

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Florida Veteran Business
 3 Enterprise Opportunity Act; amending s. 295.187, F.S.;
 4 requiring a state agency to grant specified preference
 5 to a certified veteran business enterprise when
 6 considering two or more bids, proposals, or replies
 7 for the procurement of commodities or contractual
 8 services, at least one of which is from a certified
 9 veteran business enterprise; providing requirements
 10 with respect to solicitations in which the preference
 11 is being applied; providing an effective date.

12
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14
 15 Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 295.187, Florida
 16 Statutes, is amended to read:

17 295.187 Florida Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity
 18 Act.—

19 (4) VENDOR PREFERENCE.—

20 (a) A state agency, when considering two or more bids,
 21 proposals, or replies for the procurement of commodities or
 22 contractual services, at least one of which is from a certified
 23 veteran business enterprise, shall grant a 3-percent preference,
 24 applied only to the first \$500,000 of the response, ~~which are~~
 25 ~~equal with respect to all relevant considerations, including~~
 26 ~~price, quality, and service, shall award such procurement or~~
 27 ~~contract~~ to the certified veteran business enterprise.

28 (b) If the preference is being applied in a solicitation:

29 1. The solicitation document must include:
 30 a. A statement to the effect that the solicitation is
 31 subject to the preference.
 32 b. An application form for the preference, developed by
 33 the Department of Management Services and furnished by the state
 34 agency, accompanied by a request for any further documentation
 35 required by the state agency.
 36 2. Only a certified veteran business enterprise that
 37 completes the application and provides the documentation
 38 required under subparagraph 1. shall be granted the preference.
 39 (c) ~~(b)~~ Notwithstanding s. 287.057(11), if a veteran
 40 business enterprise entitled to the vendor preference under this
 41 section and one or more businesses entitled to this preference
 42 or another vendor preference provided by law submit bids,
 43 proposals, or replies for procurement of commodities or
 44 contractual services which are equal with respect to all
 45 relevant considerations, including price, quality, and service,
 46 the state agency shall award the procurement or contract to the
 47 business having the smallest net worth.
 48 (d) ~~(e)~~ Political subdivisions of the state are encouraged
 49 to offer a similar consideration to businesses certified under
 50 this section.
 51 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.