

4195

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

March 9, 2015

Introduced by Sen. RANZENHOFER -- read twice and ordered printed, and
when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, the state finance law, and
the labor law, in relation to project labor agreements for public work
projects

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

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "public
2 construction savings act".
3 S 2. Subdivision 1 of section 103 of the general municipal law, as
4 amended by section 1 of chapter 2 of the laws of 2012, is amended to
5 read as follows:
6 1. Except as otherwise expressly provided by an act of the legislature
7 or by a local law adopted prior to September first, nineteen hundred
8 fifty-three, all contracts for public work involving an expenditure of
9 more than thirty-five thousand dollars and all purchase contracts
10 involving an expenditure of more than twenty thousand dollars, shall be
11 awarded by the appropriate officer, board or agency of a political
12 subdivision or of any district therein including but not limited to a
13 soil conservation district to the lowest responsible bidder furnishing
14 the required security after advertisement for sealed bids in the manner
15 provided by this section, provided, however, that purchase contracts
16 (including contracts for service work, but excluding any purchase
17 contracts necessary for the completion of a public works contract pursu-
18 ant to article eight of the labor law) may be awarded on the basis of
19 best value, as defined in section one hundred sixty-three of the state
20 finance law, to a responsive and responsible bidder or offerer in the
21 manner provided by this section except that in a political subdivision
22 other than a city with a population of one million inhabitants or more
23 or any district, board or agency with jurisdiction exclusively therein
24 the use of best value for awarding a purchase contract or purchase

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

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1 contracts must be authorized by local law or, in the case of a district
2 corporation, school district or board of cooperative educational
3 services, by rule, regulation or resolution adopted at a public meeting.
4 In any case where a responsible bidder's or responsible offerer's gross
5 price is reducible by an allowance for the value of used machinery,
6 equipment, apparatus or tools to be traded in by a political subdivi-
7 sion, the gross price shall be reduced by the amount of such allowance,
8 for the purpose of determining the best value. In cases where two or
9 more responsible bidders furnishing the required security submit identi-
10 cal bids as to price, such officer, board or agency may award the
11 contract to any of such bidders. Such officer, board or agency may, in
12 his or her or its discretion, reject all bids or offers and readvertise
13 for new bids or offers in the manner provided by this section. In deter-
14 mining whether a purchase is an expenditure within the discretionary
15 threshold amounts established by this subdivision, the officer, board or
16 agency of a political subdivision or of any district therein shall
17 consider the reasonably expected aggregate amount of all purchases of
18 the same commodities, services or technology to be made within the
19 twelve-month period commencing on the date of purchase. Purchases of
20 commodities, services or technology shall not be artificially divided
21 for the purpose of satisfying the discretionary buying thresholds estab-
22 lished by this subdivision. A change to or a renewal of a discretionary
23 purchase shall not be permitted if the change or renewal would bring the
24 reasonably expected aggregate amount of all purchases of the same
25 commodities, services or technology from the same provider within the
26 twelve-month period commencing on the date of the first purchase to an
27 amount greater than the discretionary buying threshold amount. For
28 purposes of this section, "sealed bids" and "sealed offers", as that
29 term applies to purchase contracts, (including contracts for service
30 work, but excluding any purchase contracts necessary for the completion
31 of a public works contract pursuant to article eight of the labor law)
32 shall include bids and offers submitted in an electronic format includ-
33 ing submission of the statement of non-collusion required by section one
34 hundred three-d of this article, provided that the governing board of
35 the political subdivision or district, by resolution, has authorized the
36 receipt of bids and offers in such format. Submission in electronic
37 format may, for technology contracts only, be required as the sole meth-
38 od for the submission of bids and offers. Bids and offers submitted in
39 an electronic format shall be transmitted by bidders and offerers to the
40 receiving device designated by the political subdivision or district.
41 Any method used to receive electronic bids and offers shall comply with
42 article three of the state technology law, and any rules and regulations
43 promulgated and guidelines developed thereunder and, at a minimum, must
44 (a) document the time and date of receipt of each bid and offer received
45 electronically; (b) authenticate the identity of the sender; (c) ensure
46 the security of the information transmitted; and (d) ensure the confi-
47 dentiality of the bid or offer until the time and date established for
48 the opening of bids or offers. The timely submission of an electronic
49 bid or offer in compliance with instructions provided for such
50 submission in the advertisement for bids or offers and/or the specifica-
51 tions shall be the responsibility solely of each bidder or offerer or
52 prospective bidder or offerer. No political subdivision or district
53 therein shall incur any liability from delays of or interruptions in the
54 receiving device designated for the submission and receipt of electronic
55 bids and offers. A CONTRACTOR BIDDING ON A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ISSUED
56 BY THE APPROPRIATE OFFICER, BOARD OR AGENCY OF A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

