377162

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate House

Comm: RCS 04/07/2010

The Committee on Community Affairs (Bennett) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 276 and 277 insert:

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Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 255.073, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

255.073 Timely payment for purchases of construction services.-

(3) When a contractor receives payment from a public entity for construction labor, services, or materials furnished by subcontractors and suppliers hired by the contractor, the contractor shall remit payment due to those subcontractors and

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suppliers within 10 days after the contractor's receipt of payment. When a subcontractor receives payment from a contractor for construction labor, services, or materials furnished by subcontractors and suppliers hired by the subcontractor, the subcontractor shall remit payment due to those subcontractors and suppliers within 7 days after the subcontractor's receipt of payment.

- (a) A subcontractor may invoice the contractor for the remainder of unpaid construction services 45 days after the completion of such services, including the full value of the retainage related to the services. The subcontractor shall include a conditional release of lien and all appropriate warranties and closeout documentation with the final payment invoice to the contractor. The contractor must include the payment request in the next payment application cycle to the agent following the receipt of the subcontractor's payment request. The public entity shall process the payment request within 20 days after receipt of the certificate for payment from the agent, and include payment of the retainage in its next payment to the contractor. The contractor shall remit payment due to those subcontractors and suppliers within 10 days after the contractor's receipt of payment from the public entity.
- (b) The public entity may require the contractor to include the following provision in all construction contracts to promote timely payments to subcontractors for services properly completed: "When the contractor receives payment from the public entity for labor, services, or materials furnished by subcontractors and suppliers hired by the contractor for the project, the contractor shall remit payment due to those



subcontractors and suppliers, less the value of any item contested, within 10 days after the contractor's receipt of payment. If the payment due the subcontractor is for final payment, including retainage, the subcontractor must include a conditional release of lien and all appropriate warranties and closeout documentation with the subcontractor's invoice for final payment. When the subcontractor receives payment from the contractor for labor, services, or materials furnished by subcontractors and suppliers hired by the subcontractor, the subcontractor shall remit payment due to those subcontractors and suppliers, less the value of any item contested, within 10 days after the subcontractor's receipt of payment." This provision does not create a contractual relationship of any kind between the agent and the contractor, between the public entity and a subcontractor, between the public entity and the agent, or between any persons or entities other than the public entity and the contractor.

(c) This subsection does not prohibit a contractor or subcontractor from disputing, pursuant to the terms of the relevant contract, all or any portion of a payment alleged to be due to another party if the contractor or subcontractor notifies the party whose payment is disputed, in writing, of the amount in dispute and the actions required to cure the dispute. The contractor or subcontractor must pay all undisputed amounts due within the time limits imposed by this subsection.

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> ======== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ============ And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 2 - 17



and insert:

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An act relating to public construction contracts; amending s. 218.72, F.S.; revising definitions; amending s. 218.735, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the timely payment for purchases of construction services provided to local government; requiring that a dispute be resolved according to procedures in the invitation to bid or request for proposal; prohibiting the assessment of damages against a contractor if the list of items remaining to complete is not timely provided to the contractor; amending s. 218.76, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the resolution of disputes concerning an improper payment request or invoice; providing that a local governmental entity waives its objection in a payment dispute if it fails to commence the dispute resolution procedure within the time required; amending s. 255.073, F.S.; providing a procedure and timeframe for remitting final payment to subcontractors providing construction services provided to a public entity; providing an effective date.