

CHAPTER 191

AN ACT concerning certain contract bidding requirements and amending various parts of statutory law.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. N.J.S.18A:18A-21 is amended to read as follows:

Advertisement for bids; bids; general requirements; notice of revisions.

18A:18A-21. a. Except as provided in section 5 of P.L.1985, c.490 (C.18A:18A-55), all advertisements for bids shall be published in an official newspaper sufficiently in advance of the date fixed for receiving the bids to promote competitive bidding, but in no event less than 10 days prior to such date.

b. The advertisement shall designate the manner of submitting and of receiving the bids and the time and place at which the bids will be received. If the published specifications provide for receipt of bids by mail, those bids which are mailed to the board of education shall be sealed and shall be opened only for examination at such time and place as all bids received are unsealed and announced. At such time and place the purchasing agent of the board of education shall publicly receive the bids and thereupon immediately proceed to unseal them and publicly announce the contents, which announcement shall be made in the presence of any parties bidding or their agents who are then and there present. A proper record of the prices and terms shall be made in the minutes of the board. No bids shall be received after the time designated in the advertisement.

c. Notice of revisions or addenda to advertisements or bid documents shall be provided as follows:

(1) For all contracts except those for construction work, notice shall be published no later than seven days, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excepted, prior to the date for acceptance of bids, in an official newspaper of the board of education and be provided to any person who has submitted a bid or who has received a bid package, in one of the following ways: (a) in writing by certified mail or (b) by certified facsimile transmission, meaning that the sender's facsimile machine produces a receipt showing date and time of transmission and that the transmission was successful or (c) by a delivery service that provides certification of delivery to the sender.

(2) For all contracts for construction work, notice shall be provided no later than seven days, Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays excepted, prior to the date for acceptance of bids, to any person who has submitted a bid or who has received a bid package in any of the following ways: i) in writing by certified mail or ii) by certified facsimile transmission, meaning that the sender's facsimile machine produces a receipt showing date and time of transmission and that the transmission was successful or iii) by a delivery service that provides certification of delivery to the sender.

d. Failure of the board of education to advertise for the receipt of bids or to provide proper notification of revisions or addenda to advertisements or bid documents related to bids as prescribed by this section shall prevent the board of education from accepting the bids and require the readvertisement for bids pursuant to subsection a. of this section. Failure to obtain a receipt when good faith notice is sent or delivered to the address or telephone facsimile number on file with the board of education shall not be considered failure by the board of education to provide notice.

2. Section 14 of P.L.1986, c.43 (C.18A:64-65) is amended to read as follows:

C.18A:64-65 Advertisements for bids; notice of revisions.

14. a. All advertisements for bids shall be published in a legal newspaper sufficiently in advance of the date fixed for receiving the bids to promote competitive bidding but in no event less than 10 days prior to that date for any construction projects or any other contract or purchase. The advertisement shall designate the manner of submitting and of receiving the bids and the time and place at which the bids will be received. If the published specifications provide for receipt of bids by mail, those bids which are mailed to the State college shall be sealed and shall be opened only at such time and place as all bids received are unsealed and announced. At that time and place, the contracting agent of the State college shall publicly receive the bids and

thereupon immediately proceed to unseal them and publicly announce the contents, which announcement shall be made in the presence of any parties bidding or their agents who are then and there present. A proper record of the prices and terms shall be made. No bids shall be received after the time designated in the advertisement.

b. Notice of revisions or addenda to advertisements or bid documents relating to bids shall be published in a legal newspaper or newspapers no later than seven days, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excepted, prior to the bid due date. The notice shall be provided to any person who has submitted a bid or who has received a bid package, in one of the following ways: (a) in writing by certified mail or (b) by certified facsimile transmission, meaning that the sender's facsimile machine produces a receipt showing date and time of transmission and that the transmission was successful or (c) by a delivery service that provides certification of delivery to the sender. Failure to advertise or provide proper notification of revisions or addenda to advertisements or bid documents related to bids as prescribed by this section shall prevent the acceptance of bids and require the readvertisement for bids.

