

MILITARY AND VETERANS CODE

SECTION 999-999.13

999. (a) This article shall be known as, and may be cited as, the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program. The California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program is established to address the special needs of disabled veterans seeking rehabilitation and training through entrepreneurship and to recognize the sacrifices of Californians disabled during military service. It is the intent of the Legislature that every state procurement authority honor California's disabled veterans by taking all practical actions necessary to meet or exceed the disabled veteran business enterprise participation goal of a minimum of 3 percent of total contract value.

(b) As used in this article, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Administering agency" means the Treasurer in the case of contracts for professional bond services, and the Department of General Services' Office of Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Services, in the case of contracts governed by Section 999.2.

(2) "Awarding department" means a state agency, department, governmental entity, or other officer or entity empowered by law to issue bonds or enter into contracts on behalf of the state.

(3) "Bonds" means bonds, notes, warrants, certificates of participation, and other evidences of indebtedness issued by, or on behalf of, the state.

(4) "Contract" includes any agreement or joint agreement to provide professional bond services to the State of California or an awarding department. "Contract" also includes any agreement or joint development agreement to provide labor, services, materials, supplies, or equipment in the performance of a contract, franchise, concession, or lease granted, let, or awarded for, and on behalf of, the state.

(5) (A) "Contractor" means any person or persons, regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, disability, religious or political affiliation, age, or any sole proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or combination thereof that submits a bid and enters into a contract with a representative of a state agency, department, governmental entity, or other officer empowered by law to enter into contracts on behalf of the state. "Contractor" includes any provider of professional bond services who enters into a contract with an awarding department.

(B) "Disabled veteran business enterprise contractor, subcontractor, or supplier" means any person or entity that has been certified by the administering agency pursuant to this article and that performs a "commercially useful function," as defined below, in providing services or goods that contribute to the fulfillment of the contract requirements:

(i) A person or an entity is deemed to perform a "commercially useful function" if a person or entity does all of the following:

(I) (aa) Is responsible for the execution of a distinct element of the work of the contract.

(ab) Carries out the obligation by actually performing, managing, or supervising the work involved.

(ac) Performs work that is normal for its business services and

functions.

(II) Is not further subcontracting a portion of the work that is greater than that expected to be subcontracted by normal industry practices.

(ii) A contractor, subcontractor, or supplier will not be considered to perform a "commercially useful function" if the contractor's, subcontractor's, or supplier's role is limited to that of an extra participant in a transaction, contract, or project through which funds are passed in order to obtain the appearance of a disabled veteran business enterprise participation.

(6) "Disabled veteran" means a veteran of the military, naval, or air service of the United States, including, but not limited to, the Philippine Commonwealth Army, the Regular Scouts, "Old Scouts," and the Special Philippine Scouts, "New Scouts," who has at least a 10-percent service-connected disability and who is domiciled in the state.

(7) (A) "Disabled veteran business enterprise" means a business certified by the administering agency as meeting all of the following requirements:

(i) It is a sole proprietorship at least 51 percent owned by one or more disabled veterans or, in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of its stock is owned by one or more disabled veterans; a subsidiary that is wholly owned by a parent corporation, but only if at least 51 percent of the voting stock of the parent corporation is owned by one or more disabled veterans; or a joint venture in which at least 51 percent of the joint venture's management, control, and earnings are held by one or more disabled veterans.

(ii) The management and control of the daily business operations are by one or more disabled veterans. The disabled veterans who exercise management and control are not required to be the same disabled veterans as the owners of the business.

(iii) It is a sole proprietorship, corporation, or partnership with its home office located in the United States, which is not a branch or subsidiary of a foreign corporation, foreign firm, or other foreign-based business.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), after the death or the certification of a permanent medical disability of a disabled veteran who is a majority owner of a business that qualified as a disabled veteran business enterprise prior to that death or certification of a permanent medical disability, and solely for purposes of any contract entered into before that death or certification, that business shall be deemed to be a disabled veteran business enterprise for a period not to exceed three years after the date of that death or certification of a permanent medical disability, if the business is inherited or controlled by the spouse or child of that majority owner, or by both of those persons.

