

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 100

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Analyst: Mark Shepard

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Overview

This bill applies to state agency contracts for professional services of persons regulated by the board of architecture, engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture, geoscience, and interior design. The bill creates an option for agency selection of these persons to be based on qualifications. If an agency proceeds under this section, the agency may solicit price information only after it has ranked contractors based on qualifications. The agency would negotiate first with the highest-ranked contractor.

1 **Selection of certain professional service contractors.**

Subd. 1. Professional services covered. Provides that this section applies to a state agency contract for professional services of persons regulated by the board of architecture, engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture, geoscience, and interior design. The section applies only if the agency, with approval of the commissioner of administration, decides to use procedures under this section. Provides that this section does not apply to an agency contract that is subject to the designer selection board process.

Subd. 2. Qualification-based selection. An agency proceeding under this section would be required to rank contractors on the basis of qualifications. Provides that an agency may solicit pricing information only after the agency has ranked the contractors.

Subd. 3. Procedures. Provides that contractor selection procedures are within agency discretion, and may be adjusted to accommodate cost, scope, and schedule objectives. Specifies screening and selection procedures that may be used. These include expertise, resources to perform the work, record of past performance, ownership status and employment practices regarding historically underutilized businesses, availability, familiarity with project locale, proposed project management techniques, and ability and proven history in handling special project constraints.

Subd. 4. Selection. Requires agencies to rank prospective contractors based on factors the

agency specifies. The agency would then negotiate with the highest-ranked contractor to negotiate compensation and other terms. If the agency and the highest -ranked contractor are unable to negotiate a contract, the agency would negotiate with the next highest-ranked contractor.

- 2 **Effective date.** Section 1 is effective July 1, 2001, and applies to contracts for which a request for bids or a request for proposals is issued after that date.