Failure to obtain a receipt when good faith notice is sent or delivered to the address or telephone facsimile number on file with the State college shall not be considered failure by the State college to provide notice.

3. Section 14 of P.L.1982, c.189 (C.18A:64A-25.14) is amended to read as follows:

C.18A:64A-25.14 Advertisements for bids; bids; general requirements; notice of revision.

14. a. All advertisements for bids shall be published in a legal newspaper sufficiently in advance of the date fixed for receiving the bids to promote competitive bidding but in no event less than 10 days prior to such date. The advertisement shall designate the manner of submitting and of receiving the bids and the time and place at which the bids will be received. If the published specifications provide for receipt of bids by mail, those bids which are mailed to the county college shall be sealed and shall be opened only at such time and place as all bids received are unsealed and announced. At such time and place, the contracting agent of the county college shall publicly receive the bids and thereupon immediately proceed to unseal them and publicly announce the contents, which announcement shall be made in the presence of any parties bidding or their agents who are then and there present. A proper record of the prices and terms shall be made. No bids shall be received after the time designated in the advertisement.

b. Notice of revisions or addenda to advertisements or bid documents relating to bids shall be published in a legal newspaper no later than seven days, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excepted, prior to the bid due date. The notice shall be provided to any person who has submitted a bid or who has received a bid package, in one of the following ways: (a) in writing by certified mail or (b) by certified facsimile transmission, meaning that the sender's facsimile machine produces a receipt showing date and time of transmission and that the transmission was successful or (c) by a delivery service that provides certification of delivery to the sender. Failure to advertise or provide proper notification of revisions or addenda to advertisements or bid documents related to bids as prescribed by this section shall prevent the acceptance of bids and require the readvertisement for bids. Failure to obtain a receipt when good faith notice is sent or delivered to the address or telephone facsimile number on file with the county college shall not be considered failure by the county college to provide notice.

4. Section 52 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.34:1B-5.7) is amended to read as follows:

C.34:1B-5.7 Preparation of separate plan, specifications; bids; advertisements.

52. a. In undertaking any school facilities projects where the cost of construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement will exceed \$25,000, the authority may prepare, or cause to be prepared, separate plans and specifications for: (1) the plumbing and gas fitting and all work and materials kindred thereto, (2) the steam and hot water heating and ventilating apparatus, steam power plants and all work and materials kindred thereto, (3) the electrical work, (4) structural steel and miscellaneous iron work and materials, and (5) all general construction, which shall include all other work and materials required to complete the building.

b. The authority shall advertise and receive (1) separate bids for each of the branches of work specified in subsection a. of this section; or (2) bids for all the work and materials required to complete the school facilities project to be included in a single overall contract, in which case there shall be set forth in the bid the name or names of all subcontractors to whom the bidder will subcontract for the furnishing of any of the work and materials specified in branches (1) through (4) in subsection a. of this section; or (3) both.

c. Contracts shall be awarded as follows: (1) if bids are received in accordance with paragraph (1) of subsection b. of this section, the authority shall determine the responsible bidder for each branch whose bid, conforming to the invitation for bids, will be most advantageous to the authority, price and other factors considered; (2) if bids are received in accordance with paragraph (2) of subsection b. of this section, the authority shall determine the responsible bidder for the single overall contract whose bid, conforming to the invitation for bids, will be the most advantageous to the authority, price and other factors considered; or (3) if bids are received in accordance with paragraph (3) of subsection b. of this section, the authority shall award separate contracts for each branch of work specified in subsection a. of this section if the sum total of the amounts bid by the responsible bidders for each branch, as determined pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, is less than the amount bid by the responsible bidder for all of the work and materials, as determined pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection; but if the sum total of the amounts bid by the responsible bidder for each branch, as determined pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection is not less than the amount bid by the responsible bidder for all of the work and materials, as determined pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the authority shall award a single over-all contract to the responsible bidder for all of the work and materials as determined pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection.

