

September 30, 2010

73LCB09- Student Construction Affordability Act

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Bill History

In 2004, the University of Colorado Student Government (CUSG), at the time known as the University of Colorado Student Union (UCSU), passed legislation to impose a 200 dollar a semester fee on students for the purpose of capital construction on campus. This increase in student fees for construction projects was a direct result of limited funding for higher education from the state of Colorado. Unfortunately, the limitations placed on the contractors qualified for the capital construction projects has forced the university to spend significantly more money than is necessary for the costs of the construction. Additionally, the terms used in the vague requirements also lack concrete definitions in order to describe their purpose and impacts. This lack of definitions presents the problem of confusion and dissent regarding how to honor and enforce the obligations. This bill seeks to repeal those unnecessarily burdensome and overly imprecise requirements to enable the student body to broaden the pool of companies available for contract and ensure that the students are receiving the greatest value for their student fee dollars.

Bill Summary

This bill seeks to amend 64LCB17 Section 3, Subsections 4, 5, and 6 and also to amend 60LCB15 Section 12 in order to remove unclear terms pertaining to construction requirements and to expand the applicant pool for student fee funded construction projects on campus.

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Student Government, THAT:

Section 1: This bill repeals and nullifies 64LCB17 Subsections 4, 5 and 6 of Section 3 (there were erroneously two Section 3s and this repeal pertains to the second Section 3) which state respectively: “4. Further implementing and improving Best Value Contracting in UCSU related construction projects. 5. Develop a Best Value Contracting policy in conjunction with CU Administrators that could be implemented for the rest of the CU campus. 6. Developing any other necessary programs regarding capital and labor related issues.”

Section 2: This bill amends Section 12 of 60LCB15 to state: “There shall be no contract or procurement for any construction on capital projects paid for by this fee until a CUSG designated committee or staff person has, in coordination with the appropriate

administration, created a pre qualification process for bidding contractors to the extent allowable by law. This section will be subject to state statutory requirement and subject to the approval of the office of state buildings.” Removing: “this includes, but is not limited to standards such as safe and adequate apprenticeship programs graduating at least 30% of the company’s ‘pre journeyman’ workers, a safe staffing plan, adequate health benefits, a prevailing wage, union status and workers ability to organize a union” because of lack of specific definitions, inherent ambiguity resulting in inflated construction costs and uncertainly surrounding how to implement the poorly defined terms of construction.

Section 3: This bill takes effect upon final passage by Legislative Council and upon obtaining the signatures of the CUSG Legislative Council President and Executives.

| Vote Count | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------------|
| 09/30/2010 | Passed on 1st reading | Acclamation |
| 10/07/2010 | Amended and passed on 2nd reading | 12-0-2 |

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