



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Terry Steele

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 152 of the 131st G.A. **Date:** June 24, 2015
Status: As Reported by Senate Government Oversight & Reform **Sponsor:** Sen. Uecker

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Prohibits a public authority from using residency requirements or residency-based bid preferences in public improvement contracts

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill prohibits a public authority from offering bid preferences for, or requiring a contractor to employ, a certain number or certain percentage of local residents on professional design services and construction of a public improvement. This would include contracts that are managed or funded through certain state agencies such as the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).
- If more contractors are able to bid on professional design or construction contracts, this may reduce the state's overall construction costs.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- Prohibiting a public authority from offering bid preferences for, or requiring a contractor to employ, a certain number or certain percentage of local residents could expand the number of professional design or construction contractors willing to bid on projects. If so, this could potentially lead to lower contract costs through the competitive bidding process.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill prohibits a public authority from requiring a contractor, as part of a prequalification process for the construction of a specific public improvement or the provision of professional design services for that public improvement, to employ as laborers, a certain number or percentage of individuals who reside within the public authority's defined geographic or service area. The bill also prohibits providing a bid award bonus or preference to a contractor as an incentive to employ laborers residing within the geographic area of a public authority.

In addition, the bill repeals current law provisions that require a contractor to comply with political subdivision regulations or ordinances about residency requirements or use of local businesses that were in effect before July 1, 2009. These current law provisions apply to projects under three conditions. The first is when a project is for construction or improvements administered by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) or by another authorized state agency, or the project is for road or highway improvements overseen by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) or any local public authority authorized to administer such a project. The second condition is that the project be located in a municipal corporation with a population of at least 400,000 that is in a county with a population of at least 1.2 million. The third condition under which current law residency requirements apply is when the political subdivision contributes at least \$100,000 to the project.

Overall, eliminating the ability of a public authority to specify these type or residency requirements or to offer bid preferences for contractors that supply a certain number or percentage of local labor could expand the pool of potential contractors that would be able to bid on public improvement contracts. This is because there may be several contractors that currently do not employ a large enough percentage of their workforce from a specific geographic area. If this were the case, then it is possible that competitively bid contracts could have a larger number of bids submitted. This could in turn potentially result in lower project costs for subdivisions, and for contracts managed or funded through state agencies such as OFCC and ODOT, achieved through the competitive bidding process.