

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1107

AN ACT CONCERNING CONTRACTS, BIDS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
Title: PROJECTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

Vote Date: 3/14/2023

Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Government Administration and

Vote Action: Elections

PH Date: 3/2/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill allows for contracts between constituent units of the state system of higher education and federal agencies, increases competitive online contractor bids from \$50,000 to \$100,000, increases qualification for "minor purchase" from \$10,000 to \$25,000, amends requirements for a minimum price guarantee for renovations of an already existing building, and allows UConn to prequalify contractors for one year, with two-year renewal periods for contracts costing more than \$1 million dollars. Senate bill 1107 aims to create a more dynamic system between higher-education state institutions regarding contractors and construction projects. This bill changes qualification limits, requirements, renewal periods, etc., to better apply to today's system and allow our state to become more efficient and reduces costs across the board.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Connecticut State Colleges & Universities, President, Terrence Cheng](#), supports this bill and believes that it is an important step in accessing cost savings and increasing administrative efficiencies in garnering goods and services regarding construction-related projects for CSCU, UConn, and UConn Health.

[University of Connecticut, Associate Vice President of Business Services and Chief Procurement Officer, Joseph Thomas / Executive Director of University Planning, Design, and Construction, Robert Corbett](#), supports this bill and assures that this bill will result in a great level of efficiencies and a reduction of costs, that in turn will allow more dedication or resources that will serve the students and the state. They add that the increase from \$500,000 to \$1 million of the prequalification trigger for contractors is primarily due to the cumulative inflation since the original passage in 1999.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Foundation for Fair Contracting of Connecticut, inc., Director, Kimberly Glassman](#), opposes this bill and the changes it creates regarding contractor prequalification from \$500,000 to \$1 Million and increases the contractor's prequalification renewal from 1 to 2 years. They add these changes creates issues for both the contractor and the institution contracting. Prequalification increase creates a wider unknown for which a contractor who have encumbered a civil violation could continue bidding for a longer period as before. Additionally increasing contract prequalification lessens oversight and moves Connecticut backwards on the 20 years of contracting standards.

Reported by: Christian Talarski

Date: 3/22/23