I Mina'Trentai Dos Na Liheslaturan Guahan Bill Log Sheet

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES
246-32 (COR)		AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS OF ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 5, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO SOURCE SELECTION AND CONTRACT FORMATION IN GUAM PROCUREMENT LAW	4:00 p.m.	12/23/13	Committee on General Governmental Operations and Cultural Affairs			Fiscal Note Requested 01/03/14

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Senator
Rory L Respicio

I Mina'trentai Dos na Liheslaturan Guåhan • The 32nd Guam Legislature 155 Hesler Place, Hagåtña, Guam 96910 • www.guamlegislature.com E-mail: roryforguam@gmail.com • Tel: (671)472-7679 • Fax: (671)472-3547

Senator
Rory J. Respicio
CHAIRPERSON
MAIORITY LEADER

January 3, 2014

Senator Thomas C. Ada Vice Chairperson Assistant Majority Leader

VIA E-MAIL

john.rios@bbmr.guam.gov

Senator Vicente (Ben) C. Pangelinan Member John A. Rios Director Bureau of Bu

Speaker

Bureau of Budget & Management Research P.O. Box 2950

Judith T.P. Won Pat, Ed.D. Member

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Senator

RE: Request for Fiscal Notes-Bill Nos. 246-32 (COR) through 252-32(COR)

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. Member Hafa Adai Mr. Rios:

Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz Member Transmitted herewith is a listing of *I Mina'trentai Dos na Liheslaturan Guåhan's* most recently introduced bills. Pursuant to 2 GCA §9103, I respectfully request the preparation of fiscal notes for the referenced bills.

Legislative Secretary Tina Rose Muña Barnes Member Si Yu'os ma'åse' for your attention to this matter.

Senator

Senator

Very Truly Yours,

Frank Blas Aguon, Jr. Member

Jany J. Respicio Senator Rory J. Respicio

Michael F.Q. San Nicolas Member

Chairperson of the Committee on Rules

Senator
V. Anthony Ada
Member
MINORITY LEADER

Attachment (1)

Senator Aline Yamashita Member

Cc: Clerk of the Legislature

Bill Nos.	Sponsor	Title
246-32 (COR)	T C. Ada, R. J. Respicio	AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS OF ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 5, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO SOURCE SELECTION AND CONTRACT FORMATION IN GUAM PROCUREMENT LAW.
247-32 (COR)	FRANK B. AGUON, JR.	AN ACT RELATIVE TO EXPANDING THE GUAM SLAYER'S STATUTE THAT WOULD PROHIBIT INHERITANCE BY A PERSON WHO MURDERS SOMEONE FROM WHOM HE OR SHE STANDS TO INHERIT; THROUGH THE REPEAL AND REENACTMENT OF §819 OF CHAPTER 8, TITLE 15, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.
248-32 (COR)	Vicente (ben) C. Pangelinan	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM TO PAY FOR AN INVERSE CONDEMNATION SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM CIVIL CASE NO. CV1158-12.
249-32 (COR)	V. Anthony Ada Chris M. Dueñas Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D. R.J. Respicio T. R. Muña Barnes Tommy. Morrison FRANK B. AGUON, JR. Michael T. Limtiaco	AN ACT TO REPROGRAM THE SUM OF THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$375,000.00) TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE PAVING OF VILLAGE STREETS AND THE REPAIR OF DAMAGES TO VILLAGE STREETS AS A RESULT OF TRAFFIC DIVERSION RELATED TO ONGOING ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.
250-32 (COR)	Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. Rory J. Respicio Christopher M. Duenas	AN ACT TO AMEND DIVISION 4 OF 10 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED \$80109(s)(9) RELATIVE TO THE WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY ON A LOAN PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED FOR THE GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.
251-32 (COR)	Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. Rory J. Respicio Christopher M. Duenas	AN ACT TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 32-67 RELATIVE TO THE WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY ON A LOAN PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED FOR THE GUAM LEGISLATURE.
252-32 (COR)	Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. Rory J. Respicio Christopher M. Duenas	AN ACT TO AMEND ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 10 TITLE 12 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED §10238 RELATIVE TO THE WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY ON A LOAN PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED FOR THE JOSE D. LEON GUERRERO PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM.

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Senator Rory J. Respicio CHAIRPERSON MAIORITY LEADER

December 23, 2013

Senator Thomas C. Ada VICE CHAIRPERSON ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

Senator

Vicente (Ben) C. Pangelinan Member

> Speaker Pet Ed D

Judith T.P. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Member

Senator

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. Member

> Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz Member

Legislative Secretary Tina Rose Muña Barnes Member

Senator Frank Blas Aguon, Jr. Member

Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas Member

Senator
V. Anthony Ada
Member
MINORITY LEADER

Senator Aline Yamashita Member

MEMORANDUM

To: Rennae Meno

Clerk of the Legislature

Attorney Therese M. Terlaje

Legislative Legal Counsel

From: Senator Rory J. Respicio

Chairperson of the Committee on Rules

Subject: Referral of Bill No. 246-32(COR)

As the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding my referral of **Bill No. 246-32(COR).**

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred, in my name, to the respective committee, as shown on the attachment. I also request that the same be forwarded to all members of *I Mina'trentai Dos na Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 472-7679.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse!

Attachment

I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2013 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 246-32 (COQ)

Introduced by:

T. C. Ada

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS OF ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 5, TITLE 5, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO SOURCE SELECTION AND CONTRACT FORMATION IN GUAM PROCUREMENT LAW

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Findings and Intent. I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that the preferred method of source selection of any solicitation for supplies, services or construction is the competitive sealed bidding method, recognizing of course that other methods may be warranted depending on the circumstances.

I Liheslatura further finds that the use of a "competitive sealed proposal" method of source selection should be made available as an option for source selection to procure supplies, services, or construction services if price is not intended to be a determining factor for selection for award of a contract for supplies, services, or construction. Under competitive sealed proposals, the quality of competing products may be compared and tradeoffs made between price and quality of the products offered as described in the Request for Competitive Proposals.

