## STATE OF NEW YORK

6942

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

May 16, 2023

Introduced by Sen. COONEY -- (at request of the State Comptroller) -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Procurement and Contracts

AN ACT to amend the state finance law and the public authorities law, in relation to protest procedures

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

- Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 163 of the state finance law is a mended by adding six new paragraphs l, m, n, o, p and q to read as follows:
- 1. "Bidder" means an individual, entity or other offeror submitting a response to a solicitation by a state agency, as defined in this chapter.
- 7 m. "Contract award" means a written determination from a state agency
  8 to a bidder indicating that the state agency has selected a particular
  9 bidder under the procurement process.
- n. "Interested party" means a participant in the procurement process, and those who can establish that their participation in the procurement process was foreclosed by the actions of the state agency and have suffered harm as a result of the manner in which the procurement was conducted.
- 15 <u>o. "Protest" means a written challenge by an interested party of a</u> 16 <u>contract award by a state agency.</u>
- p. "Solicitation" means a document issued by a state agency, requesting a response to a procurement need, including an invitation for bids, a request for proposals, or another written method of seeking a bid or a proposal for a specified purpose.
- 21 q. "Protest procedure" means the guidance developed and implemented by 22 every state agency pursuant to the provisions of this section to govern 23 the protest of a contract award.

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

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- § 2. Section 163 of the state finance law is amended by adding a new 1 2 subdivision 16 to read as follows:
  - 16. State agency protest. Every state agency shall make available protest procedures to interested parties and provide notice of their protest procedures in solicitation documents, and all bidders shall be given written notice of the contract award. At a minimum, protest procedures shall include:
    - a. the form and manner for submission of a bid protest;
- 9 b. the deadline for submission of a bid protest, which shall be either 10 ten business days from notice of the contract award or five business 11 days from the debriefing, whichever is later;
- 12 c. the manner in which the bid protest shall be resolved, and a determination shall be issued; and 13
  - d. a retention policy for all records related to bid protests.
  - § 3. Section 2879 of the public authorities law is amended by adding a new subdivision 10 to read as follows:
    - 10. (a) In addition to the procurement contract quidelines required by this section, every corporation shall make available protest procedures to interested parties and provide notice of their protest procedures in solicitation documents, and all bidders shall be given written notice of the contract award. At a minimum, protest procedures shall include:
      - (i) the form and manner for submission of a bid protest;
- (ii) the deadline for submission of a bid protest, which shall be 23 either ten business days from notice of the contract award or five busi-24 25 ness days from the debriefing, whichever is later;
  - (iii) the manner in which the bid protest shall be resolved, and a determination shall be issued; and
    - (iv) a retention policy for all records related to bid protests.
  - (b) For the purposes of this subdivision, the following terms shall have the following meanings:
- 31 (i) "Bidder" means an individual, entity or other offeror submitting a 32 response to a solicitation by a corporation.
  - (ii) "Contract award" means a written determination from a corporation to a bidder indicating that the corporation has selected a particular bidder under the procurement process.
  - (iii) "Interested party" means a participant in the procurement process, and those who can establish that their participation in the procurement process was foreclosed by the actions of the corporation and have suffered harm as a result of the manner in which the procurement was conducted.
- 41 (iv) "Protest" means a written challenge by an interested party of a 42 contract award by a corporation.
- (v) "Solicitation" means a document issued by a corporation, request-44 ing a response to a procurement need, including an invitation for bids, a request for proposals, or another written method of seeking a bid or a proposal for a specified purpose.
- 47 (vi) "Protest procedure" means the guidance developed and implemented 48 by every corporation pursuant to the provisions of this section to 49 govern the protest of a contract award.
- § 4. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall 50 have become a law; provided, however, that the amendments to section 163 51 52 of the state finance law made by sections one and two of this act shall 53 not affect the repeal of such section and shall be deemed repealed ther-54 ewith.