

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Fiscal Policy

BILL: CS/CS/SB 824

INTRODUCER: Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee; Community Affairs Committee; and Senator Evers

SUBJECT: Public-private Partnerships

DATE: April 17, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Stearns</u>	<u>Yeatman</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Peacock</u>	<u>McVaney</u>	<u>GO</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
3.	<u>Stearns</u>	<u>Hrdlicka</u>	<u>FP</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/CS/SB 824 implements many of the recommendations of the statutorily-created Partnership for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act Guidelines Task Force to create a uniform, improved process for engaging in public-private partnerships (P3s) across the state. The bill repeals the provisions creating the task force.

The bill clarifies that the P3 process must be construed as cumulative and supplemental to any other authority or power vested in the governing body of a county, municipality, special district, or municipal hospital or health care system. It also provides that the P3 process is an alternative method that may be used and does not limit a county, municipality, special district, or other political subdivision of the state pursuant to other statutory or constitutional authority.

The bill also:

- Expands the list of entities authorized to conduct P3s, by amending the term “responsible public entity” to include state universities, special districts, school districts rather than school boards, and Florida College System institutions.
- Provides increased flexibility to the responsible public entity by permitting a responsible public entity to deviate from the provided procurement timeframes if approved by majority vote of the entity’s governing body.
- Provides that an unsolicited proposal must be submitted concurrently with an initial application fee, which may be established by the responsible public entity.

- Requires a solicitation to include a specified design criteria package.
- Repeals the requirement that a responsible public entity provide each affected local jurisdiction with a copy of the unsolicited proposal.
- Authorizes the Department of Management Services to accept and maintain copies of comprehensive agreements received from responsible public entities.

The bill is expected to have a minimal fiscal impact on the Department of Management Services.

II. Present Situation:

Background

Public-private partnerships (P3s) are contractual agreements formed between public entities and private sector entities that allow for greater private sector participation in the delivery and financing of public building and infrastructure projects.¹ Through these agreements, the skills and assets of each sector, public and private, are shared in delivering a service or facility for use by the general public. In addition to the sharing of resources, each party shares in the risks and rewards potential in the delivery of the service or facility.²

Section 287.05712, F.S., governs the procurement process for P3s for public purpose projects. It authorizes a responsible public entity to enter into a P3 for a specified qualifying project if the responsible public entity determines the project is in the public's best interest.³

Section 287.05712(1)(j), F.S., defines "responsible public entity" as a county, municipality, school board, or any other political subdivision of the state; a public body corporate and politic; or a regional entity that serves a public purpose and is authorized to develop or operate a qualifying project.

Section 287.05712(1)(i), F.S., defines "qualifying project" as:

- A facility or project that serves a public purpose, including, but not limited to, any recreational, cultural, ferry or mass transit, vehicle parking, fuel supply, airport, seaport, or medical or nursing care facility; rail facility or project; oil or gas pipeline; or educational facility or other building or facility that is used or will be used by a public educational institution; or any other public facility or infrastructure that is used or will be used by the public at large or in support of an accepted public purpose or activity;
- An improvement, including equipment, of a building that will be principally used by a public entity or the public at large or that supports a service delivery system in the public sector;
- A water, wastewater, or surface water management facility or other related infrastructure; or
- For projects that involve a facility owned or operated by the governing board of a county, district, or municipal hospital or health care system, or projects that involve a facility owned or operated by a municipal electric utility, only those projects that the governing board designates.

¹ See, the Federal Highway Administration, United State Department of Transportation, Innovative Program Delivery website, available at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ipd/p3/defined/index.htm> (last visited on April 15, 2015).

² *Id.*

³ Section 287.05712(4)(d)1., F.S.

Procurement Procedures

Responsible public entities may receive unsolicited proposals or solicit proposals for qualifying projects and, thereafter, may enter into a comprehensive agreement with a private entity for the building, upgrading, operation, ownership, or financing of facilities.⁴ Responsible public entities may establish a reasonable fee to accompany unsolicited proposals that is sufficient to pay the costs of evaluating the proposals.⁵

Unsolicited proposals from private entities must be accompanied by certain material and information, unless waived by the responsible public entity, including:⁶

- A description of the qualifying project, including the conceptual design and schedule for initiation and completion of the qualifying project.
- A description of the private entity's general plans for financing the qualifying project, including the sources of the funds and identification of any dedicated revenue source or proposed debt or equity investment on behalf of the private entity.
- The proposed user fees, lease payments, or other service payments over the term of a comprehensive agreement, and the methodology and circumstances for changes to the user fees, lease payments, and other service payments over time.

