

CHAPTER 98-279

House Bill No. 4831

An act relating to the Florida Statutes; amending ss. 110.108, 110.123, 120.57, 154.04, 215.196, 216.292, 217.045, 217.11, 230.23, 255.102, 255.249, 255.25, 255.25001, 255.253, 255.254, 255.255, 255.257, 255.258, 255.31, 255.45, 255.451, 255.502, 255.503, 255.504, 255.505, 255.506, 255.507, 255.508, 255.509, 255.51, 255.511, 255.513, 255.514, 255.515, 255.517, 255.518, 255.52, 255.521, 255.522, 255.523, 265.001, 265.002, 265.2865, 272.03, 272.04, 272.05, 272.06, 272.07, 272.08, 272.09, 272.12, 272.121, 272.122, 272.124, 272.16, 272.185, 273.055, 281.02, 281.03, 281.04, 281.05, 281.06, 281.08, 281.09, 282.102, 282.103, 282.104, 282.105, 282.1095, 282.111, 283.30, 283.32, 284.33, 287.012, 287.017, 287.022, 287.032, 287.042, 287.045, 287.055, 287.056, 287.057, 287.058, 287.073, 287.083, 287.09451, 287.131, 287.15, 287.16, 287.161, 287.19, 288.15, 288.18, 318.21, 334.0445, 364.515, 365.171, 376.10, 395.1031, 401.013, 401.015, 401.018, 401.024, 403.7065, and 946.515, Florida Statutes, pursuant to the directive of the Legislature in s. 4, ch. 97-296, Laws of Florida, to substitute a reference to the Department of Management Services for all references in the Florida Statutes to any division, bureau, or other unit of the Department of Management Services, except for references to the Division of Administrative Hearings, the Division of Retirement, or commissions.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

4. The provisions of s. 120.57(3) apply to the division's contracting process, except:

a. A formal written protest of any decision, intended decision, or other action subject to protest shall be filed within 72 hours after receipt of notice of the decision, intended decision, or other action.

b. As an alternative to any provision of s. 120.57(3), the division may proceed with the bid selection or contract award process if the director of the department sets forth, in writing, particular facts and circumstances which demonstrate the necessity of continuing the procurement process or the contract award process in order to avoid a substantial disruption to the provision of any scheduled insurance services.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 120.57, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

120.57 Additional procedures for particular cases.—

(3) **ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO PROTESTS TO CONTRACT BIDDING OR AWARD.**—Agencies subject to this chapter shall utilize the uniform rules of procedure, which provide procedures for the resolution of protests arising from the contract bidding process. Such rules shall at least provide that:

(a) The agency shall provide notice of its decision or intended decision concerning a bid solicitation or a contract award as follows:

1. For a bid solicitation, notice of a decision or intended decision shall be given by United States mail or by hand delivery.

2. For any decision of the ~~Division of Purchasing~~ of the Department of Management Services concerning a request by an agency for approval of an exceptional purchase under part I of chapter 287 and the rules of the Department of Management Services ~~Division of Purchasing~~, notice of a decision or intended decision shall be given by posting such notice in the office of the Department of Management Services ~~Division of Purchasing~~.

3. For any other agency decision, notice of a decision or intended decision shall be given either by posting the bid tabulation at the location where the bids were opened or by certified United States mail or other express delivery service, return receipt requested.

The notice required by this paragraph shall contain the following statement:

“Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in s. 120.57(3), Florida Statutes, shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under chapter 120, Florida Statutes.”