

HB 1303

2004

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Florida Marine Research Institute; providing legislative intent; requiring an analysis of expenditure of funds and quality of service for certain research and analysis; providing that certain entities shall be given preference when bidding to provide services previously provided by the Florida Marine Research Institute; prohibiting certain contacts with commission members and employees; requiring a report; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to promote effective and cost-efficient scientific research, including, but not limited to, data collection, field analysis, laboratory analysis, and information synthesis, regarding the state's marine resources. Accordingly, the Legislature believes that this intent is best served when state agencies analyze the provision of such research to determine the optimal balance between the costs associated with providing such research, the quality of the research provided, and the benefits of independent managerial separation between the entities relying upon such scientific research and the entities performing such research. When this research activity is available through academic, nonprofit, or private institutions, agencies shall contract with such providers for these services.

(2) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall conduct a written analysis of the cost of funding the Florida

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30 Marine Research Institute to conduct applied research and
31 information synthesis compared to the cost of outsourcing those
32 functions to academic, nonprofit, and private institutions. This
33 analysis shall be one of the factors for comparing requests for
34 proposals or solicitation of bids to be issued by the Fish and
35 Wildlife Conservation Commission for the provision of applied
36 research and information synthesis regarding the state's marine
37 resources.

38 (3) In determining the best and most reasonable bid among
39 private entities, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
40 shall give preference to an entity that is located in the state
41 and to an entity that agrees to provide employment opportunities
42 to state employees who will be displaced as a result of the
43 outsourcing of the identified service. No state agency shall be
44 prohibited from bidding on any contract to be awarded by the
45 commission.

46 (4) A bidder or potential bidder is not permitted to have
47 any contact with any member or employee of or consultant to the
48 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regarding a request
49 for proposals, a proposal, or the evaluation or selection
50 process from the time a request for proposals for the provision
51 of an identified service is issued until the time a notification
52 of intent to award is announced, except if such contact is in
53 writing or in a meeting for which notice was provided in the
54 Florida Administrative Weekly.

55 (5) By February 1, 2005, the Fish and Wildlife
56 Conservation Commission shall issue to the Governor, the Speaker
57 of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate
58 a report that consolidates the following information:

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59 (a) New private contracts for applied research and
60 information synthesis.

61 (b) The anticipated cost savings, if any, associated with
62 each new contract.

63 (c) The commission's authorized use of anticipated cost
64 savings, if any.

65 (d) Actual cost savings and use of savings of prior-year
66 private contracts.

67 (e) A description of each instance in which a request for
68 proposals or solicitation of bids process did not result in a
69 contract.

70 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.