If the responsible public entity receives an unsolicited proposal and intends to enter into a P3 agreement for the qualifying project, the responsible public entity must publish a notice in the Florida Administrative Register (FAR) and a newspaper of general circulation at least once a week for two weeks stating the entity has received a proposal and will accept other proposals.⁷ The responsible public entity must establish a timeframe in which to accept other proposals; however, the timeframe for allowing other proposals must be at least 21 days, but not more than 120 days after the initial date of publication.⁸

After the notification period has expired, the responsible public entity must rank the proposals received in order of preference.⁹ If negotiations with the first ranked firm are unsuccessful, the responsible public entity may begin negotiations with the second ranked firm. The responsible public entity may reject all proposals at any point in the process.¹⁰

The responsible public entity may charge a reasonable fee to cover the costs of processing, reviewing, and evaluating the requests, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney fees and fees for financial and technical advisors or consultants and for other necessary advisors and consultants.¹¹

The responsible public entity may approve a qualifying project if:¹²

⁴ Section 287.05712(4), F.S.

⁵ Section 287.05712(4)(a), F.S.

⁶ Section 287.05712(5), F.S.

⁷ Section 287.05712(4)(b), F.S.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Section 287.05712(6)(c), F.S.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Section 287.05712(6)(f), F.S.

¹² Section 287.05712(6)(e), F.S.

- There is a public need for or benefit derived from the project that the private entity proposes.
- The estimated cost of the qualifying project is reasonable in relation to similar facilities.
- The private entity's plans will result in the timely acquisition, design, construction, improvement, renovation, expansion, equipping, maintenance, or operation of the qualifying project.

Notice to Affected Local Jurisdictions

A responsible public entity must notify each affected local jurisdiction when considering a qualifying project by furnishing a copy of the proposal to each affected local jurisdiction.¹³ The affected local jurisdictions may, within 60 days, submit written comments to the responsible public entity. The responsible public entity is required to consider the comments submitted by the affected local jurisdiction. In addition, a responsible public entity must mail a copy of the notice that is published in the FAR to each local government in the affected area.¹⁴

Agreements

The responsible public entity and private entity must enter into a comprehensive agreement prior to developing or operating a qualifying project.¹⁵ The comprehensive agreement is required to contain certain provisions, including:¹⁶

- Delivery of performance and payment bonds, letters of credit, and other security in connection with the development or operation of the qualifying project.
- Review of the design for the qualifying project by the public entity. This does not require the private entity to complete the design of the project prior to executing the comprehensive agreement.
- Maintenance of a policy or policies of public liability insurance and the filing of financial statements by the private entity on a periodic basis.
- Policies and procedures governing the rights and responsibilities of the public and private entity in the event of a termination of the comprehensive agreement or a material default.
- User fees, lease payments, or service payments as may be established.

The comprehensive agreement may provisions that address grants (federal, state, or local) from the responsible public entity to the private entity; notice of default and cure rights; and terminating the duties of the private entity and dedicating the project to the responsible public entity.¹⁷

¹³ Section 287.05712(7), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 287.05712(4)(b), F.S.

¹⁵ Before entering into a comprehensive agreement, the responsible public entity may enter into an interim agreement with the private entity, which does not obligate the responsible public entity to enter into a comprehensive agreement. s. 287.05712(8), F.S.

¹⁶ Section 287.05712(9)(a), F.S.

¹⁷ Section 287.05712(9)(b), F.S.

Fees

The comprehensive agreement may authorize the private entity to impose fees to the public for use of the facility.¹⁸

Financing

Section 287.05712(11), F.S., authorizes the use of multiple financing options for P3s. The options include the private entity obtaining private-source financing, the responsible public entity lending funds to the private entity, or the use of other innovative finance techniques associated with P3s.

