

HCS HB 2121 -- DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE FEE OFFICES

SPONSOR: Dinkins

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 12 to 1.

Currently, the Department of Revenue is authorized to establish rules and regulations for the awarding and renewal of fee office contracts. This bill requires the rules to give preference to persons or entities that are based in a location near the fee office location.

If the department utilizes a scoring mechanism to evaluate bids, the scoring mechanism must ensure that:

(1) A person or entity based no more than 35 miles from the fee office location shall be awarded a bonus 15% of the total available points;

(2) A person or entity based more than 35 miles but no more than 60 miles from the fee office location shall be awarded a bonus of 10% of the total available points;

(3) A person or entity that is a resident of the state, as defined in the bill, shall be awarded a bonus of 10% of the total available points; and

(4) A person or entity based more than 60 miles but no more than 75 miles from the fee office location shall be awarded a bonus of 7% of the total available points.

No fee office contract shall be awarded to any person or entity that is not in compliance with the established rules.

In evaluating bids for fee office contracts under this section, the department must not consider any factors that relate to wages or other compensation that a bidder pays or would pay to any persons who perform or would perform any work for the bidder.

The department shall not consider for a contract award any entity that has not be registered with the Secretary of State for at least one year.

This bill is similar to SCS SB 777 (2020).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that some communities rely on the fee office for local jobs. Also, the supporters are happy to see a fee increase.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dinkins; Janey Radford, Washington County Chamber of Commerce; and Vickie Norris.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that it seems to be an effort to protect the current fee office operators.

Testifying against the bill was James Knowles III, and Elle Management LLC.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they know how important these fee offices are for local communities.

Testifying on the bill was the Department of Revenue.