I Liheslatura further finds it essential in some circumstances to procure "Bridge Contracts" in order to avoid the disruption in the continued or recurring provision of supplies or rendition of services which are critical to governmental operations, between the end of the old contract and the beginning of the new contract.

I Liheslatura further finds that to foster competition and maximize the purchasing value of public funds, it is presumed that it is not in the best interests of the Territory to make a contract for supplies or services for a total term, including renewals or extensions, in excess of five (5) years.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan intends to make amendments to Article 3 (Source Selection and Contract Formation) of the Guam Procurement law in order to improve the effectiveness of the government's procurement processes.

Section 2. Subsections (e), (f) and (g) of Section 5201 of Chapter 5 of Title 5 Guam Code Annotated are hereby amended as follows:

- "(e) Requests for Proposals means all documents, whether attached or incorporated by reference, utilized for soliciting proposals under either § 5212 or § 5216. Unless the context indicates otherwise, the abbreviation RFP refers to the source selection method under § 5216 and RFCP refers to the source selection method under § 5212.
- (f) Responsible Bidder or Officer Offeror means a person who has the capability in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements, and the integrity and reliability which will assure good faith performance, as determined at any time before award.
- (g) Responsive Bidder means a person who has submitted a bid which conforms, at bid opening, in all material respects to the

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Section 3. A new Subsection (h) is hereby added to §5201 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated to read as follows:

"(h) Responsive means conforming in all material respects to the purchase description and contract terms contained in the Invitation for Bids or Request for Proposal or Request for Quotes or other solicitation. A nonconforming bid is nonresponsive if it contains a material nonconforming term or condition that is in any respect prejudicial to other bidders, that is, the effect of such nonconforming term or condition on price, quantity, quality, delivery, or contractual terms specified in the IFB is more than negligible. A responsive bid is an offer by the bidder which unconditionally undertakes to provide the supply, service or construction the government intends to acquire as specified in the IFB, and only on contract terms and conditions as are materially consistent with those specified in the IFB."

Section 4. Section 5210 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended as follows:

"§5210. Methods of Source Selection.

- (a) Unless otherwise authorized by law, all territorial contracts shall be awarded by one of the methods of source selection specified in this Part. competitive sealed bidding, pursuant to § 5211 of this Article, except for the procurement of professional services and except as provided in:
 - (1) Section 5212 of this Article; [see note below]
 - (2) Section 5213 of this Article;

l	(3) Section 3214 of this Article;
2	(4) Section 5215 of this Article;
3	(5) Section 5216 of this Article for services specified in §
4	5121 of this Chapter; or
5	(6) Section 5217 of this Article.
6	(b) Nothing in this Section requiring competitive bidding shall
7	prohibit the development of specifications which require compatibility
8	with existing supplies, equipment or data processing systems. The
9	competitive sealed bidding method of source selection is the preferred
10	and default method of source selection, authorized for any solicitation
11	for supplies, services or construction. All other methods allowed by
12	this Part shall only be used in the circumstances or on the conditions
13	specified."
14	
15	Section 5. Section 5211 of Chapter 5, Title 5 of the Guam Code
16	Annotated is hereby amended as follows:
17	"§5211. Competitive Sealed Bidding.
18	(a) Conditions for Use. Contracts shall be awarded by
19	competitive sealed bidding except as otherwise provided in § 5210 of
20	this Part Article.
21	(b) Invitation for Bids. An Invitation for Bids shall be issued
22	and shall include a purchase description, a recitation of the Wage
23	Determination most recently issued by the U.S. Department of Labor,
24	and all contractual terms and conditions applicable to the procurement
25	including a demonstration of compliance with §§ 5801 & 5802 of this
26	Chapter, if applicable, and may include other information or requests
27	for information. In addition, an Invitation for Bids shall include a

recitation of the Wage Determination most recently issued by the U.S. Department of Labor applicable to Guam and demonstration of compliance with §§ 5801 & 5802 of this Chapter, if applicable. The requirement in an Invitation for Bid to provide any particular information concerning the bidder shall not of itself reflect on the responsiveness of a bid. The determination of bidder responsibility is determined as specified in § 5230 of this Article.

- (c) Public Notice. Adequate public notice of the Invitation for Bids shall be given in a manner and in a reasonable time prior to the date set forth therein for the opening of bids to foster effective competition, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Policy Office. Such notice may include publication in a newspaper of general circulation a reasonable time prior to bid opening. If a bid is given public notice which is within the time specified in the Policy Office's rules and regulations on the subject, it shall not be challenged unless the bidder can show exceptional circumstances which would render the rules and regulations inapplicable in the case of a particular bid being requested.
- (d) Bid Opening. Bids shall be opened publicly in the presence of one or more witnesses at the time and place designated in the Invitation for Bids. The amount of each bid, and such other relevant information as may be specified by regulation, together with the name of each bidder shall be recorded; the record and each bid shall be open to public inspection.
- (e) Bid Acceptance and Bid Evaluation. Bids shall be unconditionally accepted <u>for evaluation</u> without alteration or correction <u>by either the bidder or the government</u>, except as

Office. Bids shall be evaluated based on the requirements set forth in the Invitation for Bids, which may include criteria to determine acceptability such as inspection, testing, quality, workmanship, delivery and suitability for a particular purpose. Those criteria that will affect the bid price and be considered in evaluation for award shall be objectively measurable, such as discounts, transportation costs, and total or life cycle costs. The Invitation for Bids shall set forth the evaluation criteria to be used. No criteria may be used in bid evaluation that are not set forth in the Invitation for Bids.

