

## Qualifications-Based Selection

**HB 84** by Rep. Gerald McCormick

**SB 95** by Sen. Mark Norris

House State Government Sub on 3/4/15

Senate State & Local Government Committee

### ISSUE

As introduced, HB 84/SB 95 would enable the Department of General Services and other state and local governmental agencies to participate in cooperative purchasing agreements. The bill appears to circumvent the Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) process established by TCA §12-4-107 for the procurement of professional design services.

Using the QBS method, engineering firms are evaluated based on their qualifications, which include such things as:

- specialized experience and technical competence;
- capacity and capability of performing the work;
- past record of performance; and
- proximity to and familiarity with the project area.

Engineering companies are “short listed” and the most qualified firm then begins contract negotiations with the governmental entity.

Using the best qualified engineering firm to do the project will result in a quality project that will save the owner time and money. The Brooks Act also requires the use of the QBS process for federally funded transportation projects.

Over the life of a project, engineering-related services account for less than one-half of one percent of the total cost. Yet these services play a major role in determining the other 99.5% on the project’s life-cycle costs, as well as the quality of the completed project. It is in the best interest of the owner and the public’s safety to utilize QBS to select the most qualified design professional.

### KEY POINT

■ Selecting the best qualified design professional to do each project will result in a quality project that will save the owner time and money.

### ACTION REQUESTED

■ **oppose HB 84/SB 95 enabling cooperative agreements for professional design services UNLESS it is amended to delete the words “engineering, or architectural” in Section 1 (a) (2)**

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