HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Rhodes and others

Subject: Qualification-based selection for certain professional services

Analyst: Mark Shepard, 651-296-5051

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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 requires that agency selection of these persons be based on qualifications. The agency may solicit price information only after it has ranked contractors. The agency then may negotiate price with all the ranked contractors.

Section

- 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. 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.** Requires a state agency to rank contractors covered by this section 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 women, minorities, emerging small businesses or historically underutilized businesses, and availability.
 - **Subd. 4. Selection.** Requires agencies to rank prospective contractors based on factors the agency specifies. The agency may negotiate with all the ranked contractors to negotiate compensation and other terms until an agreement is reached with one.

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.