1 OR OF ANY DISTRICT THEREIN, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A SOIL CONSER-
2 VATION DISTRICT, OFFERING AN OPTIONAL PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT PURSUANT
3 TO PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO OF
4 THE LABOR LAW, MAY SUBMIT A BID THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE A PROJECT LABOR
5 AGREEMENT, AND SUCH CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC WORK SHALL BE AWARDED TO THE
6 CONTRACTOR WITH THE LOW BID REGARDLESS OF WHETHER A PROJECT LABOR AGREE-
7 MENT WAS INCLUDED IN A CONTRACTOR'S BID PROPOSAL.

8 S 3. Subdivision 1 of section 103 of the general municipal law, as
9 amended by section 2 of chapter 2 of the laws of 2012, is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 1. Except as otherwise expressly provided by an act of the legislature
12 or by a local law adopted prior to September first, nineteen hundred
13 fifty-three, all contracts for public work involving an expenditure of
14 more than thirty-five thousand dollars and all purchase contracts
15 involving an expenditure of more than twenty thousand dollars, shall be
16 awarded by the appropriate officer, board or agency of a political
17 subdivision or of any district therein including but not limited to a
18 soil conservation district to the lowest responsible bidder furnishing
19 the required security after advertisement for sealed bids in the manner
20 provided by this section, provided, however, that purchase contracts
21 (including contracts for service work, but excluding any purchase
22 contracts necessary for the completion of a public works contract pursu-
23 ant to article eight of the labor law) may be awarded on the basis of
24 best value, as defined in section one hundred sixty-three of the state
25 finance law, to a responsive and responsible bidder or offerer in the
26 manner provided by this section except that in a political subdivision
27 other than a city with a population of one million inhabitants or more
28 or any district, board or agency with jurisdiction exclusively therein
29 the use of best value of awarding a purchase contract or purchase
30 contracts must be authorized by local law or, in the case of a district
31 corporation, school district or board of cooperative educational
32 services, by rule, regulation or resolution adopted at a public meeting.
33 In determining whether a purchase is an expenditure within the discre-
34 tionary threshold amounts established by this subdivision, the officer,
35 board or agency of a political subdivision or of any district therein
36 shall consider the reasonably expected aggregate amount of all purchases
37 of the same commodities, services or technology to be made within the
38 twelve-month period commencing on the date of purchase. Purchases of
39 commodities, services or technology shall not be artificially divided
40 for the purpose of satisfying the discretionary buying thresholds estab-
41 lished by this subdivision. A change to or a renewal of a discretionary
42 purchase shall not be permitted if the change or renewal would bring the
43 reasonably expected aggregate amount of all purchases of the same
44 commodities, services or technology from the same provider within the
45 twelve-month period commencing on the date of the first purchase to an
46 amount greater than the discretionary buying threshold amount. In any
47 case where a responsible bidder's or responsible offerer's gross price
48 is reducible by an allowance for the value of used machinery, equipment,
49 apparatus or tools to be traded in by a political subdivision, the gross
50 price shall be reduced by the amount of such allowance, for the purpose
51 of determining the low bid or best value. In cases where two or more
52 responsible bidders furnishing the required security submit identical
53 bids as to price, such officer, board or agency may award the contract
54 to any of such bidders. Such officer, board or agency may, in his, her
55 or its discretion, reject all bids or offers and readvertise for new
56 bids or offers in the manner provided by this section. A CONTRACTOR