d. For the purposes of this section, "other factors" means the evaluation by the authority of the ability of the single contractor or the abilities of the multiple contractors to complete the contract in accordance with its requirements and includes requirements relating to the experience and qualifications of the contractor or contractors and their key personnel in projects of similar type and complexity; the performance of the contractor or contractors on prior contracts with the authority or the State; the experience and capability of the contractor or contractors and their key personnel in respect to any special technologies, techniques or expertise that the project may require; the contractor's understanding of the means and methods needed to complete the project on time and within budget; the timetable to complete the project; the contractor's plan for quality assurance and control; and other similar types of factors. The "other factors" to be considered in evaluating bids and the weights assigned to price and these "other factors" shall be determined by the authority prior to the advertisement for bids for school facilities projects. In its evaluation of bids, the consideration given to price by the authority shall be at least equal to the consideration given to the combination of all "other factors."

e. The authority shall require from all contractors to which it awards contracts pursuant to P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.), the delivery of a payment performance bond issued in accordance with N.J.S.2A:44-143 et seq.

f. The authority shall adopt regulations to implement this section which shall include, but not be limited to, the procedural requirements for: (1) the evaluation and weighting of price and "other factors" in the awarding of contracts; and (2) the appealing of a prequalification classification and rating, a bid rejection and a contract award recommendation.

g. Each evaluation committee selected by the authority to review and evaluate bids shall, at a minimum, contain a representative from the district in which the school facilities project is located if such district elects to participate.

h. All advertisements for bids shall be published in a legal newspaper sufficiently in advance of the date fixed for receiving the bids to promote competitive bidding but in no event less than 10 days prior to such date. Notice of revisions or addenda to advertisements or bid documents relating to bids shall be advertised to best give notice to bidders no later than seven days, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excepted, prior to the bid due date. The notice shall be provided to any person who has submitted a bid or who has received a bid package, in one of the following ways: (a) in writing by certified mail or (b) by certified facsimile transmission, meaning that the sender's facsimile machine produces a receipt showing date and time of

transmission and that the transmission was successful or (c) by a delivery service that provides certification of delivery to the sender. Failure to advertise or provide proper notification of revisions or addenda to advertisements or bid documents related to bids as prescribed by this section shall prevent the acceptance of bids and require the readvertisement for bids. Failure to obtain a receipt when good faith notice is sent or delivered to the address or telephone facsimile number on file with the authority shall not be considered failure by the authority to provide notice.

5. Section 23 of P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-23) is amended to read as follows:

C.40A:11-23 Advertisements for bids; bids; general requirements.

23. a. All advertisements for bids shall be published in an official newspaper of the contracting unit sufficiently in advance of the date fixed for receiving the bids to promote competitive bidding, but in no event less than 10 days prior to such date; except that all advertisements for bids on contracts for the collection and disposal of municipal solid waste shall be published in an official newspaper of the contracting unit circulating in the county or municipality, and in at least one newspaper of general circulation published in the State, sufficiently in advance of the date fixed for receiving the bids to promote competitive bidding, but not less than 60 days prior to that date.

b. The advertisement shall designate the manner of submitting and the method of receiving the bids and the time and place at which the bids will be received. If the published specifications provide for receipt of bids by mail, those bids which are mailed to the contracting unit shall be sealed and shall only be opened for examination at such time and place as all bids received are unsealed and announced. At such time and place the contracting agent of the contracting unit shall publicly receive the bids, and thereupon immediately proceed to unseal them and publicly announce the contents, which announcement shall be made in the presence of any parties bidding or their agents, who are then and there present, and shall also make proper record of the prices and terms, upon the minutes of the governing body, if the award is to be made by the governing body of the contracting unit, or in a book kept for that purpose, if the award is to be made by other than the governing body, and in such latter case it shall be reported to the governing body of the contracting unit for its action thereon, when such action thereon is required. No bids shall be received after the time designated in the advertisement.