(8) "Foreign corporation," "foreign firm," or "foreign-based business" means a business entity that is incorporated or has its principal headquarters located outside the United States of America.

(9) "Goal" means a numerically expressed objective that awarding departments and contractors are required to make efforts to achieve.

(10) "Management and control" means effective and demonstrable management of the business entity.

(11) "Professional bond services" include services as financial advisers, bond counsel, underwriters in negotiated transactions, underwriter's counsel, financial printers, feasibility consultants, and other professional services related to the issuance and sale of bonds.

999.1. (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each awarding department shall have annual statewide participation goals of not less than 3 percent for disabled veteran business enterprises for contracts entered into by the awarding department during the year for professional bond services. This section shall not apply if a contract for professional bond services of an underwriter is to be obtained by competitive bid. However, each awarding department shall establish goals for contracts to be obtained by competitive bid for professional bond services.

(2) These goals shall apply to the overall dollar amount expended by the awarding department with respect to the contracts for professional bond services relating to the issuance of bonds by the awarding department, including amounts spent as underwriter's discounts.

(b) In attempting to meet the goals set forth in subdivision (a), the awarding department shall consider establishing cocounsel, joint venture, and subcontracting relationships, including disabled veteran business enterprises, in all contracts for professional bond services. It shall be the responsibility of the head of each awarding department to be supportive of the Treasurer's program for assigning representative portions of professional bond services contracts for purposes of meeting the goals established pursuant to this section. However, nothing in this article shall preclude the awarding department from achieving the goals set forth in this section without requiring joint ventures, cocounsel, or subcontracting arrangements.

(c) This section shall not limit the ability of any awarding department to meet a goal higher than those set forth in subdivision (a) for the participation of disabled veteran business enterprises in contracts awarded by the awarding department.

999.2. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, contracts awarded by any state agency, department, officer, or other state governmental entity, including school districts when they are expending state funds for construction, professional services (except those subject to Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 16850) of Part 3 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code), materials, supplies, equipment, alteration, repair, or improvement shall have statewide participation goals of not less than 3 percent for disabled veteran business enterprises. These goals apply to the overall dollar amount expended each year by the awarding department.

(b) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Broker" or "agent" means any individual or entity, or any combination thereof, that does not have title, possession, control, and risk of loss of materials, supplies, services, or equipment provided to an awarding department, unless one or more certified disabled veterans has 51 percent ownership of the quantity and value of the materials, supplies, services, and of each piece of equipment provided under the contract.

(2) "Equipment" means any piece of equipment that is used or provided for rental to any state agency, department, officer, or other state governmental entity, including equipment for which operators are provided.

(3) "Equipment broker" means any broker or agent who rents equipment to an awarding department.

(c) A disabled veteran business enterprise that rents equipment to an awarding department shall be deemed to be an equipment broker

unless one or more disabled veterans has 51-percent ownership of the quantity and the value of each piece of equipment. If the equipment is owned by one or more disabled veterans, each disabled veteran owner shall, prior to performance under any contract, submit to the awarding department a declaration signed by the disabled veteran owner stating that the owner is a disabled veteran and providing the name, address, telephone number, and tax identification number of the disabled veteran owner. Each disabled veteran owner shall submit his or her federal income tax returns to the administering agency pursuant to subdivision (g) as if he or she were a disabled veteran business enterprise. The disabled veteran business enterprise of a disabled veteran owner who fails to submit his or her tax returns will be deemed to be an equipment broker.

(d) A disabled veteran business enterprise that rents equipment to an awarding department shall, prior to performing the contract, submit to the awarding department a declaration signed by each disabled veteran owner and manager of the enterprise stating that the enterprise obtained the contract by representing that the enterprise was a disabled veteran business enterprise meeting and maintaining all of the requirements of a disabled veteran business enterprise. The declaration shall include the name, address, telephone number, and tax identification number of the owner of each piece of equipment identified in the contract.