- (f) Correction or Withdrawal of Bids; Cancellation of Awards. Correction or withdrawal of inadvertently erroneous bids before or after award, or cancellation of awards or contracts based on such bid mistakes, shall be permitted in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Policy Office. After bid opening, no changes in bid prices or other provisions of bids prejudicial to the interest of the Territory or fair competition shall be permitted, nor shall there be permitted any material change in or waiver of any specification, evaluation factor or contract term of the Invitation for Bids. Except as otherwise provided by regulation, all decisions to permit the correction or withdrawal of bids, or to cancel or alter awards or contracts based on bid mistakes of the bidder, shall be supported by a written determination made by the Chief Procurement Officer, the Director of Public Works, or head of a purchasing agency, as appropriate.
- (g) Award. The contract shall be awarded with reasonable promptness by written notice to the lowest responsible bidder whose

bid is responsive meets the requirements and criteria set forth in the Invitation for Bids and whose bid amount is determined, by effective competition or otherwise, to be fair and reasonable, and reasonably appears sufficient to comply with Article 13 of this Chapter, if applicable. Written notice of the award, including the dollar amount of the awarded contract, shall be promptly given to all other bidders, and, in the case of a contract awarded in amount greater than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), a copy of the contract. In the event all bids for a construction project exceed available funds as certified by the appropriate fiscal officer, and the low responsive and responsible bid does not exceed such funds by more than five percent (5%), the Chief Procurement Officer, the Director of Public Works, or the head of a purchasing agency, is authorized, in situations where time or economic considerations preclude resolicitation of work of a reduced scope, to negotiate an adjustment of the bid price, including changes in the bid requirements, with the low responsive and responsible bidder, in order to bring the bid within the amount of available funds.

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(h) Multi-Step Competitive Sealed Bidding. When low price is desired to be a determining factor but it is considered impractical to initially preferable to evolve or test the adequacy of prepare a purchase description's market acceptability to support an award based on price, an Invitation for Bids may be issued and conducted in two phases, the first requesting the submission of unpriced technical offers, which may involve description of service qualifications and performance, in one or more rounds in which discussions may be conducted to supplement or amend technical offers or bid

specifications or both, to be followed by an Invitation for Bids limited to a second phase in which the unsealed price bids of those bidders whose offers have been or become qualified as acceptable under the criteria set forth in the first phase solicitation are opened as in a normal competitive sealed bid process. The Policy Office shall promulgate such regulations as may be efficacious to the use of this method of source selection under this Subsection."

Section 6. Section 5212 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated is hereby repealed and reenacted as follows:

"§5212. Competitive Sealed Proposals.

- (a) Conditions for use. The competitive sealed proposal method of source selection is available to procure supplies, services or construction if price is not intended to be a determining factor for selection for award of a contract for supplies, services or construction, and may be used for certain project delivery methods as described in Article 5 of this Chapter. Under competitive sealed proposals, the quality of competing products may be compared and trade-offs made between price and quality of the products offered as described in the Request for Competitive Proposals. It shall not be used when another method of source selection is required or as appropriate. Other conditions for use include the following and if any such condition cannot be met, the competitive sealed proposal method shall not be used:
 - (1) The Chief Procurement Officer, the Director of Public Works, or the head of a purchasing agency, as the case may be, must make a determination, in writing, that price is not intended

to be the determining factor for award of contract in the solicitation, and that the use of both variants of the competitive sealed bidding method are either not practicable or advantageous to the Government of Guam, such determination to be made part of the Request for Proposals.

- (2) Planning for a Request for Competitive Sealed Proposal ("RFCP") is essential and adequate time and effort must be allocated to that process. Prior to preparing any solicitation document, the purchasing agency shall prepare a written plan for the solicitation, which plan shall include the budget allocated, funding source, and market research identifying potential sources, which shall be part of the procurement record.
- (3) A specific weighting shall be applied to the price factor, which must not be more than fifty percent (50%) of all relevant factors. If price is intended to be the most significant factor, the Multi-step method or, in the case of professional services, the Request for Proposal method, as provided in this Part, shall be used. All other evaluation factors shall be as objectively defined by outcomes, functions or performance specifications desired, as is practicable to specify.
- (4) All discussions with offerors authorized by this method shall be conducted in the presence of the head of procurement of the procuring agency, whether that is the Chief Procurement Officer, the Director of Public Works or the head of the purchasing agency, as well as legal counsel for such person.

(5) All evaluators must be impartial persons acting in the best interests of the government, with sufficient knowledge of the government's needs and experience to capably appreciate the nature of the product being procured and independently assess and apply the proposals submitted to the evaluation criteria.

- (6) The Policy Office shall specify such other conditions and procedures as it deems appropriate by regulation.
- (b) Request and notice for Competitive Proposals. Competitive sealed proposals shall be solicited by issuance of a written Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals ("RFCP"). Adequate public notice of the RFCP shall be given in sufficient time adequate to foster and allow the preparation of competitive responses prior to the submission date specified, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Policy Office.
- (c) Receipt of and Publicity Regarding Competitive Proposals. Competitive sealed proposals shall be opened so as to avoid disclosure of contents to competing offerors during the process of negotiation. A Register of Competitive Proposals shall be prepared in accordance with regulations, which shall not be opened for public inspection until after contract award.
- (d) Evaluation Factors. The RFCP shall state the relative importance of price and the factors and subfactors, if any, to be evaluated. Except for the price factor which must be specifically weighted, other factors should be specifically weighted to provide all potential offerors sufficient guidance to consider and prepare their proposals and a more objectively verifiable selection process.

(e) Discussion with Responsible Offerors and Revisions to Proposals. As provided under regulations and, to the extent consistent therewith, the RFCP, discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably qualified for selection for award for the purpose of clarification to assure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, the solicitation requirements. Offerors shall each be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals provided to any of them. Revisions and the subject of discussions may be subjected to uniform time and other limits reasonably specified by the procurement officer. Revisions may be permitted after prior submissions or in response to a request for the best and final offer, but there shall be no revision allowed to a best and final offer nor after award.

