

Article 3D.

Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Surveying Services.

§ 143-64.31. Declaration of public policy.

(a) It is the public policy of this State and all public subdivisions and Local Governmental Units thereof, except in cases of special emergency involving the health and safety of the people or their property, to announce all requirements for architectural, engineering, surveying and construction management at risk services, to select firms qualified to provide such services on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualification for the type of professional services required without regard to fee other than unit price information at this stage, and thereafter to negotiate a contract for those services at a fair and reasonable fee with the best qualified firm. If a contract cannot be negotiated with the best qualified firm, negotiations with that firm shall be terminated and initiated with the next best qualified firm. Selection of a firm under this Article shall include the use of good faith efforts by the public entity to notify minority firms of the opportunity to submit qualifications for consideration by the public entity.

(b) Public entities that contract with a construction manager at risk under this section shall report to the Secretary of Administration the following information on all projects where a construction manager at risk is utilized:

- (1) A detailed explanation of the reason why the particular construction manager at risk was selected.
- (2) The terms of the contract with the construction manager at risk.
- (3) A list of all other firms considered but not selected as the construction manager at risk and the amount of their proposed fees for services.
- (4) A report on the form of bidding utilized by the construction manager at risk on the project.

The Secretary of Administration shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this subsection including the format and frequency of reporting. (1987, c. 102, s. 1; 1989, c. 230, s. 2; 2001-496, s. 1.)

§ 143-64.32. Written exemption of particular contracts.

Units of local government or the North Carolina Department of Transportation may in writing exempt particular projects from the provisions of this Article in the case of:

- (a) Proposed projects where an estimated professional fee is in an amount less than thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000), or
- (b) Other particular projects exempted in the sole discretion of the Department of Transportation or the unit of local government, stating the reasons therefor and the circumstances attendant thereto. (1987, c. 102, s. 2.)

§ 143-64.33. Advice in selecting consultants or negotiating consultant contracts.

On architectural, engineering, or surveying contracts, the Department of Transportation or the Department of Administration may provide, upon request by a county, city, town or other subdivision of the State, advice in the process of selecting consultants or in negotiating consultant contracts with architects, engineers, or surveyors or any or all. (1987, c. 102, s. 3; 1989, c. 230, s. 3, c. 770, s. 44.)

§ 143-64.34. Exemption of certain projects.

(a) State capital improvement projects under the jurisdiction of the State Building Commission and community college capital improvement projects, where the estimated expenditure of public money is less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), are exempt from the provisions of this Article.

(b) A capital improvement project of The University of North Carolina under G.S. 116-31.11 where the estimated expenditure of public money is less than three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) is exempt from this Article if all of the following apply:

- (1) The architectural, engineering, or surveying services to be rendered are under an open-end design agreement.
- (2) The open-end design agreement has been publicly announced.
- (3) The open-end design agreement complies with procedures adopted by the University and approved by the State Building Commission under G.S. 116-31.11(a)(3).

(c) A community college capital improvement project where the estimated expenditure of public money is less than three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) is exempt from this Article if all of the following apply:

- (1) The architectural, engineering, or surveying services to be rendered are under an open-end design agreement.
- (2) The open-end design agreement has been publicly announced.
- (3) The open-end design agreement complies with procedures adopted by the State Board of Community Colleges and approved by the State Building Commission. (1987, c. 102, s. 3.1; c. 830, s. 78(a); 1997-314, s. 1; 1997-412, s. 5; 2001-496, ss. 8(b), 8(c); 2005-300, s. 1; 2005-370, s. 1.)