Powers and Duties of the Private Entity

The private entity must develop, operate, and maintain the qualifying project in accordance with the comprehensive agreement.¹⁹ The private entity must cooperate with the responsible public entity in making best efforts to establish interconnection between the qualifying project and other facilities and infrastructure. The private entity must comply with the terms of the comprehensive agreement and any other lease or contract.

Partnership for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act Guidelines Task Force

Section 287.05712(3), F.S., creates the Partnership for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act Guidelines Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force was created to recommend guidelines for the Legislature to consider for purposes of creating a uniform P3 process across the state. The seven-member Task Force was comprised of the Secretary of the Department of Management Services (DMS) or designee and six members appointed by the Governor comprised of one county government official, one municipal government official, one district school board member, and three representatives from the business community. The DMS provided administrative and technical support to the Task Force.

In July 2014, the Task Force completed its duties and submitted a final report of its recommendations.²⁰ The Task Force was disbanded on December 31, 2014.²¹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 transfers s. 287.05712, F.S., and renumbers it as s. 255.065, F.S., to incorporate many of the recommendations contained in the Task Force report, which include best practice recommendations as well as recommendations relating to needed clarification of s. 287.05712, F.S., which may facilitate the implementation of P3s.

¹⁸ Section 287.05712(10), F.S.

¹⁹ Section 287.05712(12), F.S.

²⁰ Partnership for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act Guidelines Task Force, *Final Report and Recommendations* (July 2014), available at http://www.dms.myflorida.com/agency_administration/communications/partnership_for_public_facilities_infrastructure_act (last visited April 15, 2015).

²¹ Section 287.05712(3)(f), F.S.

Definitions

The bill expands the definition of “responsible public entity” to include state universities,²² and clarifies that it includes special districts, school districts rather than school boards, and Florida College System institutions.²³

Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act Guidelines Task Force

The bill repeals the Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act Guidelines Task Force provisions, as the Task Force was disbanded on December 31, 2014.

Application Fees

The bill provides that when a private entity submits an unsolicited proposal, the private entity must concurrently submit the initial application fee.²⁴ The bill provides that if the initial fee, as determined by the responsible public entity, is not sufficient to cover the costs associated with evaluating the unsolicited proposal, the responsible public entity must request in writing the additional amount required. If the private entity fails to pay the additional amount requested within 30 days of the notice, the responsible public entity may stop reviewing the proposal. The bill requires the responsible public entity to return the application fee if the responsible public entity does not evaluate the unsolicited proposal.

Solicitation Timeframes

The bill provides flexibility to the responsible public entity for accepting proposals if an alternative timeframe is approved by majority vote of the entity’s governing body.²⁵ It also removes the provision that required a school board to obtain the approval of the local governing body.²⁶

Contents of Solicitation – Design Criteria Package

The bill requires a solicitation to include a design criteria package prepared by an architect, engineer, or landscape architect licensed in Florida that is sufficient to allow private entities to prepare a bid or a response to the solicitation. The design criteria package must specify performance-based criteria for the project, including:

- The legal description of the site, with survey information;
- Interior space requirements;

²² Task Force Report at 16. The Task Force recommended adding state universities to the list of entities that are included in the definition of “responsible public entity.”

²³ *Id.* at 18. The Task Force recommended amending the definition of “responsible public entity” to reference school district, rather than board, as the district is the unit that provides public primary education. It also recommended clarifying that the definition includes both special districts and the Florida College System.

²⁴ *Id.* at 9. The Task Force recommended amending the fee provisions to ensure that the fees were related to actual, reasonable costs associated with reviewing an unsolicited proposal and not revenue generation.

²⁵ *Id.* at 7. The Task Force discussed that increased flexibility may be necessary when dealing with complex proposals to ensure sufficient time is allowed for the receipt of competing proposals.

²⁶ *Id.* at 18. The Task Force recommended striking this provision because school boards are not subject to governance by a local governing body.

- Material quality standards;
- Schematic layouts and conceptual design criteria for the project, with budget estimates;
- Design and construction schedules; and
- Site and utility requirements.

