

Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

CS/CS/CS/HB 53 — Public Works

by State Affairs Committee; Public Integrity and Elections Committee; Government Operations Subcommittee; and Rep. DiCeglie and others (CS/CS/CS/SB 1076 by Rules Committee; Community Affairs Committee; Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee; and Senator Brodeur)

For competitive solicitations for construction services, the bill prohibits a local ordinance or regulation that prevents the participation of specified entities in the bidding process based upon: (1) maintaining an office or place of business within a particular local jurisdiction; (2) hiring employees or subcontractors from within a particular local jurisdiction; or (3) prior payment of local taxes, assessments, or duties within a particular local jurisdiction. The prohibitions apply if such solicitations will be paid for with any state-appropriated funds.

The bill provides that the definition of “public works project” applies to pre-bid prohibitions to activities that exceed \$1 million in value and that are paid for with any state-appropriated funds. The bill prohibits the state or any political subdivision that contracts for a public works project from preventing a certified, licensed, or registered contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier, from participating in the bidding process based on the geographic location of the company headquarters or offices of the contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier submitting a bid on a public works project or the residences of employees of such contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier.

The bill requires the Office of Economic & Demographic Research (EDR), beginning with the annual assessment due January 1, 2022, to include an analysis of the expenditures necessary to repair, replace, and expand water-related infrastructure in their annual assessment of Florida's water resources and conservation lands.

By June 30, 2022, and every five years thereafter, the bill requires each county, municipality, or special district providing wastewater or stormwater services to develop a needs analysis for its jurisdiction over the subsequent 20 years. The analysis must be compiled and submitted to EDR, which must evaluate the compiled documents for the purpose of developing a statewide analysis for inclusion in the annual assessment due January 1, 2023. This bill provides that the analysis requirement applies to a rural area of opportunity as defined in s. 288.0656, F.S., unless such requirement would create an undue economic hardship for the county, municipality, or special district in the rural area of opportunity.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2021.

Vote: Senate 24-16; House 79-34