c. Notice of revisions or addenda to advertisements or bid documents shall be provided as follows:

1) For all contracts except those for construction work and municipal solid waste collection and disposal service, notice shall be published no later than seven days, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excepted, prior to the date for acceptance of bids, in an official newspaper of the contracting unit and be provided to any person who has submitted a bid or who has received a bid package, in one of the following ways: i) in writing by certified mail or ii) by certified facsimile transmission, meaning that the sender's facsimile machine produces a receipt showing date and time of transmission and that the transmission was successful or iii) by a delivery service that provides certification of delivery to the sender.

2) For all contracts for construction work, notice shall be provided no later than seven days, Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays excepted, prior to the date for acceptance of bids, to any person who has submitted a bid or who has received a bid package in any of the following ways: i) in writing by certified mail or ii) by certified facsimile transmission, meaning that the sender's facsimile machine produces a receipt showing date and time of transmission and that the transmission was successful or iii) by a delivery service that provides certification of delivery to the sender.

3) For municipal solid waste collection and disposal contracts, notice shall be published in an official newspaper of the contracting unit and in at least one newspaper of general circulation published in the State no later than seven days, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excepted, prior to the date for acceptance of bids.

d. Failure of the contracting unit to advertise for the receipt of bids or to provide proper notification of revisions or addenda to advertisements or bid documents related to bids as

prescribed by this section shall prevent the contracting unit from accepting the bids and require the readvertisement for bids pursuant to subsection a. of this section. Failure to obtain a receipt when good faith notice is sent or delivered to the address or telephone facsimile number on file with the contracting unit shall not be considered failure by the contracting unit to provide notice.

6. Section 7 of P.L.1954, c.48 (C.52:34-12) is amended to read as follows:

C.52:34-12 State advertisement for bids.

7. Whenever advertising is required: (a) specifications and invitations for bids shall permit such full and free competition as is consistent with the procurement of supplies and services necessary to meet the requirements of the using agency and shall, wherever practicable, include such factors as life-cycle costs, sliding percentage preference scales, or other similar analysis as shall be deemed effective by the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property, hereinafter referred to as the director, (b) the advertisement for bids shall be in such newspaper or newspapers selected by the State Treasurer as will best give notice thereof to bidders and shall be sufficiently in advance of the purchase or contract to promote competitive bidding; (c) the advertisement shall designate the time and place when and where sealed proposals shall be received and publicly opened and read, the amount of the cash or certified check, if any, which must accompany each bid, and such other terms as the State Treasurer may deem proper; (d) notice of revisions or addenda to advertisements or bid documents relating to bids shall be published in a newspaper or newspapers as selected by the State Treasurer to best give notice to bidders and sent to the prospective bidder no later than seven days, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excepted, prior to the bid due date; (e) failure to advertise for the receipt of bids or to provide proper notification of revisions or addenda to advertisements or bid documents related to bids as prescribed by subsection (d) of this section shall prevent the acceptance of bids and require the readvertisement for bids; (f) for any procurement, the State Treasurer or the director may negotiate with bidders, after bid opening, the final terms and conditions of any procurement, including price; such ability to so negotiate must be expressly set forth in the applicable invitation to bid; (g) award shall be made with reasonable promptness, after negotiation with bidders where authorized, by written notice to that responsible bidder whose bid, conforming to the invitation for bids, will be most advantageous to the State, price and other factors considered. Any or all bids may be rejected when the State Treasurer or the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property determines that it is in the public interest so to do. The State Treasurer or designee may adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

This section shall apply to all bids received on and after the date of enactment of P.L.1999, c.440.

7. This act shall take effect immediately but shall be inoperative until the 90th day after enactment.

Approved August 18, 2005.