL NOT PLACE ANY ARBITRATION PROVISION UPON THEIR EMPLOY-
19 EES THAT WORK ON SUCH CONTRACT.
20 (II) IN THE CASE OF CONTRACTS LET BY A COMPETITIVE PROCESS, WHENEVER
21 THE RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE OFFERER HAVING THE LOWEST PRICE OR BEST
22 VALUE OFFER HAS NOT AGREED TO STIPULATE TO THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN
23 THIS SUBDIVISION AND ANOTHER RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE OFFERER WHO HAS
24 AGREED TO STIPULATE TO SUCH CONDITIONS HAS SUBMITTED AN OFFER WITHIN
25 FIVE PERCENT OF THE LOWEST PRICE OR BEST VALUE OFFER FOR A CONTRACT TO

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

LBD03701-01-5

1 SUPPLY COMMODITIES, SERVICES OR CONSTRUCTION OF COMPARABLE QUALITY, THE
2 CONTRACTING ENTITY SHALL REFER SUCH OFFERS TO THE COMMISSIONER OF GENER-
3 AL SERVICES, WHO MAY DETERMINE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW AND
4 RULES, THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE THAT THE CONTRACT BE
5 AWARDED TO OTHER THAN THE LOWEST PRICE OR BEST VALUE OFFER.

6 (III) IN THE CASE OF CONTRACTS LET BY OTHER THAN A COMPETITIVE PROCESS
7 FOR GOODS OR SERVICES INVOLVING AN EXPENDITURE OF AN AMOUNT GREATER THAN
8 THE DISCRETIONARY BUYING THRESHOLD AS SPECIFIED IN SECTION ONE HUNDRED
9 SIXTY-THREE OF THIS ARTICLE, OR FOR CONSTRUCTION INVOLVING AN AMOUNT
10 GREATER THAN FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, THE CONTRACTING ENTITY SHALL NOT
11 AWARD TO A PROPOSED CONTRACTOR WHO HAS NOT AGREED TO STIPULATE TO THE
12 CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THIS SUBDIVISION UNLESS THE ENTITY SEEKING TO
13 USE THE COMMODITIES, SERVICES OR CONSTRUCTION DETERMINES THAT THE
14 COMMODITIES, SERVICES OR CONSTRUCTION ARE NECESSARY FOR THE ENTITY TO
15 PERFORM ITS FUNCTIONS AND THERE IS NO OTHER RESPONSIBLE CONTRACTOR WHO
16 WILL SUPPLY COMMODITIES, SERVICES OR CONSTRUCTION OF COMPARABLE QUALITY
17 AT A COMPARABLE PRICE. SUCH DETERMINATIONS SHALL BE MADE IN WRITING AND
18 SHALL BE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

19 C. UPON RECEIVING INFORMATION THAT A CONTRACTOR WHO HAS MADE THE STIP-
20 ULATION REQUIRED BY THIS SUBDIVISION IS IN VIOLATION THEREOF, THE
21 CONTRACTING ENTITY SHALL REVIEW SUCH INFORMATION AND OFFER THE CONTRAC-
22 TOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND. IF THE CONTRACTING ENTITY FINDS THAT A
23 VIOLATION HAS OCCURRED, IT SHALL TAKE SUCH ACTION AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE
24 AND PROVIDED FOR BY LAW, RULE OR CONTRACT, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED
25 TO, IMPOSING SANCTIONS, SEEKING COMPLIANCE, RECOVERING DAMAGES OR
26 DECLARING THE CONTRACTOR IN DEFAULT.

27 D. AS USED IN THIS SUBDIVISION, THE TERM "CONTRACT" SHALL NOT INCLUDE
28 CONTRACTS WITH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, CONTRACTS
29 AWARDED PURSUANT TO EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES OR CONTRACTS,
30 RESOLUTIONS, INDENTURES, DECLARATIONS OF TRUST OR OTHER INSTRUMENTS
31 AUTHORIZING OR RELATING TO THE AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE, AWARD, SALE OR
32 PURCHASE OF BONDS, CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS, NOTES OR OTHER FISCAL
33 OBLIGATIONS, PROVIDED THAT THE POLICIES OF THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE
34 CONSIDERED WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL OR LEGAL
35 ADVICE, AND WHEN SELECTING MANAGING UNDERWRITERS IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH
36 ACTIVITIES.

37 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to all
38 contracts signed and executed on or after such effective date.