

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2723**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Nick Collins*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to promote responsible contracting on state construction projects.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Petrolati</i>	<i>7th Hampden</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>John V. Fernandes</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2723**

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By Mr. Collins of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2723) of Nick Collins and others relative to promoting responsible contracting on state construction projects. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2792 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to promote responsible contracting on state construction projects.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1            Chapters 149, 149a and Chapter 30 Section 39m are hereby amended by adding the  
2 following sections:

3            Section 1 . Because of the expenditure of substantial public funds for public construction  
4 projects and in to ensure trained work force for the future; it is in the public’s interest, as well as  
5 public health, welfare and safety, to ensure that the employees on such projects are paid at the  
6 lawfully required prevailing wage rates; have been trained in bona fide state-registered  
7 apprenticeship programs; have health insurance coverage; are provided industrial accident  
8 coverage; and are properly classified as employees and not as independent contractors.

9           Section 2 .Compliance of Bidders and Subcontractors.           All bidders and all  
10 subcontractors on all state contracts for construction under Chapters 149, 149a and Chapter 30  
11 section 39m. shall, at the time of bid, agree in writing that they shall comply with the following:

12           a.       The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder shall comply with the  
13 responsible employer requirements set forth below.

14           b.       The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder shall comply with provisions  
15 of M.G.L. Ch. 149 and shall pay the appropriate lawful prevailing wage rates to their employees.

16           c.       The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder awarded a contract shall, to the  
17 extent consistent with applicable law, give special consideration to recruit and hire qualified  
18 workers who are residents of the Commonwealth for each apprenticeable trade or occupation  
19 represented in their workforce.

20           d.       The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder shall maintain or participate in  
21 a bona fide and active apprentice training program as defined by M.G.L. Ch. 23, Sec. 11H and  
22 11I for each apprenticeable trade or occupation represented in their workforce that is approved  
23 by the Division of Apprentice Training of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
24 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and shall abide by the apprentice to journeymen ratio for  
25 each trade prescribed therein in the performance of the contract. For the purposes of this  
26 paragraph, the word “active” shall mean an apprentice training program which is registered with  
27 the division for recruitment, selection, employment, training, and qualification of apprentices and  
28 which has successfully completed one (1) year of initial approval and registration with the  
29 division and achieved permanent status.

30 e. The bidder and all subcontractors shall have hospitalization and medical benefits  
31 that meet the minimum requirements of the Connector Board established by Chapter 58 of the  
32 Acts of 2006.

33 f. The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder shall maintain appropriate  
34 industrial accident insurance coverage for all the employees employed on the project in  
35 accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 152.

36 g. The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder shall properly classify  
37 employees employed on the project as employees rather than independent contractors and shall  
38 properly classify said employees accordingly for purposes of workers' compensation insurance  
39 coverage, employment taxes, Social Security taxes and income tax withholding pursuant to  
40 M.G.L. Ch. 149, Sec. 148B.

41 h. The bidder and all subcontractors shall ensure that all employees have the  
42 appropriate and required licenses for their position.

43 i. All bidders and all subcontractors under the bidders who are awarded contracts  
44 pursuant to these bid documents shall comply with these Responsible Employer Requirements  
45 for the duration of their work on the project, and an officer of each such contractor or  
46 subcontractor shall certify under oath and in writing on a weekly basis that they are in  
47 compliance with the Requirements.

48 II. Requirements Before Bid Opening. All bidders and all subcontractors under the  
49 bidders shall provide documentation and shall certify in writing that they are in compliance with  
50 these Responsible Employer Requirements before the bid opening.

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52           III.     Job Site “Harmony” Certification. The bidder and all subcontractors shall certify  
53 in writing that their employees shall be able to work in harmony with employees of all other  
54 subcontractors on the job site. “Harmony” means that the presence of any subcontractor’s  
55 employees shall not result in any picket line, work stoppage or any other form of labor  
56 demonstrated on the job site of labor organizations representing the trades and/or crafts of the  
57 employees on the job sites.

