

State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2011

02/25/2014 Authored by Dettmer

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to veterans; modifying veteran-owned small business certification  
1.3 for purposes of state procurement; requiring contract bid preference for  
1.4 veteran-owned small businesses in certain situations involving capital investment  
1.5 projects; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections  
1.6 16C.19; 375.771, subdivisions 1, 2; Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement,  
1.7 sections 469.44, by adding a subdivision; 471.3457.

1.8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.9 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 16C.19, is amended to read:

1.10 **16C.19 ELIGIBILITY; RULES.**

1.11 (a) A small business wishing to participate in the programs under section 16C.16,  
1.12 subdivisions 4 to 7, must be certified by the commissioner. The commissioner shall adopt  
1.13 by rule standards and procedures for certifying that small businesses, small targeted  
1.14 group businesses, ~~and~~ small businesses located in economically disadvantaged areas,  
1.15 and veteran-owned small businesses are eligible to participate under the requirements  
1.16 of sections 16C.16 to 16C.21. The commissioner shall adopt by rule standards and  
1.17 procedures for hearing appeals and grievances and other rules necessary to carry out the  
1.18 duties set forth in sections 16C.16 to 16C.21.

1.19 (b) The commissioner may make rules which exclude or limit the participation of  
1.20 nonmanufacturing business, including third-party lessors, brokers, franchises, jobbers,  
1.21 manufacturers' representatives, and others from eligibility under sections 16C.16 to 16C.21.

1.22 (c) The commissioner may make rules that set time limits and other eligibility limits  
1.23 on business participation in programs under sections 16C.16 to 16C.21.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c), for purposes of sections 16C.16 to 16C.21, a veteran-owned small business, the principal place of business of which is in Minnesota, is certified if:

(1) it has been verified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as being either a veteran-owned small business or a service-disabled veteran-owned small business, in accordance with Public Law 109-461 and Code of Federal Regulations, title 38, part 74; or

(2) the veteran-owned small business supplies the commissioner with proof of eligibility as established in section 16C.16, subdivision 6a, paragraph (a), clause (1) or (2).

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 375.771, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) The definitions in this subdivision apply to this section.

(b) "Award" means the granting of a contract in accordance with all applicable laws and rules governing competitive bidding, except as otherwise provided in this section.

(c) "Contract" means an agreement entered into between a business entity and the county for procurement of goods and services including both technical and nontechnical goods and services, printing, and construction.

(d) "County board" or "board" has the meaning given in section 375.01.

(e) "County purchasing department" has the meaning given in section 375.72.

(f) "Director of purchasing" has the meaning given in section 375.74.

(g) "State funds" means funds raised by the sale of general obligation bonds which are appropriated to the county or local government by the commissioner of management and budget to complete capital projects.

~~(g)~~ (h) "Subcontractor" means a business entity that enters into a legally binding agreement with another business entity that is a party to a contract as defined in paragraph (c).

~~(h)~~ (i) "Veteran" has the meaning given in section 197.447.

~~(i)~~ (j) "Veteran-owned small business" means a business designated under section 16C.16, subdivision 6a.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 375.771, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Policy; purpose; director.** (a) A county board may establish a program within the county in accordance with this section to provide a bid preference for awarding contracts to designated veteran-owned small businesses for the procurement of technical and nontechnical goods and services including, but not limited to, printing and construction, broadly defined to include all phases of the construction process. A county board must establish a bid-preference program for veteran-owned businesses for any capital project within its jurisdiction to improve land or buildings paid for in part or in whole with state funds.

(b) The purpose of this program is to facilitate the transition of veterans from military to civilian life, and to help compensate veterans for their sacrifices including, but not limited to, their sacrifice of health and time to the community, state, and nation during their military service, as well as to enhance economic development throughout Minnesota.

(c) The county board may direct the county director of purchasing, or other designated official within the county purchasing department, to administer this program in accordance with county policy established by the board.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 469.44, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 10. **Veteran preference.** The city must award veteran-owned small businesses a six percent preference in the amount bid on a public infrastructure project funded by the issuance of general obligation bonds authorized in subdivision 3. Any business that has been certified under section 16C.19, paragraph (d), is eligible for this preference.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 471.3457, is amended to read:

**471.3457 VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTS.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section:

(1) "local government" means a town or home rule charter or statutory city; ~~and~~

(2) "governing body" means the town board of supervisors or city council; and

(3) "state funds" means funds raised by the sale of general obligation bonds which are appropriated to the county or local government by the commissioner of management and budget to complete capital projects.

Subd. 2. **Authority.** The governing body of a local government may implement a program within its jurisdiction to provide a bid preference in awarding contracts as defined

4.1 in section 471.345, and in awarding contracts for services, to designated veteran-owned  
4.2 small businesses, as provided in section 375.771; except that for projects which are funded  
4.3 in part or in whole with state funds, the governing body of a local government must  
4.4 implement a program to provide veteran-owned small businesses a bid preference as  
4.5 established in section 16C.16, subdivision 6a.

4.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

4.7 Sec. 6. **VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CERTIFICATION.**

4.8 \$100,000 is appropriated in fiscal year 2015 from the general fund to the  
4.9 commissioner of administration to use in developing and implementing a certification  
4.10 program for veteran-owned small businesses in accordance with Minnesota Statutes,  
4.11 section 16C.19.