

153:1-1-02**Prequalification of professional design firms.**

(A) Each professional design firm shall maintain a current statement of qualifications on file with the office of the state architect or any state agency or institution of higher education with which it is interested in a contract, pursuant to section 153.68 of the Revised Code.

(B) Professional design firms without a current statement of qualifications shall be disqualified from consideration for a contract under this rule.

(C) If the state implements a prequalification program under section 153.68 of the Revised Code, the prequalification requirements shall be based on the factors set forth in divisions (D)(1)(a), (D)(2), (D)(3), and (D)(4) of section 153.65 of the Revised Code. The criteria shall include a point system developed to encourage EDGE business participation pursuant to division (B)(6) of section 123.152 of the Revised Code, if applicable.

(D) For the purpose of awarding contracts to firms from a list of prequalified firms created pursuant to sections 153.68 and 153.691 of the Revised Code, the state agency shall select the most qualified firm as follows:

(1) If the total estimated fees are less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars and less than the remaining amount approved by the controlling board for each firm, the state agency may either:

(a) select and negotiate a contract with one firm determined by the state agency to be the most qualified, provided the firm was interviewed by the state agency prior to approval by the controlling board; or

(b) request and rank technical proposals from not less than three firms, and select and negotiate a contract with the firm determined by the state agency to be most qualified, whether or not the firms were interviewed by the state agency prior to approval by the controlling board.

(2) If the total estimated fees are more than one hundred thousand dollars and less than or equal to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and less than the remaining amount approved by the controlling board for each firm, the state agency shall request and rank technical proposals from not less than three firms, and select and negotiate a contract with the firm determined by the state agency to be most qualified, whether or not the firms were interviewed by the state agency prior to approval by the controlling board.

(3) If the total estimated fees are more than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars and less than the remaining amount approved by the controlling board for each firm, the state agency shall request technical proposals from and hold interviews with not less than three firms, and rank, select, and negotiate a contract with the firm determined by the state agency to be most qualified, whether or not the firms were interviewed by the state agency prior to

approval by the controlling board.

(E) The state shall negotiate a contract with the selected firm in accordance with division (B) of section 153.69 of the Revised Code.

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Certification

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