58           IV.     Health Insurance. With the submission of bids, the bidder shall submit a written  
59 statement detailing for each trade that it will employ in the performance of the contract, the  
60 health insurance that it will furnish to its employees. The statement shall include, but not be  
61 limited to, the name of the insurance carrier, if any, a copy of the insurance binder, a description  
62 of the benefits provided to the employees, including all co-payments and deductibles, the cost of  
63 the insurance to the bidder and to the employee, the minimum qualifications for the coverage,  
64 and a statement as to whether or not the coverage meets the standards for minimum creditable  
65 coverage under Massachusetts law. If the bidder is awarded a contract, such health insurance  
66 policy will become part of the contract documents. Receipt of the policy by the awarding  
67 authority and inclusion in the contract document shall not be deemed to be approval by the  
68 awarding authority of the insurance or of its sufficiency and shall in no event relieve the bidder  
69 of its responsibility to furnish comprehensive health insurance to its employees. Any bidder who  
70 contributes to a multi-employer health and welfare trust fund pursuant to a collective bargaining  
71 agreement may satisfy the reporting requirements of this subsection by identifying said health  
72 and welfare fund.

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V. Penalties and Enforcement.

a. Any bidder or subcontractor under the bidder who is awarded a contract on this project and who fails to comply with any of the obligations set forth herein shall, by decision of the Commonwealth be subject to one or more of the following:

i. Assessment of a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300) per day of the violation.

Any fine imposed which is not paid in full by the violator shall be offset by the Commonwealth against any payment due to the contractor under the contract for the project, to the extent allowed by law.

ii. Cessation of work on the project until compliance is obtained.

iii. Withholding by the Commonwealth of payment due under any contract of subcontract until compliance is obtained.

iv. Permanent removal from any further work on the project.

b. In addition to the sanctions outlined in subsection a. above, a general bidder or contractor shall be equally liable for the violations of its subcontractor, with the exception of the violations arising from work performed pursuant to the subcontracts that are subject to M.G.L. Ch. 149, Sec. 44F. Any contractor or subcontractor who has been determined to have violated any of the obligations set forth in these Responsible Employer Requirements shall be barred from performing any work on any future projects for six months for a first violation, for three (3) years for a second violation, and permanently for a third violation, to the extent permissible by law.

94 c. In addition to the sanctions outlined in subsection a. and b. above, any bidder or  
95 subcontractor under the bidder who is awarded a contract or who otherwise obtains a contract on  
96 this project, and who fails to comply with the harmony requirement outlined above in section IV,  
97 may at the sole discretion of the Commonwealth be subject to the following penalties:

98 i. Assessment of the costs incurred by the Commonwealth for the contractor or the  
99 subcontractors to provide security (such as in the form of police details, security fences,  
100 establishment of separate gates, etc.), lost work days for every employee who is prevented from  
101 working on the job site by the establishment of picket lines, work stoppage or other labor  
102 demonstrations;

103 ii. Liquidated damages payable to the Commonwealth in the amount of five percent  
104 (5%) of the dollar value of the contract entered into by the contractor or subcontractor who  
105 cannot comply with the harmony clause.

106 d. A violation of these Responsible Employer Requirements shall be a material  
107 breach of the contract.

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109 QUESTIONNAIRE AND CERTIFICATION RELATIVE TO COMPLIANCE WITH  
110 RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYER REQUIREMENTS

111 ALL BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

112 1. I hereby agree and certify by signing below that my company complies with all of  
113 the above Responsible Employer Requirements.

114 2. My company maintains or participates in a certified apprenticeship training  
115 program:

116 o Name of program \_\_\_\_\_

117 o Address of program \_\_\_\_\_

118 o Contact person \_\_\_\_\_

119 o Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

120 o Is the program an employer-sponsored/paid program? \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no

121  If no, who pays for the program? \_\_\_\_\_

122 o How many apprentices have graduated from your program during the last three  
123 years?

124 2007\_\_\_\_\_

125 2008\_\_\_\_\_

126 2009\_\_\_\_\_

127 o Has your apprenticeship training program been suspended since January 1, 2007?  
128 \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no

129 3. My company provides health insurance, industrial accident insurance and pension  
130 benefits as described in the Responsible Employer Requirements.

131 o Name of health insurance carrier and applicable policy

132 \_\_\_\_\_

133       o     Name of industrial accident insurance carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

134       o     Name of applicable pension plan \_\_\_\_\_

135       I hereby certify that the information and responses provided above are true and accurate.

136       Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,

137   2010.

138       Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

139       Name: \_\_\_\_\_

140       Title: \_\_\_\_\_

141       Company: \_\_\_\_\_