- (f) Award. Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal conforms to the solicitation and is determined in writing to be the most advantageous to the Government of Guam, taking into consideration only price and the evaluation factors set forth in the RFCP. No other factors or criteria shall be used to affect the evaluation. The procurement officer must prepare a written explanation setting forth the comparative facts and factors which form the basis on which the award is made which shall be part of the procurement record. Written notice of the award to the successful offeror shall be promptly given to all other offerors.
- (g) Debriefings. The procurement officer is authorized and encouraged to provide debriefings that furnish the basis for the source selection decision and contract award."

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Section 7. Section 5214 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read as follows:

"§5214. Sole Source Procurement.

A contract may be awarded for a supply, service, or construction item without competition when, under regulations promulgated by the Policy Office, the Chief Procurement Officer, the Director of Public Works, the head of a purchasing agency, or a designee of either officer above the level of the Procurement Officer in advance determines in writing that there is only one source for the required supply, service or construction item. A sole source contract shall not be issued for a term greater than one (1) year, with four (4) successive annual options to renew, such option being exercisable by the government and only if there is, at the time to be exercised, no other available source. Prior to and as a condition of making such determination, the purchasing agency shall prepare a written report to the person making such determination which shall detail an analysis of the minimal needs of the government upon which the contract is based, and the findings of a thorough market research and conclusion that there is no other source which will satisfy the government need. The report must be signed by the person or persons conducting the analysis and market research, and shall be made part of the procurement record. The purchasing agency shall also make a written determination that the price of any sole source contract is fair and reasonable, which determination shall include relevant cost and pricing information for the sole source as well as comparable or alternative sources, supplies or services. In the event any such contract is in excess of the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.), the purchasing agency shall, within fourteen (14) days of making the contract, publish notice of the

- 1 making of the contract, including the name of the purchasing agency, the
- 2 contractor, the contract amount and its term, and the nature of the contract,
- 3 in a newspaper of general circulation on Guam and on its website."

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Section 8. Section 5215 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read as follows:

"§5215. Emergency Procurements.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, the Chief Procurement Officer, the Director of Public Works, the head of a purchasing agency, or a designee of either officer may make or authorize others to make emergency procurements when there exists a threat to public health, welfare, or safety under emergency conditions as defined in this Chapter and regulations promulgated by the Policy Office; provided that such emergency procurements shall be made with such competition as is practicable under the circumstances, and further provided that the procurement agent purchasing agency must solicit at least three (3) informal price quotations, if time allows must give notice to all contractors from the qualified bid list who have provided the needed supplies and services to the government within the preceding twelve (12) months, and must award the procurement to the firm with the best offer, as determined by evaluating cost and delivery No emergency procurement or combination of emergency procurements may be made for an amount of goods or supplies greater than the amount of such goods and supplies which is necessary to meet an emergency for a specified period of time not extending beyond the thirty (30) ninety (90) day period immediately following the procurement, and no other procurement shall be made of any such supply or service under authority of this Section; any contract given therefor shall be void. The

1	ninety (90) day period may be extended or exceeded by a Declaration of
2	Emergency authorized by Executive Order of the Governor only in the event
3	of an emergency recognized by a Declaration of National Disaster or other
4	significant emergency event recognized by Declaration of the President of
5	the United States of America. A written determination of the basis for the
6	emergency and for the selection of the particular contractor shall be included
7	in the contract file. The requirements for a written determination for the
8	emergency shall be met if the procurements are being made on the basis of
9	the Governor's declaration of an emergency situation by Executive Order if
10	such Order states that emergency procurement may be resorted to for the
11	purposes of the Order. Unless authorized by an Executive Order declaring an
12	emergency, no emergency procurement may be made except on a certificate
13	made under penalty of perjury by the Chief Procurement Officer, Director of
14	Public Works or the head of a purchasing agency, as the case may be.
15	Certified copies of the certificate shall be sent, prior to award and as a
16	condition thereof, to the Governor and Speaker of the Legislature. The
17	certificate shall contain the following:
18	(a) a statement of the facts giving rise to the emergency;
19	(b) the factual basis of the determination that an emergency
20	procurement is necessary; and
21	(c) a statement that emergency procurement is not being used

- (c) a statement that emergency procurement is not being used solely for the purpose of avoidance of the provisions of this Chapter.
- In addition to any other requirement, the Governor must approve in writing all authorizations for emergency procurement."

Section 9. Section 5216 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated

is hereby amended to read as follows:

"§5216. Competitive Selection Procedures for Services Specified in §5121 of this Chapter.

- (a) Conditions for Use. The <u>professionally licensed</u> services specified in § 5121(a) of this Chapter shall may be procured in accordance with this Section, except as authorized under §§ 5214 or 5215 of this Chapter, or as specified in Services for architecture, engineering, construction, land surveying, environmental assessment and other such services shall be procured in accordance with Article 5 of this Chapter.
- (b) Statement of Qualifications. Persons engaged in providing the types of services specified in § 5121(a) of this Chapter may submit statements of qualifications and expressions of interest, but not prices, in providing such types of services. The Procurement Officer may specify a uniform format for statements of qualifications. Persons may amend these statements at any time by filing a new statement. Statements shall be kept by the purchasing agency only for reference in the nature of a response to a request for information and not as a solicitation to or by the purchasing agency, and shall be purged one (1) year from receipt. Submitting a statement of qualification by any person does not entitle any such person to actual notice nor shall submission of proposals by offerors be limited to those persons who have submitted any such statement.
- (c) Public Announcement and Form of Request for Proposals. Adequate <u>public</u> notice of the need for such services shall be given by the purchasing agency through a Request for Proposals ("RFP"). The Request for Proposals shall describe the services required, list the type

of information and data required of each offeror, specify if errors and omissions insurance must be provided as specified in Subsection (f) and the amount of coverage required, and state the relative importance of particular qualifications.