(e) State funds expended for equipment rented from equipment brokers pursuant to contracts awarded under this section shall not be credited toward the 3-percent goal.

(f) A disabled veteran business enterprise that is a broker or agent and that obtains a contract pursuant to subdivision (a) shall, prior to performing the contract, disclose to the awarding department that the business is a broker or agent. The disclosure shall be made in a declaration signed and executed by each disabled veteran owner and manager of the enterprise, declaring that the enterprise is a broker or agent, and identifying the name, address, and telephone number of the principal for whom the enterprise is acting as a broker or agent.

(g) (1) A disabled veteran business enterprise, and each owner thereof, shall, at the time of certification, submit to the administering agency complete copies of the enterprise's federal income tax returns for the three previous tax years.

(2) A disabled veteran business enterprise, and each owner thereof, shall submit to the administering agency complete copies of the enterprise's federal income tax returns that have a postcertification due date, on or before the due date, including extensions.

(3) A disabled veteran business enterprise that, and each owner thereof who, has not submitted to the administering agency complete copies of the enterprise's federal income tax returns for the three tax years preceding certification nor for each postcertification tax year for which a return was required to be filed, shall have 90 days to submit those returns.

(4) A disabled veteran business enterprise that fails to comply with any provision of this subdivision shall be prohibited from participating in any state contract until the disabled veteran business enterprise complies with the provisions of this subdivision. Funds expended involving a disabled veteran business enterprise during any period in which that enterprise is not in compliance with the provisions of this subdivision shall not be credited toward the awarding department's 3-percent goal.

(h) A disabled veteran business enterprise that fails to maintain the certification requirements set forth in this article shall

immediately notify the awarding department and the administering agency of that failure by filing a notice of failure that states with particularity each requirement the disabled veteran business enterprise has failed to maintain.

999.3. Notwithstanding Section 999.1, if a contract for professional bond services of an underwriter is to be obtained by competitive bid, the awarding department shall, at a minimum, take all of the following actions:

(a) Deliver the notice of sale or other notification of intention to issue the bonds to all disabled veteran business enterprises that have listed their names with the awarding department for the purpose of this notice and other qualified disabled veteran enterprises known to the awarding department.

(b) State in all notices of sale and other notifications of intention to issue bonds that disabled veteran business enterprises are encouraged to respond.

(c) Require all submitting bidders to certify their awareness of the goals of the awarding department in accordance with this article.

999.5. (a) The administering agency for the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program is the Department of General Services, except in the case of contracts for professional bond services. The Department of General Services shall consult with the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program Advocate, appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to Section 999.11, on all matters relating to the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program. The Director of General Services shall adopt written policies and guidelines establishing a uniform process for state contracting that would provide a disabled veteran business enterprise participation incentive to bidders. The incentive program shall be used by all state agencies when awarding contracts.

(b) The Department of Veterans Affairs shall do all of the following:

(1) Establish a method of monitoring adherence to the goals specified in Sections 999.1 and 999.2.

(2) Promote the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program to the fullest extent possible.

(3) Maintain complete records of its promotional efforts.

(4) Establish a system to track the effectiveness of its efforts to promote the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program, which shall include regular, periodic surveys of newly certified disabled veteran business enterprises to determine how they learned of the program, why they became certified, and what their experience with awarding departments has been.

(c) An awarding department shall not credit toward the department's 3-percent goal state funds expended on a contract with a disabled veteran business enterprise that does not meet and maintain the certification requirements.

(d) Upon completion of an awarded contract for which a commitment to achieve a disabled veteran business enterprise goal was made, an awarding department shall require the prime contractor that entered into a subcontract with a disabled veteran business enterprise to certify to the awarding department all of the following:

(1) The total amount the prime contractor received under the

contract.

(2) The name and address of the disabled veteran business enterprise that participated in the performance of the contract.

