

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: George, Schrader, Starr, Verger, Metsger
Nays: -
Exc.: -
Prepared By: Jim Stembridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds to “responsible bidder” criteria for awarding public improvement contracts. Provides that bidders must demonstrate responsibility by showing they have licenses required for the work, workers’ compensation coverage, and insurance in amounts required in the solicitation documents. Requires contracting agency to include a description of, or designation for, the project in solicitation documents.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Level playing field for contractors bidding on public improvement contracts
- Whether liability insurance is required

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Current statute requires a contracting agency, while determining the lowest responsible bidder, to determine whether a bidder has met the standards of responsibility. Examples of “standards of responsibility” include the current availability or ability to obtain appropriate financial, material, equipment, facility, and personnel resources and expertise necessary to meet all contractual responsibilities. HB 2953-A expands the standards to include holding current licenses necessary to undertake or perform work specified in the contract, and being covered by workers’ compensation insurance, liability insurance, and other insurance in amounts required in the solicitation documents.

The measure also clarifies that a designation for, or description of, the public improvement project must be included in solicitation documents for a contract. Current statute requires only the name of the public improvement project.