



BILL SUMMARY

Regents Bidding Process HF 2390

Status of Bill: On House Calendar
Committee: State Government (13-9)
Lead Democrats: Rep Hunter
Floor Manager: Rep Pettengill
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February 24, 2016

Background

Currently the Board of Regents (BOR) is exempt from Chapter 26 of the Iowa Code which outlines the procedures for public bidding in the state. The Iowa Department of Transportation is also exempt from Chapter 26. There has been a consistent effort to eliminate the BOR exemption and attempt to stop the design build construction process that the BOR has used 4 times in their last 350 projects. That accounts for 1.14% of all projects.

Summary

Unlike previous attempts to stop the design build process, this bill does not simply eliminate the exemption in Chapter 26, but gives the BOR new regulations for how to receive bids. It should be noted that these are the exact same regulations that are changed in HF 2338, which makes changes to the public bidding process.

The bill directs the BOR of to do the following:

- Bid is to be published not less than 4 days but no more than 45 in a newspaper published once a week
- Bid may be published in a relevant contractor organization publication with statewide circulation
- Licensed engineers, landscape architect or an architect develop plans and calculate total costs.
 - This is to be made available for no charge to prospective bidders
- The bid is to be rewarded to the lowest responsible bidder
- If all bids are rejected the BOR must make specific findings identifying the basis for the rejection of each bid.