

## CHAPTER 61

[Substitute House Bill No. 176]

## ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACTS

AN ACT Relating to public contracts; adding a new chapter to Title 39 RCW; and providing an effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

**NEW SECTION.** Section 1. The legislature hereby establishes a state policy, to the extent provided in this chapter, that governmental agencies publicly announce requirements for architectural and engineering services, and negotiate contracts for architectural and engineering services on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualification for the type of professional services required and at fair and reasonable prices.

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 2. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section shall apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "State agency" means any department, agency, commission, bureau, office, or any other entity or authority of the state government.

(2) "Local agency" means any city and any town, county, special district, municipal corporation, agency, port district or authority, or political subdivision of any type, or any other entity or authority of local government in corporate form or otherwise.

(3) "Special district" means a local unit of government, other than a city, town, or county, authorized by law to perform a single function or a limited number of functions, and including but not limited to, water districts, irrigation districts, fire districts, school districts, community college districts, hospital districts, sewer districts, transportation districts, and metropolitan municipal corporations organized under chapter 35.58 RCW.

(4) "Agency" means both state and local agencies and special districts as defined in subsection (1), (2), and (3) of this section.

(5) "Architectural and engineering services" or "professional services" means professional services rendered by any person, other than as an employee of the agency, contracting to perform activities within the scope of the general definition of professional practice in chapters 18.08, 18.43, or 18.96 RCW.

(6) "Person" means any individual, organization, group, association, partnership, firm, joint venture, corporation, or any combination thereof.

(7) "Consultant" means any person providing professional services who is not an employee of the agency for which the services are provided.

(8) "Application" means a completed statement of qualifications together with a request to be considered for the award of one or more contracts for professional services.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Each agency shall publish in advance that agency's requirement for professional services. The announcement shall state concisely the general scope and nature of the project or work for which the services are required and the address of a representative of the agency who can provide further details. An agency may comply with this section by: (1) Publishing an announcement on each occasion when professional services provided by a consultant are required by the agency; or (2) announcing generally to the public its projected requirements for any category or type of professional services.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. In the procurement of architectural and engineering services, the agency shall encourage firms engaged in the lawful practice of their profession to submit annually a statement of qualifications and performance data. The agency shall evaluate current statements of qualifications and performance data on file with the agency, together with those that may be submitted by other firms regarding the proposed project, and shall conduct discussions with one or more firms regarding anticipated concepts and the relative utility of alternative methods of approach for furnishing the required services and then shall select therefrom, based upon criteria established by the agency, the firm deemed to be the most highly qualified to provide the services required for the proposed project. Such agency procedures and guidelines shall include a plan to insure that minority and women-owned firms are afforded the maximum practicable opportunity to compete for and obtain public contracts for services. The level of participation by minority and women-owned firms shall be consistent with their general availability within the professional communities involved.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) The agency shall negotiate a contract with the most qualified firm for architectural and engineering services at a price which the agency determines is fair and reasonable to the agency. In making its determination, the agency shall take into account the estimated value of the services to be rendered as well as the scope, complexity, and professional nature thereof.

(2) If the agency is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm selected at a price the agency determines to be fair and reasonable, negotiations with that firm shall be formally terminated and the agency shall select other firms in accordance with section 4 of this act and continue in accordance with this section until an agreement is reached or the process is terminated.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. (1) This chapter need not be complied with by any agency when the contracting authority makes a finding in accordance with this or any other applicable law that an emergency requires the immediate execution of the work involved.

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall relieve the contracting authority from complying with applicable law limiting emergency expenditures.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. Nothing in this chapter shall affect the validity or effect of any contract in existence on the effective date of this 1981 act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. This act shall take effect on January 1, 1982.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. Sections 1 through 8 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 39 RCW.

Passed the House April 16, 1981.

Passed the Senate April 14, 1981.

Approved by the Governor April 25, 1981.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 25, 1981.

---

## CHAPTER 62

[House Bill No. 181]

### IRRIGATION DISTRICTS—MULTIDISTRICT AUTHORITIES

AN ACT Relating to irrigation districts; and adding a new section to chapter 87.03 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. There is added to chapter 87.03 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Two or more irrigation districts may create a separate legal authority to carry out any or all of the powers described in RCW 87.03.015. To enable such a legal authority to carry out its delegated powers, the irrigation districts creating the authority may assign, convey, or otherwise transfer to it any or all of their respective property, rights, or obligations, including, without limitation, the power to issue revenue obligations and the power of condemnation. Such a legal authority shall be created and organized by contract in the manner described in chapter 39.34 RCW and shall be a separate legal entity.

Passed the House April 16, 1981.

Passed the Senate April 14, 1981.

Approved by the Governor April 25, 1981.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 25, 1981.