

HCS HB 2279 -- STATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

SPONSOR: Haefner

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Innovation and Technology by a vote of 9 to 1.

This bill enables the Commissioner of Operations and Administration to waive state competitive bidding requirements when purchasing \$2 million or less of innovative technology. In lieu of competitive bidding, applicants may submit solution briefs with specified requirements through a two tiered approval process. External market research firms may be retained to evaluate solution briefs and their applicants. Private advisors may also be employed to evaluate solution briefs provided that they sign a nondisclosure agreement. Any document submitted as part of the solution brief application process shall not be considered a public document if certain disclaimers are provided.

The bill also requires the Office of Administration to report on the participation in the solution brief approval process, and any resulting impacts.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill enables innovative technology providers to provide technological solutions to the state without undergoing the cumbersome request for a proposal and competitive bidding process. The length of the competitive bidding process can result in the state losing future opportunity costs. This bill is similar to how the U.S. Department of Defense readily adopts technological solutions for highly critical national security concerns.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Haefner and World Wide Technology.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the pilot programs authorized by the bill are potentially beneficial, but language to reduce the potential for fraud or conflicts of interest should be added to the bill.

Testifying on the bill were Office of Administration and Karen Boeger, Division of Purchasing within the Office of Administration.