

2499

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 16, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. BRONSON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to the cost effectiveness of consultant contracts by state agencies; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds and
2 declares that it is in the public interest to enact a cost benefit
3 review process when a state agency enters into contracts for personal
4 services. New York State spends over \$3.5 billion annually on personal
5 service contracts, over \$840 million more than the State spent on these
6 contracts in SFY 2003-04, a 32% increase. Despite an Executive Order
7 that has implemented a post contract review process for some personal
8 service contracts the cost of those contracts continues to escalate
9 every year well above the inflation rate. In addition the State Finance
10 Law does not require state agencies to compare the cost or quality of
11 personal services to be provided by consultants with the cost or quality
12 of providing the same services by the state employees. Numerous audits
13 by the Office of State Comptroller as well as a KPMG study commissioned
14 by the department of transportation have found that consultants hired
15 under personal service contracts can cost between fifty percent and
16 seventy-five percent more than state employees that do the exact same
17 work including the cost of state employee benefits. The Contract Disclosure Law (Chapter 10 of the laws of 2006) required consultants who
18 provide personal services to file forms for each contract that outline
19 how many consultants they hired, what titles they employed them in and
20 how much they paid them. A review of these forms shows that the average
21 consultant makes about fifty percent more than state employees doing
22 comparable work. It is in the public interest for state agencies to
23 compare the cost of doing work by consultants with the cost of doing the
24

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

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1 same work with state employees as well as document whether or not such
2 work can be done by state employees. If state government is to be smar-
3 ter, more efficient, and transparent then a cost benefit analysis proc-
4 ess that makes its findings public should be required by law.

5 S 2. Section 163 of the state finance law is amended by adding a new
6 subdivision 16 to read as follows:

7 16. CONSULTANT SERVICES. A. BEFORE A STATE AGENCY ENTERS INTO A
8 CONTRACT FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES WHICH IS ANTICIPATED TO COST MORE THAN
9 TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN A TWELVE MONTH PERIOD THE STATE
10 AGENCY SHALL CONDUCT A COST COMPARISON REVIEW TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE
11 SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CONSULTANT CAN BE PERFORMED AT EQUAL OR
12 LOWER COST BY UTILIZING STATE EMPLOYEES, UNLESS THE CONTRACT MEETS ONE
13 OF THE EXCEPTIONS SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH B OF THIS SUBDIVISION. AS USED
14 IN THIS SECTION, THE TERM "CONSULTANT SERVICES" SHALL MEAN ANY CONTRACT
15 ENTERED INTO BY A STATE AGENCY FOR ANALYSIS, EVALUATION, RESEARCH,
16 TRAINING, DATA PROCESSING, COMPUTER PROGRAMMING, ENGINEERING INCLUDING
17 PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES, HEALTH SERVICES, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES,
18 ACCOUNTING, AUDITING, OR SIMILAR SERVICES, BUT SHALL NOT INCLUDE LEGAL
19 SERVICES OR SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH LITIGATION INCLUDING EXPERT
20 WITNESSES AND SHALL NOT INCLUDE CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC
21 WORKS. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, THE COSTS OF PERFORMING THE
22 SERVICES BY STATE EMPLOYEES SHALL INCLUDE ANY SALARY, PENSION COSTS, ALL
23 OTHER BENEFIT COSTS, COSTS THAT ARE REQUIRED FOR EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES
24 AND ALL OTHER OVERHEAD. THE COSTS OF CONSULTANT SERVICES SHALL INCLUDE
25 THE TOTAL COST OF THE CONTRACT INCLUDING COSTS THAT ARE REQUIRED FOR
26 EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES AND ALL OTHER OVERHEAD AND ANY CONTINUING STATE
27 COSTS DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH A CONTRACTOR PROVIDING A CONTRACTED FUNC-
28 TION INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THOSE COSTS FOR INSPECTION, SUPER-
29 VISION, MONITORING OF THE CONTRACTOR'S WORK AND ANY PRO RATA SHARE OF
30 EXISTING COSTS OR EXPENSES, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE SALARIES AND BENE-
31 FITS, RENT, EQUIPMENT COSTS, UTILITIES AND MATERIALS. THE COST COMPAR-
32 ISON SHALL BE EXPRESSED WHERE FEASIBLE AS AN HOURLY RATE, OR WHERE SUCH
33 A CALCULATION IS NOT FEASIBLE, AS A TOTAL ESTIMATED COST FOR THE ANTIC-
34 IPATED TERM OF THE CONTRACT.

35 B. A COST COMPARISON SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED IF THE CONTRACTING AGENCY
36 DEMONSTRATES:

37 (I) THE SERVICES ARE INCIDENTAL TO THE PURCHASE OF REAL OR PERSONAL
38 PROPERTY; OR

39 (II) THE CONTRACT IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO AVOID A CONFLICT OF INTER-
40 EST ON THE PART OF THE AGENCY OR ITS EMPLOYEES; OR

41 (III) THE SERVICES ARE OF SUCH A HIGHLY SPECIALIZED NATURE THAT IT IS
42 NOT FEASIBLE TO UTILIZE STATE EMPLOYEES TO PERFORM THEM OR REQUIRE
43 SPECIAL EQUIPMENT THAT IS NOT FEASIBLE FOR THE STATE TO PURCHASE OR
44 LEASE; OR

45 (IV) THE SERVICES ARE OF SUCH AN URGENT NATURE THAT IT IS NOT FEASIBLE
46 TO UTILIZE STATE EMPLOYEES; OR

47 (V) THE SERVICES ARE ANTICIPATED TO BE SHORT TERM AND ARE NOT LIKELY
48 TO BE EXTENDED OR REPEATED AFTER THE CONTRACT IS COMPLETED; OR

49 (VI) A QUANTIFIABLE IMPROVEMENT IN SERVICES THAT CANNOT BE REASONABLY
50 DUPLICATED.

51 C. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE DEEMED TO AUTHORIZE A STATE AGENCY
52 TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WHICH IS OTHERWISE PROHIBITED BY LAW.

53 D. ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE COST COMPARISON REQUIRED BY THIS
54 SUBDIVISION AND THE DETERMINATIONS MADE PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH B OF THIS
55 SUBDIVISION SHALL BE PUBLIC RECORDS SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO
56 ARTICLE SIX OF THE PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW.

1 E. THIS ANALYSIS SHALL BE COMPLETED NO MORE THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER IT
2 COMMENCES AND MUST BE INITIATED WITHIN THREE DAYS OF THE CONTRACT BEING
3 IDENTIFIED.

4 S 3. On or before December 31, 2017 the office of general services
5 shall prepare a report, to be delivered to the governor, the temporary
6 president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly. Such report
7 shall include, but need not be limited to, an analysis of the effective-
8 ness of the cost comparison study and an analysis of the cost savings
9 associated with performing such cost comparison.

10 S 4. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
11 have become a law and shall expire and be deemed repealed December 31,
12 2018; provided, however, that the amendments to section 163 of the state
13 finance law made by section two of this act shall not affect the repeal
14 of such section and shall be deemed repealed therewith.