A bill to be entitled
An act relating to acquisition of professional services; amending s. 287.055, F.S.; removing language requiring that an agency, when determining whether a firm is qualified to perform certain services, operate with the object of effecting an equitable distribution of contracts among qualified firms; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 287.055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

(4) COMPETITIVE SELECTION.—
(b) The agency shall select in order of preference no fewer than three firms deemed to be the most highly qualified to perform the required services. In determining whether a firm is qualified, the agency shall consider such factors as the ability of professional personnel; whether a firm is a certified minority business enterprise; past performance; willingness to meet time and budget requirements; location; recent, current,
and projected workloads of the firms; and the volume of work previously awarded to each firm by the agency, with the object of effecting an equitable distribution of contracts among qualified firms, provided such distribution does not violate the principle of selection of the most highly qualified firms. The agency may request, accept, and consider proposals for the compensation to be paid under the contract only during competitive negotiations under subsection (5).

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.