



Substitute House Bill No. 6476

Special Act No. 21-8

AN ACT CONCERNING A DISPARITY STUDY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than ninety days after the effective date of this section, the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities shall, in consultation with the Department of Administrative Services, develop and issue a request for proposals for the conducting of a disparity study. The commission shall, in consultation with such department, develop criteria for evaluating proposals relating to conducting a disparity study, including, but not limited to: (1) The anticipated cost of completing such a study, (2) the anticipated timeline for completing such a study, and (3) the proposing firm's experience in conducting and completing such a study. The deadline for responding to the request for proposals shall be not later than sixty days from the issuing of the request by the commission.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2022, the commission, in consultation with the department, shall evaluate the proposals submitted under subsection (a) of this section and select the firm which shall conduct the study.

(c) The study shall provide an analysis of existing statistical data concerning the state's set-aside program, established under section 4a-

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60g of the general statutes, to determine whether its current form achieves the goal of facilitating the participation in state contracts of small contractors and minority business enterprises. The study shall include, but shall not be limited to, a review of the state's current set-aside program practices and the best practices of other states or governmental entities. The study shall examine:

(1) Whether, based on available data and analysis, there is significant statistical evidence of past or continuing discrimination in the awarding of state contracts;

(2) The number of small contractors or minority business enterprises, based on available data and analysis, that are qualified for eligibility for state contracts under the set-aside program established under section 4a-60g of the general statutes, and a determination of whether such businesses are legitimate small contractors or legitimately owned by members of a minority; and

(3) The state's contracting processes, to determine if there are any contracting practices or unintentional but existing barriers in the process that prevent small contractors and minority business enterprises from fully participating in such contracting process.

(d) The executive director of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities shall submit the findings of such study and any recommendations for legislative action concerning such study, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government administration and labor.

Approved June 14, 2021