

SENATE, No. 1266

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 6, 1996

By Senator CIESLA

1 AN ACT concerning the qualifications of bidders on State public works
2 contracts and amending R.S.52:35-8.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. R.S.52:35-8 is amended to read as follows:

8 52:35-8. No person shall be qualified to bid on any contract, who
9 shall not have submitted a statement as required by section 52:35-2 of
10 this Title within a period of [7] 18 months preceding the date of
11 opening of bids for such contract or a lesser period of time established
12 for such contracts by the Director of the Division of Building and
13 Construction in the Department of the Treasury.

14 (cf: P.L.1959, c.94, s.1)

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16 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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21 This bill would provide that in order to be eligible to bid on a State
22 public works contract a bidder must have submitted a statement of
23 qualifications within the preceding 18 months or a lesser period of
24 time established by the Director of the Division of Building and
25 Construction. Existing law requires a bidder to have documented the
26 bidder's qualifications within the preceding seven months. Allowing
27 bidders to file statements at less frequent intervals would reduce the
28 administrative burden on the Division of Building and Construction
29 which currently processes 4,000 applications annually even though its
30 staff has been reduced. This would enable the division to conduct a
31 more thorough review of information submitted and to refine
32 evaluation criteria to include measures of past performance. In
33 addition to State agencies, all school districts and many local units rely
34 on the division's qualification and classification of bidders.

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 The bill would also make it easier for bidders to comply with
2 qualification requirements. Many bidders have been periodically
3 unable to bid on State construction contracts because financial
4 information, such as year-end statements, was not available by the
5 current deadline for requalifying. Extending the period of time during
6 which a bidder is qualified may make more bidders available to bid on
7 each contract and lower bidders' costs. This, in turn, could result in
8 lower bids which would benefit the State.

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13 Provides bidders on State public works contracts must have
14 demonstrated qualifications within preceding 18 months or lesser
15 period established by the Division of Building and Construction.