BIDDING ON A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ISSUED BY THE APPROPRIATE OFFICER, BOARD OR AGENCY OF A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR OF ANY DISTRICT THEREIN, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, OFFERING AN OPTIONAL PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO OF THE LABOR LAW, MAY SUBMIT A BID THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE A PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT, AND SUCH CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC WORK SHALL BE AWARDED TO THE CONTRACTOR WITH THE LOW BID REGARDLESS OF WHETHER A PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT WAS INCLUDED IN A CONTRACTOR'S BID PROPOSAL.

S 4. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 148 to read as follows:

S 148. PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS. A CONTRACTOR BIDDING ON A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ISSUED BY AN OFFICER, BOARD, DEPARTMENT, COMMISSION OR COMMISSIONS FOR (I) THE ERECTION, CONSTRUCTION OR ALTERATION OF BUILDINGS FOR THE STATE, OR (II) THE CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, REPAIR OR IMPROVEMENT TO ROADS, TOLLROADS, HIGHWAYS, RAILWAYS, BRIDGES, TERMINALS, OR OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES FOR THE STATE, OFFERING AN OPTIONAL PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO OF THE LABOR LAW, MAY SUBMIT A BID THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE A PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT AND SUCH CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC WORK SHALL BE AWARDED TO THE CONTRACTOR WITH THE LOW BID REGARDLESS OF WHETHER A PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT WAS INCLUDED IN A CONTRACTOR'S BID PROPOSAL.

S 5. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 222 of the labor law, as added by section 18 of part MM of chapter 57 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Any agency, board, department, commission or officer of the state of New York, or of any political subdivision thereof as defined in section one hundred of the general municipal law, municipal corporation as defined in section sixty-six of the general construction law, public benefit corporation, or local or state authority as defined in section two of the public authorities law having jurisdiction over the public work may NOT require[a contractor awarded a contract, subcontract, lease, grant, bond, covenant or other agreement for a project to enter into], BUT MAY OFFER AS AN OPTION, PARTICIPATION IN a project labor agreement [during and for the work involved with such project when such requirement is], AND SHALL NOTIFY EACH CONTRACTOR OF THE OPTION TO INCLUDE OR NOT INCLUDE PARTICIPATION IN A PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT WITH ITS BID, AS part of the agency, board, department, commission or officer of the state of New York, political subdivision, municipal corporation, public benefit corporation or local or state authority having jurisdiction over the public work request for proposals for the project and when the agency, board, department, commission or officer of the state of New York, political subdivision, municipal corporation, public benefit corporation or local or state authority having jurisdiction over the public work determines that its interest in obtaining the best work at the lowest possible price, preventing favoritism, fraud and corruption, and other considerations such as the impact of delay, the possibility of cost savings advantages, and any local history of labor unrest, are best met by requiring a project labor agreement, BUT SHALL IN ANY EVENT AWARD THE SUBCONTRACT, LEASE, CONTRACT, GRANT, BOND, COVENANT OR OTHER AGREEMENT FOR A PROJECT TO THE CONTRACTOR WITH THE LOW BID REGARDLESS OF WHETHER A PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT WAS INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACTOR'S BID PROPOSAL.

S 6. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law, and shall control all contracts advertised or solici-

1 ited for bid on or after the effective date of this act under the
2 provisions of any law requiring contracts to be let pursuant to
3 provisions of law amended by this act; provided, however that the amend-
4 ments to subdivision 1 of section 103 of the general municipal law made
5 by section two of this act shall be subject to the expiration and rever-
6 sion of such subdivision pursuant to subdivision (a) of section 41 of
7 part X of chapter 62 of the laws of 2003, as amended, when upon such
8 date the provisions of section three of this act shall take effect.