- (d) Discussions. The head of the purchasing agency or a designee of such officer may conduct discussions with any offeror who has submitted a proposal in response to an RFP, to determine such offeror's qualifications and understanding of the evaluation factors and services sought for further consideration. Discussions shall not disclose any information derived from proposals submitted by other offerors. Price is not a factor to be discussed or considered until after the ranking of the offerors and the process of negotiation for compensation begins.
- (e) Award. Award shall be made to the offeror determined in writing by the head of the purchasing agency or a designee of such officer to be best qualified based on the evaluation factors set forth in the Request for Proposals, and negotiation of compensation determined to be fair and reasonable. If compensation cannot be agreed upon with the best qualified offeror, the negotiations will be formally terminated with the selected offeror. If proposals were submitted by one or more other offerors determined to be qualified, negotiations may be conducted with such other offeror or offerors, in the order of their respective qualification ranking, and the contract may be awarded to the offeror then ranked as best qualified if the amount of compensation is determined to be fair and reasonable.
- (f) Errors and Omissions Insurance. Regulations shall be promulgated that specify circumstances in which the Chief

Procurement Officer or Director of Public Works shall require offerors of professional services to provide appropriate errors and omissions insurance, or equivalent, to adequately cover the particular services to be rendered under the contract awarded. Satisfactory evidence of such required insurance shall be produced prior to any award."

Section 10. Section 5217 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read as follows:

"§5217. Procurement from Nonprofit Corporations.

A contract may be awarded for a supply or service without competition when the contractor is a <u>certified</u> nonprofit Guam <u>incorporated</u> and <u>based</u> corporation employing <u>sheltered</u> or <u>handicapped</u> workers <u>persons</u> with <u>disabilities</u> on Guam. As a condition of the award of the contract the contractor must certify that labor employed to <u>manufacture the supply or perform the services</u> on the project will be performed <u>on Guam</u> by <u>handicapped</u> persons <u>with</u> <u>disabilities</u> except that supervisory personnel do not have to be <u>handicapped</u> persons with <u>disabilities</u>. A contractor awarded a contract pursuant to this Section shall not be required to post any of the bonds required under <u>Article 5 of</u> this Chapter."

- **Section 11.** Subsection (e) of §5219 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read as follows:
- "(e) Competitive Sealed Bidding Required. All unsolicited offers considered as being desirable shall be subjected to the Competitive Sealed Bidding process under § 5211. Not withstanding any other provision of law,

sole source procurement shall not be permissible in any procurement arising

2 from an unsolicited offer. The criteria set forth in the Invitation for Bids

3 shall not require the inclusion of any confidential proprietary or trade secret

4 item, service or method proposed in the unsolicited offer, and the proprietary

5 character of an unsolicited offer or the inclusion of a proprietary item in the

unsolicited offer shall not be used to favor the offer or any other bid, nor be

a determining factor in awarding a bid. Such Invitation for Bids shall not

contain any reference to the financial offer of the unsolicited offeror, but

shall contain a sufficient technical description to allow other parties to

identify the technical concept of the offer, and to prepare bids."

Section 12. Section 5220 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read as follows:

"§5220 Publication of IFB, and RFP, and RFCP Documents on the Agency's Website.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, Invitations for Bid (IFBs), and Requests for Proposals (RFPs), and Requests for Competitive Sealed Proposals (RFCPs) shall be posted on the procuring agency's website. IFBs, and RFPs, and RFCPs procured through the General Services Agency (GSA) or the Department of Public Works (DPW) shall be posted, on the date of the IFB/RFP announcement of the solicitation, simultaneously on the procuring agency's website and the websites of GSA and DPW respectively. No fees shall be assessed to prospective bidders or other parties for accessing/downloading procurement documents from an agency's website. Such documents shall remain on the respective agencies' websites for a period of not less than one hundred eighty (180) days following the award of the Bid or Proposal.

- (b) The procuring agency, and GSA and DPW if applicable, shall provide notice in each IFB/RFP solicitation announcement that recommends that prospective bidders/respondents offerors register contact information with the agency to ensure that they receive any notices regarding any changes or updates to the IFB/RFP solicitation. The procuring agency, and GSA and DPW shall not be liable for failure to provide notice to any party who did not register contact information.
- (c) Nothing herein is intended to prevent the procuring agency, GSA, or DPW from making physical or digital media copies of procurement documents and assessing reasonable fees for such documents in a manner consistent with public law, administrative rules and regulations, and departmental policy that existed prior to the enactment of this Section."

Section 13. A new Section 5221 is hereby added to Chapter 5, Title 5, Guam Code Annotated to read as follows:

"§ 5221. Procurement of Bridge Contracts.

- (a) Description of Bridge Contract. For purposes of this Section, a Bridge Contract is one written to avoid the disruption in the continued or recurring provision of supplies or rendition of services which are critical to governmental operations, between the end of one contract, the "existing" contract, and the beginning of the next, the "new" contract. The existing contract may be current, expired or terminated. The new contract is intended to continue the provision of the same or functional equivalent supply or service as was provided under the existing contract.
- (b) Conditions of Use. A purchasing agency may solicit and award a Bridge Contract to acquire continuing but temporary source

of the supply or service described in the existing contract only in the following circumstances or upon the following conditions:

- (1) The Chief Procurement Officer must first make a written determination of the particularized critical need for such supply or service and the facts and circumstances why no other option is available, naming persons responsible for the carriage of the solicitation of the new contract, and that the contract is immediately necessary and in the best interests of the government.
- (2) The term shall commence as soon as practicable upon termination or expiration of the existing contract, and terminate not later than the earlier of four (4) months from commencement of the bridge contract, or the commencement of a contract awarded by competitive sealed bid, competitive sealed proposal, request for proposal or sole source, in accordance with the provisions of this Part. Commencement is the date of a purchase order or contract executing the award.
- (3) The term of a bridge contract may be extended on a month to month basis up to a total term of nine (9) months, but each extension must be signed by the Chief Procurement Officer.
- (4) The Governor shall in writing approve the bridge contract as to form and substance, and each extension thereof.
- (5) An existing contract shall not have been the result of an emergency or bridge contract method of source selection.
- (6) If the existing contract was procured by IFB, the bridge contract shall be offered in response to a Request for

Quotes given to a sufficient number of bidders to foster competition, which shall include all actual bidders under any pending IFB; but, if bids of an IFB for the new contract have been opened, only those bids shall be considered. The contract shall be made for the lowest responsive bid quoted or revealed at opening, provided such bidder is not determined to be nonresponsible.

