General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 7149

January Session, 2025

LCO No. **5653**

Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:
(PD)

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN MUNICIPAL CONTRACTS FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this section, (1) "firm" means any individual, partnership, corporation, joint venture, association or other legal entity authorized to provide professional engineering services pursuant to chapter 391 of the general statutes, and (2) "municipality" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-148 of the general statutes.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any special act, municipal charter or home rule ordinance, on and after January 1, 2026, unless any provision of state or federal law, including, but not limited to, sections 4b-91 and 10-287 of the general statutes, requires otherwise, a municipality shall utilize the process described in this section when soliciting professional engineering services from any firm, if the fee for such services is anticipated to exceed one hundred thousand dollars and be paid, in whole or in part, with state funding.

(c) (1) Any municipality that requires professional engineering

services, if the municipality anticipates that the fee for such services will exceed one hundred thousand dollars and be paid, in whole or in part, with state funding, shall provide a description of the services required and solicit firms to submit a statement of qualifications for such firm, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (d) of this section. Each such statement of qualifications shall include, but not be limited to, (A) a description of such firm, including the location of such firm's office or offices and the number of years such firm has been engaged in the practice of professional engineering, (B) examples of similar services provided by such firm and such firm's record of past performance with respect to control of costs, quality of work and cooperation with clients, (C) information concerning such firm's project manager and key staff, including, but not limited to, such manager and staff's education and training, (D) a description of quality control measures utilized by such firm, (E) a description of such firm's proposed approach to the provision of the services sought by the municipality, (F) a proposed schedule for the provision of such services, if applicable, and (G) any additional information the municipality determines is necessary to select a firm to provide such services.

(2) The municipality shall evaluate each statement of qualifications submitted by a firm and rank each such firm based on criteria developed by the municipality to evaluate each firm's qualifications. After ranking each firm that submitted a statement of qualifications, the municipality shall negotiate a contract for such services with the highest ranked firm at a rate of compensation the municipality determines is fair and reasonable in consideration of the value, scope, complexity, schedule for completion and nature of such services. If the municipality is unable to enter into a contract with the highest ranked firm after such negotiation, the municipality may negotiate with any additional responding firms, in order of such firms' ranking, in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

(d) Any municipality shall publish on the Internet web site of the municipality: (1) A description of the professional engineering services

the municipality requires and a solicitation of the submission of statements of qualification by firms, including instructions for the submission of such statements, (2) the criteria the municipality developed for the evaluation of such firms pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and (3) upon execution of a contract with a firm for such professional engineering services, a list of the firms that responded to such solicitation and the ranking assigned to each such firm by the municipality.

(e) (1) Any municipality may establish and maintain a list of firms that are preapproved to provide professional engineering services for the municipality. Any firm that desires to appear on such list shall submit a statement of such firm's qualifications, including, but not limited to, (A) a description of such firm, including the location of such firm's office or offices and the number of years such firm has been engaged in the practice of professional engineering, (B) examples of engineering services provided by such firm and such firm's record of past performance with respect to control of costs, quality of work and cooperation with clients, (C) information concerning such firm's project manager and key staff, including, but not limited to, such manager and staff's education and training, (D) a description of quality control measures utilized by such firm, (E) a description of such firm's proposed approach to the provision of engineering services, and (F) any additional information the municipality determines is necessary to determine whether to place a firm on such list. Upon receipt of a statement pursuant to this subsection, the municipality shall determine, in accordance with criteria developed by the municipality, whether to place such firm on the municipality's preapproved list. Any firm the municipality places on such list shall submit an updated statement of such firm's qualifications to the municipality not less than every five years thereafter, or more frequently upon the request of the municipality.

(2) Any municipality that requires professional engineering services and has established a list of two or more firms pursuant to subdivision

(1) of this subsection may, in lieu of complying with the publication requirements described in subsection (d) of this section, provide each firm on such list a description of the professional engineering services the municipality requires and request from each such firm a proposed schedule for the provision of such services, if applicable, and any additional information necessary to permit the municipality to rank each firm based on criteria the municipality developed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. After ranking each firm, the municipality shall negotiate a contract for such services in accordance with the procedures described in subsection (c) of this section.

(f) Any municipality that has previously executed a contract for the provision of professional engineering services with a firm may negotiate additional terms or a new contract with such firm for an associated project.

Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 7-148v of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(b) **[**Notwithstanding**]** Except as provided in section 1 of this act, notwithstanding the provisions of the general statutes or any municipal charter, special act or ordinance, any municipality may purchase equipment, supplies, materials or services from a person who has a contract to sell such goods or services to other state governments, political subdivisions of the state, nonprofit organizations or public purchasing consortia available through a regional educational service center or regional council of governments, in accordance with the provisions of such contract.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*October 1, 2025*	New section
Sec. 2	*October 1, 2025*	7-148v(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To require municipalities to utilize a qualifications-based selection process in awarding contracts for certain professional engineering services.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]