

HB 319 -- Public Contracts

Sponsor: Fisher

Currently, contracts for public construction projects cannot contain provisions that require or prohibit the parties from entering into agreements with labor unions or that discriminate against parties for doing so when the project is funded by more than 50% of state funds. This bill specifies that "public funds" means funds belonging to the state, any agency of the state, or any instrumentality of the state and that the same requirements must apply to contracts funded in any amount with public funds instead of only a project funded by more than 50% of state funds. A "project labor agreement" will be an agreement by or between an employer and one or more labor unions to systemize labor relations at a construction site required by the state, any state agency, or any instrumentality or political subdivision of the state.

The bill also specifies that any person submitting a bid will have standing to seek equitable relief and monetary damages for a violation of the provisions regarding state purchasing including, but not limited to, setting aside award of a contract, ordering a contract to be rebid, requiring award of a contract to a different bidder, and awarding monetary damages.