(7) In all other cases, the bridge contract shall be offered to the incumbent so long as the delay in awarding the new contract is not the result of a protest brought by the incumbent, but if so, then it shall be made in the best judgment of the Chief Procurement Officer to any available responsive and responsible source who offers a fair and reasonable price, in the manner of a sole source award, as though such source were in fact the sole source, provided only that all offerors who have actually submitted proposals shall be considered.

(c) Effect on other matters. There shall be no protest or appeal of award of a bridge contract. An existing contract may be extended upon the same price and terms for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days, solely for the purpose of providing time to award a bridge contract. A bridge contract may be awarded notwithstanding any protest of the new solicitation or award and without regard to the automatic stay."

Section 14. Section 5230 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read as follows:

"§5230. Responsibility of Bidders and Offerors.

(a) Determination of Nonresponsibility. A written determination of nonresponsibility of a bidder or offeror shall be made and served on a bidder or offeror prior to award, and shall be determined in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Policy Office. A finding of nonresponsibility in any particular instance does not require a finding of nonresponsibility in any dissimilar solicitation. The unreasonable failure of a bidder or offeror to promptly supply information in connection with an inquiry with respect to responsibility may be grounds for a determination of nonresponsibility with respect to such bidder or offeror.

(b) Right of Nondisclosure. Trade secret or confidential proprietary Hinformation furnished and identified as such by a bidder or offeror in connection with an inquiry with respect to responsibility pursuant to this Section, and confirmed as such by the Chief Procurement Officer, Director or Public Works or purchasing agency, shall not be disclosed outside of the General Services Agency, the Department of Public Works or the purchasing agency without prior written consent by the bidder or offeror, but may be disclosed to the Attorney General at any time."

Section 15. Section 5231 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read as follows:

"§5231. Prequalification of Suppliers.

Prospective <u>suppliers</u> <u>bidders</u> or <u>offerors</u> may be prequalified for <u>solicitation</u> of particular types of supplies, services and construction. Solicitation mailing lists of potential contractors shall include but shall not be limited to such prequalified suppliers. <u>Prequalification or failure to prequalify does not determine responsibility in and of itself, nor shall any bidder or offeror be rejected for failure to prequalify, nor shall public notice</u>

1	be limited to those who have prequalified."
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3	Section 16. Subsection (a)(1) of Section 5232 of Chapter 5, Title 5
4	Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read as follows:
5	"(1) The pricing of any contract awarded by competitive sealed
6	proposals (§ 5212) or pursuant to the sole source procurement authority (§
7	5214) where the total contract price is expected to exceed an amount
8	established by Policy Office regulations; or"
9	
0	Section 17. Section 5233 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated
1	is hereby amended to read as follows:
2	"§5233. Disclosure of Major Shareholders Ownership, Financial
.3	and Conflict of Interests.
4	(a) Purpose: The disclosures required by this section are
5	intended to reveal information regarding the responsibility of a bidder,
6	and can be obtained by an inquiry regarding responsibility.
7	(b) Definitions.
8	(1) As used herein, the term "person" shall include the
9	definition found in Title 1, Chapter 7, Section 715, Guam Code
0.0	Annotated, and in § 5030(n) of this Chapter, and includes a
21	natural person as well as every person of whatever form or
22	composition (an "artificial person") recognized under the laws
.3	of Guam other than a natural person.
24	(2) The ownership interests to be disclosed under this
.5	section include the interest of a sole proprietor, a partner limited
.6	or otherwise, a shareholder of every class (in which case the
27	percentage ownership interest test shall be based on each class),

a member of an association or company, limited or otherwise, and any person owning a beneficial legal interest in any trust or artificial person having the power to contract, hold title to property, sue or be sued, and any other capacity or status necessary to perform the prospective contract.

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(c) Disclosure of Ownership: Every person who is a prospective contractor under any method of source selection authorized by this Chapter shall submit a Disclosure Statement, executed as an affidavit under oath, disclosing the name of each person who has owned an ownership interest in the prospective contractor, greater than ten percent (10%), at any time during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the date of the solicitation (the "relevant disclosure period"). If a prospective contractor is an artificial person, the Disclosure Statement shall disclose the name of each person who has owned an ownership interest in such artificial person (a "second tier owner"), greater than twenty-five percent (25%), at any time during the relevant disclosure period. If any such second tier owner is also an artificial person, the Disclosure Statement shall disclose the name of each person who has owned an ownership interest in such second tier owner (a "third tier owner") of forty-nine percent (49%) or more during the relevant disclosure period. If the name of no natural person has been identified as an owner, or a second or third tier owner of the prospective contractor, the Disclosure Statement shall include the name and position of the natural person responsible for the performance of the prospective contract and the name of any natural person who has the power to remove and replace the responsible person or otherwise control the performance of the prospective

contract during the proposed term of the contract.

- (d) Disclosure of Financial Interest. A prospective contractor shall disclose any person who has received or is entitled to receive a commission, gratuity, contingent fee or other compensation to solicit or secure or assist in obtaining business related to the solicitation by means of a Disclosure Statement, executed as an affidavit under oath, disclosing such interest and shall also contain the amounts of any such commission, gratuity or other compensation.
- (e) Disclosure of Conflict of Interest. A prospective contractor shall disclose any person who directly or indirectly participates in any solicitation if such person is an employee of the Government of Guam, or of the Government of the United States if federal funds are used in payment of the contract.
- (f) Every disclosure of an ownership or financial interest required to be identified by this Section, shall name the person required to be disclosed, the street address of the residence or principle place of business, and, in the case of an artificial person, a Taxpayer Identification Number shall be provided. All information disclosed or meant to be disclosed under this Section is public procurement data and shall be kept as part of the public record of each procurement.