Ownership by the Responsible Public Entity

The bill clarifies that the project must be owned by the responsible public entity upon expiration of the comprehensive agreement, rather than solely upon completion or termination of the agreement.²⁷

Material and Information Required for Unsolicited Proposal

The bill clarifies that any pricing or financial terms included in an unsolicited proposal must be specific as to when the pricing or terms expire.²⁸

Project Qualification

The bill alters the parties that must meet the minimum standards contained in the responsible public entity's guidelines for qualifying professional services and contracts for traditional procurement projects to allow the applicable party (or parties) of the private entity's team to be a qualifying entity, rather than just the private entity itself.²⁹

The bill repeals a requirement that a responsible public entity ensure that provision is made for the transfer of a private entity's obligations if the comprehensive agreement is terminated and replaces it with a requirement that the responsible public entity ensure that the comprehensive agreement addresses termination upon a material default.³⁰

Notice to Affected Local Jurisdictions

The bill repeals the requirement that a responsible public entity notify each affected local jurisdiction of an unsolicited proposal by furnishing a copy of the proposal to each affected local jurisdiction when considering it.³¹ The responsible public entity must still provide each affected local jurisdiction a copy of the notice published in the FAR concerning solicitations for a qualifying project in accordance with s. 287.05712(4)(b), F.S.

Fees

The bill clarifies that fees imposed by a private entity must be applied as set forth in the comprehensive agreement.³²

²⁷ *Id.* at 14.

²⁸ *Id.* at 7.

²⁹ *Id.* at 21.

³⁰ *Id.* at 14.

³¹ *Id.* at 12-13. The report provided a discussion on the notice that is already provided to affected local jurisdictions through the permitting process and stated a mandatory P3 notice process could delay project timelines.

³² *Id.* at 17.

Financing

The bill clarifies that a financing agreement may not require the responsible public entity to secure financing by a mortgage on, or security interest in, the real or tangible personal property of the responsible public entity in a manner that could result in the loss of the fee ownership of the property by the responsible public entity.³³

The bill also repeals a provision that provides for the responsible public entity to appropriate on a priority basis a contractual payment obligation from the government fund from which the qualifying project will be funded.³⁴ Current law raised concerns regarding infringement upon a responsible public entity's appropriation powers. Additionally, had the provision remained in current law, it is unclear how this provision would apply to state universities or Florida College System institutions.

Department of Management Services

The bill provides that DMS may accept and maintain copies of comprehensive agreements received from responsible public entities for the purpose of sharing the comprehensive agreements with other responsible public entities.³⁵ Responsible public entities are not required to provide copies to DMS; however, if a responsible public entity provides a copy, the responsible public entity must first redact any confidential or exempt information from the comprehensive agreement.

Construction

The bill clarifies that the P3 process must be construed as cumulative and supplemental to any other authority or power vested in the governing *body* of a county, municipality, special district, or municipal hospital or health care system. The bill provides that the P3 process is an alternative method that may be used, but that it does not limit a county, municipality, special district, or other political subdivision of the state in the procurement or operation of a qualifying project pursuant to other statutory or constitutional authority.³⁶

Miscellaneous

The bill transfers and renumbers s. 287.05712, F.S., as s. 255.065, F.S., because ch. 255, F.S., relates to procurement of construction services and P3s are primarily construction related projects.

The bill also makes other editorial changes to provide for the consistent use of terminology and to provide clarity.

³³ *Id.* at 20.

³⁴ *Id.* at 15.

³⁵ *Id.* at 11. The report recommended authorizing a state agency to provide assistance to responsible public entities concerning P3s.

³⁶ *Id.* at 19. The report discussed the need for flexibility in the creation of P3s and noted that clarification is needed to ensure that the process is considered supplemental and alternative to any other applicable statutory authority.

Section 2 provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

This bill may provide more opportunities for the private sector to enter into contracts for construction services with state universities and local governments.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill will have an insignificant negative fiscal impact on DMS for the purpose of receiving comprehensive agreements and acting as a depository for such comprehensive agreements. According to the DMS, the costs may be absorbed within current resources.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 287.05712 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS/CS by Governmental Oversight and Accountability on March 31, 2015:

A landscape architect licensed in Florida is added to the list of professionals who can prepare the design criteria package that is required for inclusion with the solicitation to the responsible public entity.

CS by Community Affairs on March 17, 2015:

Requires a solicitation to include a design criteria package prepared by an architect or engineer licensed in Florida that is sufficient to allow private entities to prepare a bid or a response to the solicitation. The bill provides a number of performance-based criteria that must be included in the design criteria package.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.