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**HOUSE BILL NO. 306**

Offered January 10, 2018

Prefiled January 3, 2018

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-4324 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Public Procurement Act; preference for businesses participating in Virginia Registered Apprenticeship program.*

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Patron—Watts

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Referred to Committee on General Laws**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 2.2-4324 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 2.2-4324. Preference for Virginia firms, participants in the Virginia Registered Apprenticeship program, and Virginia products with recycled content.**

A. In the case of a tie bid, preference shall be given to goods produced in Virginia, goods or services or construction provided by Virginia persons, firms or corporations; otherwise the tie shall be decided by lot.

B. Whenever the lowest responsive and responsible bidder is a resident of any other state and such state under its laws allows a resident contractor of that state a percentage preference, a like preference shall be allowed to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder who is a resident of Virginia and is the next lowest bidder. If the lowest responsive and responsible bidder is a resident of any other state and such state under its laws allows a resident contractor of that state a price-matching preference, a like preference shall be allowed to responsive and responsible bidders who are residents of Virginia. If the lowest bidder is a resident contractor of a state with an absolute preference, the bid shall not be considered. The Department of General Services shall post and maintain an updated list on its website of all states with an absolute preference for their resident contractors and those states that allow their resident contractors a percentage preference, including the respective percentage amounts. For purposes of compliance with this section, all public bodies may rely upon the accuracy of the information posted on this website.

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections A and B, in the case of a tie bid in instances where goods are being offered, and existing price preferences have already been taken into account, preference shall be given to the bidder whose goods contain the greatest amount of recycled content.

D. *Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections A and B, a public body may give preference to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder (i) who is a resident of Virginia, (ii) who participates in the Virginia Registered Apprenticeship program administered by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry, and (iii) whose bid is within three percent of the lowest bid price.*

E. For the purposes of this section, a Virginia person, firm or corporation shall be deemed to be a resident of Virginia if such person, firm or corporation has been organized pursuant to Virginia law or maintains a principal place of business within Virginia.

INTRODUCED

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