As a condition of bidding, any partnership, sole proprietorship or corporation doing business with the government of Guam shall submit an affidavit executed under oath that lists the name and address of any person who has held more than ten percent (10%) of the outstanding interest or shares in said partnership, sole proprietorship or corporation at any time during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the submission

of a bid. The affidavit shall contain the number of shares or the percentage
of all assets of such partnership, sole proprietorship or corporation which
have held by each such person during the twelve (12) month period. In
addition, the affidavit shall contain the name and address of any person who
has received or is entitled to receive a commission, gratuity or other
compensation for procuring or assisting in obtaining business related to the
bid for the bidder and shall also contain the amounts of any such
commission, gratuity or other compensation. The affidavit shall be open and
available to the public for inspection and copying."

Section 18. Section 5235 of Chapter 5, Title 5 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read as follows:

"§5235. Types of Contracts.

Subject to the limitations of this Section Chapter and regulations adopted by the Policy Office, any type of contract which will promote the best interest of the Territory may be used; provided that the use of cost-plus-a-percentage-of-cost contract is prohibited. A cost reimbursement contract may be used only when a determination is made in writing that such contract is likely to be less costly to the Territory than any other type or that it is impracticable to obtain the supplies, services or construction required except under such contract."

Section 19. Section 5237 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated is hereby amended to read as follows:

"§5237. Multi-Year Contracts.

(a) Specified Period. <u>It is the policy of the Government of</u> Guam to minimize the use of multi-year contracts, and to require that the terms of all contracts be for only such minimal term as is practicable. No contract shall be issued for an indefinite term nor shall it be renewable indefinitely, provided however, that a contract may be issued for supplies or services on a month to month basis provided the monthly price of the contract, when annualized, does not exceed the amount established by authority of § 5213 of this Chapter (Small Purchases). Unless otherwise provided by law, a contract for supplies or services may be entered into for any minimum period of time deemed determined to be in the best interests of the Territory provided the term of the contract and conditions of renewal or extension, if any, are included in the solicitation and funds are available for the first fiscal period at the time of contracting. Payment and performance obligations for succeeding fiscal periods shall be subject to the availability and appropriation of funds therefor.

(b) Presumption of five (5) year limit. To foster competition and maximize the purchasing value of public funds, it is presumed that it is not in the best interests of the Territory to make a contract for supplies or services for a total term, including renewals or extensions, in excess of five (5) years. A contract may be made for a term in excess of five (5) years (an "exceptional term") only with the written determination, made by the Chief Procurement Officer and incorporated in the solicitation documents, describing compelling circumstances and interests of the Territory which justify the necessity of the exceptional term. Every exceptional term contract shall be reviewed annually by the Chief Procurement Officer, and must contain a termination for convenience clause as authorized under §5307(c)(4) of this Chapter.

1	(c) Determination Prior to Use. Prior to the utilization issuance
2	of a solicitation of a multi-year contract, it shall be determined in
3	writing:
4	(1) that estimated requirements cover the period of the
5	contract and are reasonably firm and continuing; and
6	(2) that such a contract will serve the best interests of the
7	Territory by encouraging effective competition or otherwise
8	promoting economies in territory procurement.
9	(d) Cancellation Due to Unavailability of Funds in Succeeding
10	Fiscal Periods. When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made
11	available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent
12	fiscal period, the contract shall be cancelled and, notwithstanding any
13	provision of the contract to the contrary, the contractor shall only be
14	reimbursed for the reasonable value of any non-recurring costs
15	incurred but not amortized in the price of the supplies or services
16	delivered under the contract. The cost of cancellation may be paid
17	from any appropriations available for such purposes."
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19	Section 20. Section 5240 of Chapter 5 Title 5 Guam Code Annotated
20	is hereby amended to read as follows:
21	"§5240. Right to Inspect Plant.
22	The Territory may, at reasonable times, inspect the every part of the
23	plant or place of business of a contractor or any subcontractor which is
24	related to the performance of any contract awarded or to be awarded by the
25	Territory."
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27	Section 21. Section 5245 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated

1	is hereby amended to read as follows:
2	"§5245. Finality of Determinations.
3	The determinations required by §§ 5211(f), 5212(a), 5212(gf), 5214,
4	5215, 5216(e), 5230(a), 5232(c), 5235, 5236 and 5237(bc) of this Chapter
5	are final and conclusive unless they are clearly erroneous, arbitrary,
6	capricious or contrary to law."
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8	Section 22. Section 5248 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated
9	is hereby amended to read as follows:
10	"§5248. Record of Procurement Actions Taken Under §§5214 and
11	5215 of this Chapter.
12	(a) Contents of Record. The Chief Procurement Officer or the
13	Director of Public Works shall maintain a record listing of all
14	contracts made under § 5214 (Sole Source Procurement) or § 5215
15	(Emergency Procurement) of this Chapter for a minimum of five (5)
16	years. The record shall contain:
17	(1) each contractor's name;
18	(2) the amount and type of each contract; and
19	(3) a listing of the supplies, services or construction
20	procured under each contract.
21	(b) Submission to Legislature and Procurement Advisory
22	Council. A copy of such record shall be submitted to the Legislature
23	and to the Guam Procurement Advisory Council on an annual basis.
24	The record shall be available for public inspection."
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27	Section 23. Section 5249 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated

"§ 5249. Record of Procurement Actions.

