

By Representative Mealor

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to state contracting; providing  
3           a preference in awarding state contracts for  
4           services to Florida-based companies, as  
5           defined; prescribing duties of state agencies;  
6           providing exceptions; providing an effective  
7           date.

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9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11           Section 1. Each state agency shall give a preference  
12 in the award of a contract for services to any proposed  
13 contract vendor that has its principal place of employment and  
14 operations in this state; such a vendor is referred to in this  
15 section as a Florida-based company. This preference shall  
16 cause a contract for services to be awarded to a Florida-based  
17 company if it is the only Florida-based company proposing to  
18 offer the services requested. If more than one Florida-based  
19 company has proposed to offer the services requested, the  
20 preference applies equally to all the Florida-based companies,  
21 and the award must be made to one of the Florida-based  
22 companies instead of to a company that does not meet that  
23 criterion. Any request for proposals or invitation to bid  
24 between an agency of this state and contract vendors shall  
25 include notice of this preference. A company shall be deemed  
26 to have its principal base of employment and operations in  
27 this state if the company employs more workers in this state  
28 than it employs in any other state. A company seeking to  
29 provide services to the state that does not meet this  
30 criterion shall be given the same preference for contract  
31 awards as a Florida-based company if it enters into a

1 joint-venture relationship with a Florida-based corporate  
2 partner that has a substantial interest in the joint venture  
3 to offer the services requested. This preference in contract  
4 awards for Florida-based companies or joint ventures  
5 containing a Florida-based company may be waived by an agency  
6 only if there are no contract vendors that are Florida-based  
7 companies or joint ventures that have a Florida-based company  
8 as one of the joint venture partners proposing to offer the  
9 services requested or if the agency determines in writing that  
10 waiving the preference is necessary for the state to receive  
11 the best value.

12 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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15 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

16 Requires state agencies seeking to acquire services  
17 contractually to provide a preference to Florida-based  
18 companies and to non-Florida-based companies that enter  
19 into joint ventures with Florida-based companies. Allows  
the preference to be waived when the agency determines in  
writing that waiver is in the state's best interest.

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