



Representative Sam Kito III

Alaska State Legislature

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 24

Qualifications-Based Selection in State-Funded Contracts

House Bill 24 extends the use of Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) of design professionals to municipal and non-profit organizations receiving state funds. Currently, projects designed and constructed for or on behalf of state agencies are required to utilize the QBS process when selecting the services of an architect, engineer, land surveyor, or landscape architect (design professional). However, municipalities or non-profit organizations receiving state funding for construction projects are not currently required to use QBS.

The QBS process allows for the selection of design professionals based on the qualifications provided by the hiring company or individual. The cost of the design services is still factored in through the contract negotiation process; if an acceptable price cannot be agreed upon with the most qualified respondent, negotiations can be terminated with that respondent and initiated with the second most qualified respondent, or the third most qualified respondent, until an agreement on price is reached.

Using QBS to choose design professionals is similar to the way in which we, as individuals, consider the qualifications of a medical professional when selecting a doctor, or legal experience when selecting a lawyer. With many types of engineers, and many different specialties in architecture, it is important to ensure that the most qualified professional is hired to work on projects funded with public money.

Use of the QBS process will result in public projects that are better and more efficiently designed. It will also yield cost savings to the state both in the short term through a reduction in costly construction change orders and in the long-term through lower operating costs. Both state and federal projects have used QBS, with great success.

Thank you for your support of House Bill 24.