



House Bill 6617, An Act Concerning Authorization of State Grant Commitments for School Building Projects and Revisions to the School Building Project Statutes

Education Committee
March 17, 2021

The Mason Contractors Association (MCAC) is an association of commercial and industrial masonry subcontractors who aim to increase the usefulness and prestige of those engaged in the masonry construction business in Connecticut. MCAC employs the skilled craftworkers of The Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1 Connecticut and represent over 50 contractors in the State.

MCAC **supports** **House Bill 6617** and respectfully requests that the Education Committee approve the bill.

Investing in our state's school system brings with it numerous socioeconomic benefits throughout our towns and cities. Utilizing grants for public school construction creates good paying jobs for our residents, and has a trickle-down effect throughout our local economy. In addition, these projects, both new construction and renovations/additions, provide our education system with updates in the areas of sustainability, energy efficiency, and improvements to health and safety for both students and faculty.

In addition to these school funding projects, it has come to our attention that there may be an amendment to this bill containing language which would make modifications to current statutes which allow construction managers to self-perform on school construction projects. In the interest of protecting our public bidding system and the public school districts, we believe that the following conditions should be identified to meet the requirements of CMs to self-perform:

1. That the project element is one that the construction manager customarily performs. As part of this requirement, we believe that the construction manager must also be enrolled in a state-registered apprenticeship program that provides the proper related training to ensure workmanship and safety measures are met;
2. That the construction manager identifies the project element in writing a minimum of two weeks prior to the time the proposal is due to the owner;
3. That the self-performing construction manager submit their bid in a sealed bid, along with all the other trade subcontractors;

4. That the construction manager be prohibited from using the project contingency to assist in the performance of that project element;
5. That the construction manager perform the work with employees on its payroll, other than limited portions that would typically be subcontracted;
6. The construction manager shall submit all change orders on self-performed work to be reviewed by the owner or owner's representative; and
7. The construction manager shall be prequalified according to Sec. 4a-100 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The work shall be performed according to the historical jurisdiction in accordance with Sec. 31-53 of the general statutes and as adhered to by the Connecticut Department of Labor.

These requirements are necessary to protect subcontractors from solicitations from construction managers for services, information, and pricing which would allow construction managers who self-perform an unfair advantage.

Please contact Michael Thompson, Executive Director of MCAC, at (860) 413-9447, for additional information or any questions.