
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 344

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE CONTRACTING PRICE PREFERENCES FOR VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES.

SUMMARY

This bill allows the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to give up to a 10% price preference to veteran-owned businesses when awarding open market orders or contracts to buy goods or services. Under it, a “veteran-owned business” is any business in which at least 51% ownership is held by one or more veterans. (A price preference is the percentage by which a bid may be reduced when awarding a contract to the lowest qualified bidder.)

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, allows DAS to give a price preference of up to 15% for veteran-owned micro businesses (i.e., those with gross revenues of up to \$3 million).

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

BACKGROUND

Eligible Veterans

By law, a “veteran” is anyone who was honorably discharged, released under honorable conditions, or released with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition from active service in the armed forces. A “qualifying condition” is a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, a disclosed military sexual trauma, or a determination that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for the other than honorable discharge (CGS § 27-103, as amended by PA 21-79).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/15/2022)