Bill No.: SB-857
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLANS SUBMITTED BY CONTRACTORS TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES
Vote Date: 3/20/2019
Vote Action: JOINT FAVORABLE
PH Date: 02/27/2019
File No.: 

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CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:
Judiciary Committee and Senator Cathy Osten (19th)

REASONS FOR BILL:
This bill establishes an expedited review of affirmative action plans submitted by contractors to the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO). The current approval process is timely and inefficient. Several projects have been completed long before the CHRO has issued final approval of the contractor’s submitted plans.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY (SUPPORT):
Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities:
The CHRO supports this bill. The CHRO developed this language with Senator Osten to reflect CHRO’s current practice. It allows the process to move along, while allowing the CHRO to find a plan deficient, without consequence, even with a missed deadline. The bill balances the realities of construction with the objectives of the plan review process.

RESPONSE FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS (SUPPORT):
Senator Cathy Osten (19th):
This bill is similar to others the Senator has introduced in recent years in that it expedites the approval process of affirmative action plans submitted by contractors to the CHRO. The bill is a good, pro-local jobs bill with real world implications.
RESPONSE FROM THE PUBLIC:

**Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut:**
The ABCC supports this bill. It codifies existing practice and ensures contracts can expect decisions in a timely manner, safeguarding predictability and fairness. In recent years, contractors have waited over a year for notice about their submitted plans, which hurts contractors that have 2% of their payments withheld until the plans are approved. Timeliness would help fix plan deficiencies as well.

**Mechanical Contractors Association of Connecticut:**
The MCA supports this bill. The bill is a positive step in setting a definitive timeline for contractors who are interested in bidding on state, municipal and quasi-public construction projects and may also encourage more contractors to get involved with public works projects.

**Association of Sheet Metal and Roofing Contractors of Connecticut:**
The ASMRCC supports this bill. The bill changes existing law by giving authority to the CHRO executive director or their designee to approve plans and revoke certificates, as opposed to the entire commission. The bill remedies the long delays that contractors currently face, and in so doing ensures that subcontractors and suppliers are not financially disadvantaged when funds are held for extended periods of time pending review by CHRO.

Reported by:  Robert J. Anderson                Date:  March 28, 2019