

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB312

Hearing Date: Monday February 02, 2015
Committee On: Transportation and Telecommunications
Introducer: Transportation and Telecommunications
One Liner: Change provisions relating to the letting of highway construction contracts

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Brasch, Davis, Friesen, Garrett, McCoy, Murante, Seiler, Smith
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Mike Hybl
Randy Peters
Joseph Kohout

Representing:

Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
Nebraska Department of Roads
Professional Engineers Coalition

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

The legislation amends requirements relating to the letting of contracts by the Nebraska Department of Roads.

Amends section 39- 1348. Currently this section provides the general rule for the letting of contracts by the Department of Roads. Construction and maintenance projects prior to being contracted must be advertised, and sealed bids requested, for at least 20 days via publication in a legal newspaper.

A new subsection (2) is added to the section that provides that when the department determines a contract will have a cost less than \$100,000 the department, may in its sole discretion, request bids from three potential bidders. Bids are to be opened at a time designated by the department and a contract awarded if at least one responsive bid is received. Also related to this change section 39-1349 (contract bidding requirements) and section 39-1351 (bidder pre-qualification) is amended to provide that when the department utilizes this new procedure to solicit bids for contracts costing less than \$100,000 bidders do not have to be pre-qualified by the department.

Finally, section 39-1349 is amended by adding a new subsection (4) which provides that the department may, when the department determines it to be in the public interest, allow a federal agency to let contracts for construction and maintenance of state highways and bridges. Bidders on any such contract must be prequalified by the department, except for contracts having a cost less than \$100,000.

Jim Smith, Chairperson