(3) The amount each disabled veteran business enterprise received from the prime contractor.

(4) That all payments under the contract have been made to the disabled veteran business enterprise. An awarding department shall keep that certification on file. A person or entity that knowingly provides false information shall be subject to a civil penalty for each violation in the minimum amount of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) and the maximum amount of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). An action for a civil penalty under this subdivision may be brought by any public prosecutor in the name of the people of the State of California and the penalty imposed shall be enforceable as a civil judgment.

(e) A prime contractor may, subject to the approval of the Department of General Services, replace a disabled veteran business enterprise identified by the prime contractor in its bid or offer, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 999.10, with another disabled veteran business enterprise.

(f) The administering agency shall adopt rules and regulations, including standards for good faith efforts, for the purpose of implementing this section. Emergency regulations consistent with this section may be adopted.

999.6. In implementing this article, the awarding department shall utilize existing resources such as the Office of Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the federal Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Small Business Administration.

999.8. (a) Notwithstanding anything in this article to the contrary, the validity or enforceability of any bonds, or any contract or any notes, or other obligations issued by the awarding department to provide for the payment of any contract subject to this article shall not be affected in any way by the failure of an awarding department to meet the goals established under this article.

(b) No action may be maintained to enjoin the issuance of any bonds to which this article applies or the enforcement of any contract for professional bond services based on an awarding department's failure to meet the goals set forth in Section 999.1.

999.9. (a) It shall be unlawful for a person to:

(1) Knowingly and with intent to defraud, fraudulently obtain, retain, attempt to obtain or retain, or aid another in fraudulently obtaining or retaining or attempting to obtain or retain, certification as a disabled veteran business enterprise for the purpose of this article.

(2) Willfully and knowingly make a false statement with the intent to defraud, whether by affidavit, report, or other representation, to a state official or employee for the purpose of influencing the certification or denial of certification of any entity as a disabled veteran business enterprise.

(3) Willfully and knowingly obstruct, impede, or attempt to obstruct or impede, any state official or employee who is investigating the qualifications of a business entity that has requested certification as a disabled veteran business enterprise.

(4) Knowingly and with intent to defraud, fraudulently obtain, attempt to obtain, or aid another person in fraudulently obtaining or attempting to obtain, public moneys, contracts, or funds expended under a contract, that are awarded by any state agency, department, officer, or other state governmental agency, to which the person is not entitled under this article.

(5) Knowingly and with intent to defraud, fraudulently represent participation of a disabled veteran business enterprise in order to obtain or retain a bid preference or a state contract.

(6) Willfully and knowingly make or subscribe to any statement, declaration, or other document that is fraudulent or false as to any material matter, whether or not that falsity or fraud is committed with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the declaration, statement, or document.

(7) Willfully and knowingly aid or assist in, or procure, counsel, or advise, the preparation or presentation of a declaration, statement, or other document that is fraudulent or false as to any material matter, regardless of whether that falsity or fraud is committed with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the declaration, statement, or document.

(8) Willfully and knowingly fail to file any declaration or notice with the awarding agency that is required by Section 999.2.

(9) Establish, or knowingly aid in the establishment of, or exercise control over, a firm found to have violated any of paragraphs (1) to (8), inclusive.

(b) Any person who violates any of the provisions of subdivision (a) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months or by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both. In addition, the person shall be liable for a civil penalty of not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) nor more than thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for the first violation, and a civil penalty of not less than thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) nor more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for each additional or subsequent violation. A defendant who violates any of the provisions of subdivision (a) shall pay all costs and attorney's fees incurred by the plaintiff in a civil action brought pursuant to this section.

(c) (1) The Department of General Services shall suspend any person who violates subdivision (a) from bidding on, or participating as either a contractor, subcontractor, or supplier in, any state contract or project for a period of not less than three years, and if certified as a disabled veteran business enterprise, the department shall revoke the business' certification for a period of not less than three years. An additional or subsequent violation shall extend the periods of suspension and revocation for a period of not less than five years. The suspension and revocation shall apply to the principals of the business and any subsequent business formed or financed by, or affiliated with, those principals.

