



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Public Hearing – March 4, 2009 Transportation Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Joseph F. Marie Department of Transportation

S. B. 1053 – An Act Concerning Technical Amendments to Consultant Selection Provisions. (Department of Transportation proposal)

The Department of Transportation's (DOT) process for obtaining professional consulting services is in accordance with Sections 13b-20b through 13b-20k of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS). This process is intended to permit DOT to select Consultants and award contracts for various professional services on an impartial, equitable and rational basis. Every year, in accordance with CGS Section 13b-20e, the Department publishes notice in newspapers with a statewide circulation as well as various trade publications soliciting firms to become prequalified in technical categories that there is an expected need for in the upcoming year.

S.B. 1053 amends section 13b-20g to coincide with section 13b-20e. In accordance with section 13b-20e (b), only firms that are technically prequalified by the Department in a particular year for a particular service are eligible to respond to a Department solicitation for those particular services. The Department currently sends a solicitation by mail to all firms that are prequalified in the particular category of services required and also posts the solicitation on our website and DAS's for informational purposes. Therefore, publishing notice for any prequalified consultant services, as defined in 13b-20b (c), would be a waste of money because only prequalified firms are eligible to respond to the solicitation and the web postings provide the information on the Department's activities in this respect for all others.

This proposal would also allow the Department a cost savings in regards to 13b-20e (c) whereby if the Department's prequalified list for a particular category has less than 5 firms or does not include the particular expertise required, we are then required to publish notice in, among other places, a trade publication of the required service. This proposal eliminates this requirement, and instead, allows for the publication on on-line professional web sites, thereby saving money associated with hard copy publication and avoiding the time delay of having to publish in such publications. The solicitation for services is also posted to our website and DAS's as is done with solicitations for prequalified services.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at (860) 594-3013.