Each procurement officer shall <u>make and</u> maintain a complete record of each procurement. The key to public and vendor confidence in the procurement system is the existence of reliable records as to how procurement decisions are made and implemented. Records, either electronic or paper, that are sufficient to document decisions must be created and maintained. The record shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) the date, time, subject matter and names of participants at any meeting including government employees that is in any way related to a particular procurement;
- (b) a log of all communications between government employees and any member of the public, potential bidder, vendor or manufacturer which is in any way related to the procurement;
- (c) sound <u>or video</u> recordings of all pre-bid conferences,; negotiations arising from <u>a any type of</u> request for proposals, and discussions with vendors concerning small purchase procurement;
- (d) brochures and submittals of <u>unsolicited offerors</u>, potential vendors, manufacturers or contractors, and all drafts, signed and dated by the draftsman, and other papers or materials used in the development of specifications; and
 - (e) the requesting agency's determination of need.
- (f) all bids and proposals, unless withdrawn, and all contracts and purchase orders, provided only that no trade secret, proprietary information, or offer which is, pursuant to this Chapter or its regulations, required to be held confidential or not disclosed shall be

1	redacted or kept apart and not available for public inspection."
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3	Section 24. Section 5251 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated
4	is hereby amended to read as follows:
5	"§5251. Public Record.
6	The record required by § 5249 of this Chapter is a public record and,
7	subject to rules promulgated by the Public Auditor, any. All records shall be
8	presumed public and the burden of establishing that a document or record is
9	private shall be upon the agency or person claiming that the document on
10	record should not be disclosed or inspected. Any bidder, offeror or
11	disinterested person may inspect and copy any portion of the record
12	regardless of except only those parts of the record which are, by law or
13	regulation, specifically designated as not subject to disclosure."
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15	Section 25. Section 5252 of Chapter 5, Title 5 Guam Code Annotated
16	is hereby amended to read as follows:
17	"§5252. Rules for Procurement Records.
18	(a) The rules regulations that may be promulgated pursuant to § 5251
19	5102 of this Chapter shall:
20	(al) protect the integrity of the bidding process;
21	(b2) protect the confidentiality of trade secrets and
22	proprietary commercial data;
23	$(\underline{e3})$ establish reasonable charges for copying papers;
24	(44) provide for transcription of sound recordings;
25	(e5) require public access to the record at the earliest
26	possible time; and
27	$(\underline{\mathbf{f6}})$ not require that the record be complete or that the

1	procurement award be made before inspection and copying are
2	permitted.
3	(7) permit disclosure of records pertaining to pending
4	agency decision, administrative appeal, or the public documents
5	of any judicial review under Part A of Article 9 of this Chapter.
6	(b) The provisions of this Chapter shall apply notwithstanding
7	any contrary provision of Title 5, Chapter 10, Guam Code Annotated.
8	(c) This Chapter does not allow limitations on access to a public
9	record based upon the purpose for which the record is being
10	requested, if the record is otherwise subject to disclosure."
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12	Section 26. A new Section 5254 is hereby added to Chapter 5, Title 5
13	Guam Code Annotated to read as follows:
14	"§5254. Special Provisions Applicable to Source Selection.
15	(a) Professional Services. It is the policy of the Government of
16	Guam to publicly announce all requirements for the professional
17	services of architects, engineers and land surveyors as specified in §
18	5216 of this Chapter on the basis of demonstrated competence and
19	qualification of the services required, and at fair and reasonable
20	prices, and such services shall be procured in accordance with the
21	professional services method of source selection described in § 5216
22	as modified by the requirements of this Subsection.
23	(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
24	the Director of Public Works shall be responsible to conduct the
25	procurement of such services.
26	(2) In any solicitation reasonably expected to be priced
27	above \$500,000, the Director of Public Works shall appoint the

1 most qualified engineer in the Department to serve on the evaluation and selection team. 2 (b) Design-Build, Design-Build-Operate-Maintain, and Design-3 Build-Finance-Operate-Maintain Projects. All design-build, design-4 build-operate-maintain, and design-build-finance-operate-maintain 5 projects shall be procured in accordance with the competitive sealed 6 proposal method of source selection described in § 3212 of this Chapter as modified by the requirements of this Subsection. 8 (1) The RFCP for each such project: 9 (A) shall include design requirements; 10 (B) shall solicit proposal development documents; 11 (C) may, when the Director of Public Works 12 determines that the cost of preparing proposals is high in 13 proportion to the size, estimated price and complexity of 14 the procurement: 15 (i) prequalify offerors by issuing a Request 16 for Qualifications in the time and manner required 17 of an RFCP, in advance of the RFCP, stating that 18 all persons intending to offer a proposal for the 19 project must first respond to the Request for 20 Qualifications; and, 21 (ii) select a short list of responsible offerors 22 prior to any discussions and evaluations of any 23 proposals, provided that the number of proposals 24 that will be short-listed is stated in the RFCP and 25 prompt notice is given to all offerors, to such 26

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points of contact as are known as well as by public

notice, as to which proposals have been shortlisted; or,

- (iii) pay stipends to unsuccessful offerors, provided that the amount of such stipends and the terms under which stipends will be paid are stated in the RFCP.
- (D) shall state the relative importance of (i) demonstrated compliance with the design requirements, (ii) offeror qualifications, (iii) financial capability, (iv) project schedule, (v) price (if design-build) or life-cycle cost (if any other delivery method), and (vi) any other factors; and
- (E) if the contract price is estimated to exceed \$10,000,000 or whenever the contract period of operations and maintenance is ten (10) years or longer, shall require each offeror to identify an Independent Peer Reviewer to perform the services described in § 5301(g), whose competence and qualifications to provide such services shall be an additional evaluation factor in the award of contract, provided however, if the Director of Public Works determines that it is not in the best interest of the Department to contract with the Independent Peer Reviewer so designated, the Director shall contract with another Independent Peer Reviewer to provide the services required."

Section 27. Effective Date. This Act shall become effective upon its

1 enactment.

Section 28. Severability. *If* any provision of this law or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity *shall not* affect other provisions or applications of this law which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this law are severable