STATE OF NEW YORK

5994

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 25, 2021

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

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to establishing a registration system for contractors and subcontractors engaged in public work projects in order to better enforce existing labor laws and regulations in the public works industry

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The labor law is amended by adding a new section 220-i to read as follows:

§ 220-i. Registration system for contractors and subcontractors. 1. As used in this section:

a. "Contractor" means any contractor or subcontractor entering into a contract to perform construction, demolition, reconstruction, excavation, rehabilitation, repair, installation, renovation, alteration, or custom fabrication, which is subject to the provisions of this article.

b. "Bureau" means the department's bureau of public works.

2. a. Prior to submitting a bid on a contract for a public work, a contractor shall register in writing with the bureau on a form provided by the commissioner. The form shall require the following information:

i. The name, principal business address and telephone number of the contractor.

ii. Whether the contractor is a person, partnership, association, joint stock company, trust, corporation, or other form of business entity.

iii. The name and address of each person with a financial interest in the contractor and the percentage interest, except that if the contractor is a publicly-traded corporation, the contractor shall supply the names and addresses of the corporation's officers.

iv. The contractor's tax identification number and unemployment insurance registration number.

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

LBD01736-01-1

v. Whether the contractor has any outstanding wage assessments against it, pursuant to this article.

vi. Whether the contractor has been debarred under New York or federal law within the last ten years.

vii. Whether the contractor has been debarred pursuant to the laws of any other state within the last ten years.

viii. Whether the contractor has been finally determined by the appropriate authority to have violated any labor laws or employment tax laws including, but not limited to, the requirement to have workers' compensation coverage, payment of workers' compensation premiums, deduction and payment of income taxes, payment of unemployment insurance contributions or payment of prevailing wage.

ix. Whether the contractor has been finally determined by the appropriate authority to have violated any laws establishing workplace safety standards including the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act.

x. Whether or not the contractor is associated, or a signatory to, an apprenticeship program under article twenty-three of this chapter. If so, the apprenticeship program shall be provided by the contractor.

xi. Whether or not the contractor is a minority or women-owned business enterprise pursuant to the provisions of article fifteen-A of the executive law.

b. At the time of registration, and upon request, the contractor shall submit to the commissioner documentation demonstrating that the contractor has workers' compensation insurance coverage for all workers as required by law. This information shall be made readily available to the public by the bureau within forty-eight hours of the initial public request.

3. The contractor shall pay a non-refundable registration fee of two hundred dollars to the commissioner which shall be paid to the general fund. The commissioner, through regulations, shall reduce the registration fee associated with minority or women-owned business enterprises in order to promote the use of such businesses on public work projects.

4. Unless, following notice and a hearing, the bureau determines a contractor unfit to be registered, the commissioner shall issue a certificate of registration to the contractor upon receipt of the fee, form and documentation required by this section. A registration certificate shall be valid for two calendar years from the date of registration. Registrations may be renewed not less than thirty days before the expiration date of the immediately preceding registration. The commissioner shall promulgate regulations to determine under what circumstances a contractor would be unfit to be registered pursuant to this section. The notice to a contractor initially determined by the commissioner to be unfit based upon the registration application shall be in writing, shall not be conclusory, and shall state the factual basis upon which the determination is based. Any documents, reports, or information that form a basis for such determination shall be provided to the contractor within a reasonable time before the hearing. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "unfit" shall mean a contractor who the commissioner determines to be unable to lawfully adhere to public work contractual obligations and responsibilities including prevailing wage requirements pursuant to this article. Such determination shall be based on a clearly documented history, official record of past dealings, or a present demonstrable inability to lawfully adhere to such obligations and responsibilities.

5. No contractor shall bid on a contract for public work unless they and all subcontractors listed in the bid, in addition to any subcontrac-

tors associated with wage and/or fringe benefit payments to employees on the public work project, are registered pursuant to this section. Further, each contractor must submit their certificate of registration as well as all certificates of registration for any and all subcontractors for such contract at the time the bid is made. Applications for registration shall not be accepted as a substitute for a certificate of registration for the purposes of this section.

6. a. A contractor who knowingly bids on a contract for public work without registering, or knowingly submits a bid with subcontractors that are not registered pursuant to subdivision five of this section shall, after notice and a hearing, be subject to a civil penalty of up to one thousand dollars.

b. The commissioner may revoke or suspend a registration if a contractor or subcontractor has been finally determined to be in violation of the prevailing wage requirements of this article.

c. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or supersede the authority of any state or municipal entity to enforce existing labor laws, safety standards, regulations, codes or any other existing laws relative to public work.

d. A registration pursuant to this section is not necessary for a bid or work on a contract for public work and penalties pursuant to this section shall not apply when a state of emergency is declared pursuant to section twenty-four of the executive law, when the governor declares a disaster emergency pursuant to section twenty-eight of the executive law, or when the President issues a major disaster or emergency declaration and such work arises from or is in connection with the actual or impending declared emergency or disaster or pursuant to an emergency construction contract, or other contract entered into due to an urgent and unexpected event where public safety or the conservation of public resources is at risk, as authorized by law, including but not limited to the public buildings law, the state finance law, the general municipal law, or the public authorities law.

7. The department shall prescribe regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this section within one hundred eighty days after its effective date.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately, provided however, subdivisions five and six of section 220-i of the labor law as added by section one of this act shall take effect one year after such date and shall apply to bids for public work projects on or after such date.