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HOUSE BILL NO. 488

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 11, 2022

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-4321.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to contracts with government agencies for public works; agreements with labor organizations.*

Patron—Freitas

Committee Referral Pending

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 2.2-4321.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 2.2-4321.2. Public works contracts; project labor agreements authorized.**

A. As used in this section:

"Project labor agreement" means a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement with one or more labor organizations that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for a specific public works project.

"Public body" has the same meaning as provided in § 2.2-4301.

"Public works" means the operation, erection, construction, alteration, improvement, maintenance, or repair of any public facility or immovable property owned, used, or leased by a public body state agency.

"State agency" means any authority, board, department, instrumentality, institution, agency, or other unit of state government. "State agency" does not include any county, city, or town.

B. ~~Each public body~~ Except as provided in subsection F or as required by federal law, each state agency, when engaged in procuring products or services or letting contracts for construction, manufacture, maintenance, or operation of public works paid for in whole or in part by state funds, or when overseeing or administering such procurement, construction, manufacture, maintenance, or operation, ~~may~~ shall ensure that neither the state agency nor any construction manager acting on behalf of a state agency shall, in its bid specifications, project agreements, or other controlling documents:

1. Require or prohibit bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors to enter into or adhere to project labor agreements with one or more labor organizations, on the same or related public works projects; and or

2. ~~Require~~ Otherwise discriminate against bidders, offerors, contractors, subcontractors, or operators for become or refusing to become or remain signatories or otherwise to adhere to project labor agreements with one or more labor organizations, on the same or other related public works projects.

Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit contractors or subcontractors from voluntarily entering agreements as described in subdivision 1.

C. A state agency issuing grants, providing financial assistance, or entering into cooperative agreements for the construction, manufacture, maintenance, or operation of public works shall ensure that neither the bid specifications, project agreements, nor other controlling documents therefore awarded by recipients of grants or financial assistance or by parties to cooperative agreements, nor those of any construction manager acting on behalf of such recipients shall:

1. Require or prohibit bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors to enter into or adhere to agreements with one or more labor organizations, on the same or related projects; or

2. Otherwise discriminate against bidders, offerors, contractors, subcontractors or operators for becoming or refusing to become or remain signatories or otherwise adhere to agreements with one or more labor organizations, on the same or related projects.

D. If an awarding authority, a recipient of grants or financial assistance, a party to a cooperative agreement, or a construction manager acting on behalf of any of them performs in a manner contrary to the provisions of subsection B or C, the state agency awarding the contract, grant, or assistance shall be entitled to injunctive relief to prevent any violation of this section.

E. Any interested party, which shall include a bidder, offeror, contractor, subcontractor, or operator, shall have standing to challenge any bid specification, project agreement, neutrality agreement, controlling document, grant, or cooperative agreement that violates the provisions of this section. Furthermore, such interested party shall be entitled to injunctive relief to prevent any violation of this section.

F. The provisions of this section shall not:

1. Apply to any public-private agreement for any construction or infrastructure project in which the private body, as a condition of its investment or partnership with the state agency, requires that the

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59 *private body have the right to control its labor relations policy and perform all work associated with*
60 *such investment or partnership in compliance with all collective bargaining agreements to which the*
61 *private party is a signatory and is thus legally bound with its own employees and the employees of its*
62 *contractors and subcontractors in any manner permitted by the National Labor Relations Act, 29 U.S.C.*
63 *§ 151 et seq., or the Railway Labor Act, 45 U.S.C. § 151 et seq.;*
64 *2. Prohibit an employer or any other person covered by the National Labor Relations Act or the*
65 *Railway Labor Act from entering into agreements or engaging in any other activity protected by law; or*
66 *3. Be interpreted to interfere with the labor relations of persons covered by the National Labor*
67 *Relations Act or the Railway Labor Act.*