



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Committee Bill No. 5736**

LCO No. 3944



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:  
(VA)

**AN ACT CONCERNING PRICE PREFERENCES FOR VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES IN STATE CONTRACTING.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 4a-59 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2021*):

4 (c) All open market orders or contracts shall be awarded to (1) the  
5 lowest responsible qualified bidder, the qualities of the articles to be  
6 supplied, their conformity with the specifications, their suitability to the  
7 requirements of the state government and the delivery terms being  
8 taken into consideration and, at the discretion of the Commissioner of  
9 Administrative Services, life-cycle costs and trade-in or resale value of  
10 the articles may be considered where it appears to be in the best interest  
11 of the state, (2) the highest scoring bidder in a multiple criteria bid, in  
12 accordance with the criteria set forth in the bid solicitation for the  
13 contract, or (3) the proposer whose proposal is deemed by the awarding  
14 authority to be the most advantageous to the state, in accordance with  
15 the criteria set forth in the request for proposals, including price and

16 evaluation factors. Notwithstanding any provision of the general  
17 statutes to the contrary, each state agency awarding a contract through  
18 competitive negotiation shall include price as an explicit factor in the  
19 criteria in the request for proposals and for the contract award. In  
20 considering past performance of a bidder for the purpose of  
21 determining the "lowest responsible qualified bidder" or the "highest  
22 scoring bidder in a multiple criteria bid", the commissioner shall  
23 evaluate the skill, ability and integrity of the bidder in terms of the  
24 bidder's fulfillment of past contract obligations and the bidder's  
25 experience or lack of experience in delivering supplies, materials,  
26 equipment or contractual services of the size or amount for which bids  
27 have been solicited. In determining the lowest responsible qualified  
28 bidder for the purposes of this section, the commissioner may give a  
29 price preference of up to ten per cent for (A) the purchase of goods made  
30 with recycled materials or the purchase of recyclable or remanufactured  
31 products if the commissioner determines that such preference would  
32 promote recycling or remanufacturing. As used in this subsection,  
33 "recyclable" means able to be collected, separated or otherwise  
34 recovered from the solid waste stream for reuse, or for use in the  
35 manufacture or assembly of another package or product, by means of a  
36 recycling program which is reasonably available to at least seventy-five  
37 per cent of the state's population, "remanufactured" means restored to  
38 its original function and thereby diverted from the solid waste stream  
39 by retaining the bulk of components that have been used at least once  
40 and by replacing consumable components and "remanufacturing"  
41 means any process by which a product is remanufactured; (B) the  
42 purchase of motor vehicles powered by a clean alternative fuel; (C) the  
43 purchase of motor vehicles powered by fuel other than a clean  
44 alternative fuel and conversion equipment to convert such motor  
45 vehicles allowing the vehicles to be powered by either the exclusive use  
46 of clean alternative fuel or dual use of a clean alternative fuel and a fuel  
47 other than a clean alternative fuel. As used in this subsection, "clean  
48 alternative fuel" means natural gas, electricity, hydrogen or propane  
49 when used as a motor vehicle fuel; (D) the purchase of goods or services  
50 from a veteran-owned business. As used in this subsection, "veteran-

51 owned business" means a business of which at least fifty-one per cent of  
52 the ownership is held by one or more veterans and "veteran" means any  
53 person (i) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable  
54 conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section  
55 27-103, or (ii) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who  
56 has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from  
57 active service in the armed forces; or [(D)] (E) the purchase of goods or  
58 services from a micro business, except that, in the case of a veteran-  
59 owned micro business, the commissioner may give a price preference of  
60 up to fifteen per cent. As used in this subsection, "micro business" means  
61 a business with gross revenues not exceeding three million dollars in the  
62 most recently completed fiscal year, "veteran-owned micro business"  
63 means a micro business of which at least fifty-one per cent of the  
64 ownership is held by one or more veterans, [and "veteran" means any  
65 person (i) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable  
66 conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section  
67 27-103, or (ii) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who  
68 has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from  
69 active service in the armed forces.] All other factors being equal,  
70 preference shall be given to supplies, materials and equipment  
71 produced, assembled or manufactured in the state and services  
72 originating and provided in the state. Except with regard to contracts  
73 that may be paid for with United States Department of Transportation  
74 funds, if any such bidder refuses to accept, within ten days, a contract  
75 awarded to such bidder, such contract may be awarded to the next  
76 lowest responsible qualified bidder or the next highest scoring bidder in  
77 a multiple criteria bid, whichever is applicable, and so on until such  
78 contract is awarded and accepted. Except with regard to contracts that  
79 may be paid for with United States Department of Transportation funds,  
80 if any such proposer refuses to accept, within ten days, a contract  
81 awarded to such proposer, such contract shall be awarded to the next  
82 most advantageous proposer, and so on until the contract is awarded  
83 and accepted. There shall be a written evaluation made of each bid. This  
84 evaluation shall identify the vendors and their respective costs and  
85 prices, document the reason why any vendor is deemed to be

86 nonresponsive and recommend a vendor for award. A contract valued  
87 at one million dollars or more shall be awarded to a bidder other than  
88 the lowest responsible qualified bidder or the highest scoring bidder in  
89 a multiple criteria bid, whichever is applicable, only with written  
90 approval signed by the Commissioner of Administrative Services and  
91 by the Comptroller. The commissioner shall post on the department's  
92 Internet web site all awards made pursuant to the provisions of this  
93 section.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |                        |          |
| Section 1   | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 4a-59(c) |

**VA**      *Joint Favorable*

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*