

By: Parker

H.B. No. 2761

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the awarding of certain contracts of the Veterans' Land Board to veteran-owned businesses.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 161.131, Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 161.131. MINORITY-OWNED AND VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES.

(a) The board shall make a good faith effort to award to both minority-owned and veteran-owned businesses:

(1) contracts relating to the issuance of bonds by the board under this chapter in the amount of at least 20 percent of the total costs of issuing those bonds; and

(2) contracts for the items to be financed by bonds issued by the board in the amount of at least 20 percent of the proceeds of those bonds.

(b) [~~(c)~~] In this section:

(1) "Minority-owned business" means a business entity at least 51 percent of which is owned by members of a minority group or, in the case of a corporation, at least 51 percent of the shares of which are owned by members of a minority group, and that is managed and controlled by members of a minority group in its daily operations.

(2) "Minority group" includes:

(A) African Americans;

- 1 (B) American Indians;  
2 (C) Asian Americans; and  
3 (D) Mexican Americans and other Americans of  
4 Hispanic origin.

5 (3) Notwithstanding Section 161.001(a)(7) or (b),  
6 "veteran" means a veteran, as defined by 38 U.S.C. Section 101(2),  
7 who has suffered at least a 20 percent service-connected  
8 disability, as defined by 38 U.S.C. Section 101(16).

9 (4) "Veteran-owned business" means a business entity  
10 at least 51 percent of which is owned by veterans or, in the case of  
11 a corporation, at least 51 percent of the shares of which are owned  
12 by veterans, and that is managed and controlled by veterans in its  
13 daily operations.

14 SECTION 2. This Act applies only to a contract for which a  
15 state agency first advertises or otherwise solicits bids,  
16 proposals, offers, or qualifications on or after the effective date  
17 of this Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.