(2) The Department of General Services shall prohibit any business or person who fails to satisfy the penalties, costs, and attorney's fees imposed pursuant to subdivision (b) from further contracting with the state until the penalties are satisfied.

(d) The awarding department shall report all alleged violations of this section to the Department of General Services. The Department of General Services shall subsequently report all alleged violations to the Attorney General who shall determine whether to bring a civil

action against any person or firm for violation of this section.

(e) The Department of General Services shall monitor the status of all reported violations and shall maintain and make available to all state departments a central listing of all firms and persons who have been determined to have committed violations resulting in suspension.

(f) No awarding department shall enter into any contract with any person suspended for violating this section during the period of the person's suspension. No awarding department shall award a contract to any contractor utilizing the services of any person as a subcontractor suspended for violating this section during the period of the person's suspension.

(g) The awarding department shall check the central listing provided by the Department of General Services to verify that the person or contractor to whom the contract is being awarded, or any person being utilized as a subcontractor or supplier by that person or contractor, is not under suspension for violating this section.

999.10. (a) Any awarding department taking bids in connection with the award of any contract shall provide, in the general conditions under which bids will be received, that any person making a bid or offer to perform a contract shall, in his or her bid or offer, set forth the following information:

(1) The name and the location of the place of business of each subcontractor certified as a disabled veteran business enterprise who will perform work or labor or render service to the prime contractor in connection with the performance of the contract and who will be used by the prime contractor to fulfill disabled veteran business enterprise participation goals.

(2) The portion of work that will be done by each subcontractor under paragraph (1). Except in cases of emergency where a contract is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, or safety, or protection of state property, the prime contractor shall list only one subcontractor for each portion of work as is defined by the prime contractor in his or her bid or offer.

(b) The Subletting and Subcontracting Fair Practices Act (Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 4100) of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code) shall apply to the information required by subdivision (a) relating to subcontractors certified as disabled veteran business enterprises.

(c) For purposes of this section, "subcontractor" and "prime contractor" shall have the same meaning as those terms are defined in Section 4113 of the Public Contract Code.

(d) As used in this section, "contract" does not include a contract negotiated pursuant to Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 4525) of Division 5 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

999.11. The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall appoint the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program Advocate. The California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program Advocate shall report directly to the secretary and shall do all of the following:

(a) Oversee, promote, and coordinate efforts to facilitate implementation of this article.

(b) Disseminate information on this article.

(c) Coordinate reports pursuant to Section 999.7.

(d) Coordinate with administering agencies and existing and potential disabled veteran business enterprises to achieve the goals specified in Sections 999.1 and 999.2.

(e) Coordinate with the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program Advocate appointed in all awarding departments pursuant to Section 999.12.

999.12. Each awarding department shall appoint an agency Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program Advocate. This person shall be the same individual appointed pursuant to Section 14846 of the Government Code. The agency Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program Advocate shall do all of the following:

(a) Assist certified disabled veteran business enterprises in participating in that agency's contracting process.

(b) Assist contract officers in seeking disabled veteran business enterprises to participate in the agency's contract and procurement activities by performing outreach efforts to recruit disabled veteran business enterprises to offer their services as either a prime contractor or subcontractor on any contract proposed by the awarding department that requires disabled veteran business enterprise participation, and by other feasible means.

(c) Meet regularly with the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program Advocate and contract and procurement staffs of their departments to disseminate information about the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program.

(d) Serve as an advocate for the disabled veteran business enterprises that are utilized as the agency's contractors or subcontractors.

(e) Report to the Office of Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Services regarding any violation of this article.

(f) Coordinate and meet, on a regular basis, with the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program Advocate at the Department of Veterans Affairs in an effort to meet the statewide 3-percent goal provided for in Section 999.2.

999.13. This article includes language similar to that contained in Article 1.5 (commencing with Section 10115) of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code and does not create an independent or additional goal or program.