

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 13-51—sSB 977

Government Administration and Elections Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICE PANELS

SUMMARY: This act reduces the size of several construction services panels established within the Department of Construction Services (DCS). It reduces the size of the construction services selection panels, which recommend consultants, from five members to three for (1) projects valued at less than \$5 million and (2) “on-call” contracts. It also reduces from six members to five, the size of the construction services award panels. The award panels recommend firms for (1) projects that use the design-build approach and (2) certain “fast-track” projects.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES SELECTION PANELS

Consultant Services

The law requires DCS to establish selection panels to evaluate consultant services proposals (e.g., architectural services, professional engineers, accountants, and others) valued at more than \$300,000. The panels must submit a list of the most qualified firms to the DCS commissioner for his consideration. Each panel is project-specific (i.e., a new panel is appointed for each project).

Under prior law, consultant services selection panels had five members, four current or retired DCS employees appointed by the commissioner and one appointed by the head or acting head of the user agency (i.e., the one for which the project is being administered). The act reduces the size of these panels, from five members to three, for projects valued at less than \$5 million, by eliminating two of the members who are current or former DCS employees.

On-Call Consultant Contracts

The act similarly reduces, from five members to three, the size of the selection panels that recommend firms for “on-call” consultant contracts. By law, members of these panels are appointed by the DCS commissioner and must be current employees of DCS or any agency for which consultant services may be contracted. Members serve only for deliberations involving the selection of consultants for which they are appointed.

An on-call contract defines a broad range of consultant services and is generally valid for two to three years. An on-call contract is not connected to a specific project; rather, DCS subsequently issues task letters to firms with on-call contracts that identify a specific scope of services to be performed and the fee for those services.

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AWARD PANELS

The act reduces, from six members to five, the size of the construction services award panels by eliminating the neutral party member appointed by the DCS commissioner, thus leaving the panels with three current DCS employees appointed by the commissioner and two members appointed by the head of the user agency. By law, the panels recommend to the commissioner the most qualified firms for (1) DCS-administered design-build construction projects (where DCS contracts with a single entity that both designs and builds the project) and (2) certain “fast-track” projects.

Under the fast-track process, the DCS commissioner submits three or more qualified contractors who are prequalified to an award panel, which then makes a recommendation to the commissioner. The law establishes five fast-track projects: a community court project, the downtown Hartford higher education center project, a correctional facility project, a juvenile detention center project, and Connecticut State University System student dormitories.

Like the selection panels described above, each award panel is project-specific.

OLR Tracking: TA:JKL:PF:ts