

4195

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

March 9, 2015

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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

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

1. Except as otherwise expressly provided by an act of the legislature or by a local law adopted prior to September first, nineteen hundred fifty-three, all contracts for public work involving an expenditure of more than thirty-five thousand dollars and all purchase contracts involving an expenditure of more than twenty thousand dollars, shall be awarded 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 to the lowest responsible bidder furnishing the required security after advertisement for sealed bids in the manner provided by this section, provided, however, that purchase contracts (including contracts for service work, but excluding any purchase contracts necessary for the completion of a public works contract pursuant to article eight of the labor law) may be awarded on the basis of best value, as defined in section one hundred sixty-three of the state finance law, to a responsive and responsible bidder or offerer in the manner provided by this section except that in a political subdivision other than a city with a population of one million inhabitants or more or any district, board or agency with jurisdiction exclusively therein the use of best value of awarding a purchase contract or purchase contracts must be authorized by local law or, in the case of a district corporation, school district or board of cooperative educational services, by rule, regulation or resolution adopted at a public meeting. In determining whether a purchase is an expenditure within the discretionary threshold amounts established by this subdivision, the officer, board or agency of a political subdivision or of any district therein shall consider the reasonably expected aggregate amount of all purchases of the same commodities, services or technology to be made within the twelve-month period commencing on the date of purchase. Purchases of commodities, services or technology shall not be artificially divided for the purpose of satisfying the discretionary buying thresholds established by this subdivision. A change to or a renewal of a discretionary purchase shall not be permitted if the change or renewal would bring the reasonably expected aggregate amount of all purchases of the same commodities, services or technology from the same provider within the twelve-month period commencing on the date of the first purchase to an amount greater than the discretionary buying threshold amount. In any case where a responsible bidder's or responsible offerer's gross price is reducible by an allowance for the value of used machinery, equipment, apparatus or tools to be traded in by a political subdivision, the gross price shall be reduced by the amount of such allowance, for the purpose of determining the low bid or best value. In cases where two or more responsible bidders furnishing the required security submit identical bids as to price, such officer, board or agency may award the contract to any of such bidders. Such officer, board or agency may, in his, her or its discretion, reject all bids or offers and readvertise for new 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 solic-

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.