

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1789

By: Pae of the House

and

Howard of the Senate

An Act relating to public buildings and public works; amending 61 O.S. 2011, Section 103, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 405, O.S.L. 2019 (61 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 103), which relates to competitive bidding; authorizing certain local governmental units to create purchasing cooperative; providing for notice and publication; providing for compliance of requirements; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Public buildings and public works

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 61 O.S. 2011, Section 103, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 405, O.S.L. 2019 (61 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 103), is amended to read as follows:

Section 103. A. Unless otherwise provided by law, all public construction contracts exceeding Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) shall be let and awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, by open competitive bidding after solicitation for sealed bids, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Competitive Bidding Act of 1974. No work shall be commenced until a written contract is executed and all required bonds and insurance have been provided by the contractor to the awarding public agency.

B. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, in awarding public construction contracts exceeding Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), counties, cities, other local units of government and any public trust with a county or a municipality as its sole beneficiary may provide for a local bid preference of not more than five percent (5%) of the bid price if the awarding public agency

determines that there is an economic benefit to the local area or economy. Provided, however, the local bidder or contractor must agree to perform the contract for the same price and terms as the bid proposed by the nonlocal bidder or contractor. Any bid preference granted hereunder must be in accordance with an established policy adopted by the governing body of the awarding public agency to clearly demonstrate the economic benefit to the local area or economy. Provided, further, no local bid preference shall be granted unless the local bidding entity is the second lowest qualified bid on the contract. The bid specifications shall clearly state that the bid is subject to a local bidder preference law. For purposes of this section, "local bid" means the bidding person is authorized to transact business in this state and maintains a bona fide establishment for transacting such business within this state. This provision does not apply to any construction contract for which federal funds are available for expenditure when its provisions may be in conflict with federal law or regulation.

C. Except as provided in subsection E of this section, other construction contracts for the purpose of making any public improvements or constructing any public building or making repairs to the same for Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or less shall be let and awarded to the lowest responsible bidder by receipt of written bids or awarded on the basis of competitive quotes to the lowest responsible qualified contractor. Work may be commenced in accordance with the purchasing policies of the public agency.

D. Except as provided in subsection E of this section, other construction contracts for less than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) may be negotiated with a qualified contractor. Work may be commenced in accordance with the purchasing policies of the public agency.

E. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to public construction for minor maintenance or minor repair work to public school district property. Other construction contracts for less than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) may be negotiated with a qualified contractor. Construction contracts equal to or greater than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) but less than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) shall be let and awarded to the lowest responsible bidder by receipt of written bids. No work shall be commenced on any construction contract until a written contract is executed and proof of insurance has been provided by the contractor to the awarding public agency.

F. The Construction and Properties Division of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services may award contracts using best value competitive proposals. As used in this subsection, "best value" means an optional contract award system which can evaluate and rank submitted competitive performance proposals to identify the proposal with the greatest value to the state. The Office of Management and Enterprise Services, pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act, shall promulgate rules necessary to implement the provisions of this subsection.

G. 1. A public agency shall not let or award a public construction contract exceeding Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to any contractor affiliated with a purchasing cooperative unless the purchasing cooperative and the contractor have complied with all of the provisions of the Public Competitive Bidding Act of 1974, including but not limited to open competitive bidding after solicitation for sealed bids. A public agency shall not let or award a public construction contract exceeding Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) up to Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to any contractor affiliated with a purchasing cooperative unless the purchasing cooperative and the contractor have complied with all of the provisions of the Public Competitive Bidding Act of 1974, including submission of a written bid upon notice of competitive bidding.

2. A purchasing cooperative and its affiliated contractors shall not be allowed to bid on any public construction contract exceeding Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) unless the purchasing cooperative and its affiliated contractors have complied with all of the provisions of the Public Competitive Bidding Act of 1974, including but not limited to open competitive bidding after solicitation for sealed bids. A purchasing cooperative and its affiliated contractors shall not be allowed to bid on any public construction contract exceeding Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) unless the purchasing cooperative and its affiliated contractors have complied with all of the provisions of the Public Competitive Bidding Act of 1974, including submission of a written bid upon notice of open competitive bidding.

3. Local governmental units, or local governmental units cooperating under the terms of any interlocal cooperative agreement authorized by state law, may create a purchasing cooperative or contract with a purchasing cooperative to provide leverage in achieving best value or the best terms in contracts. To encourage

intergovernmental collaboration, any purchasing cooperative or interlocal cooperative entity may utilize any single legal newspaper of this state to serve as sufficient compliance for bid notice requirements of competitive bidding or solicitation of bids. If the purchasing cooperative or interlocal cooperative entity is engaging in a project exclusive to a county or group of counties of this state, and not open to all governmental units or public trusts that wish to participate statewide, the bid notice shall be published in a legal newspaper located within the county or group of counties. Any local governmental unit or public trust that enters into membership or contracts with a purchasing cooperative or interlocal cooperative entity may enter into purchases or contracts under the terms negotiated by the purchasing cooperative or interlocal cooperative entity. If the purchasing cooperative or interlocal cooperative entity complies with the requirements of this section of law, all local governmental units shall be deemed in compliance with the requirements set forth for bid notices and publication.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

Passed the House of Representatives the 18th day of February, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 21st day of April, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____