**Concerned Contractors**  
***of Pennsylvania***

FACT SHEET ON SEPARATIONS ACT

**Definition**

**Purpose**

**Legislation**

**Issue**

**Take Action**

**Who Are We?**

The Pennsylvania Separations Act of 1913 requires public entity construction projects costing more than $4,000 to solicit separate bids and awarding separate contracts for electrical, HVAC (heating, ventilating, air-conditioning), plumbing and general construction. In other words, four prime contracts are required for public projects.

This assures a cleaner and less expensive process of spending taxpayer dollars. Multiple prime contracts prevent the taxpayer from paying for unnecessary mark up of subcontractor’s prices. It also provides an opportunity for small and local contractors to bid on projects directly to the public body. The work is awarded based on low bid and is free of personal interest, bias, and prejudice.

HB 283 amends the Separation Act by ***increasing the minimum bid requirement from 4,000 to 90,000.*** This bill would greatly narrow the number of projects subject to multiple prime bidding requirement, threatening the loss of many local jobs.

Not only do local contractors lose the opportunity to participate in the construction of their community, this $90,000 threshold would cut many of these contractors out of the bidding process. Not only will this bill cost jobs, it will also cost taxpayers millions of dollars in unnecessary construction costs. Head to head bidding between multiple and single prime bids has demonstrated that multiple prime bidding is consistently less expensive.

For these reasons, the Concerned Contractors are in opposition to HB 283. We ask you to please protect local contractors, local jobs and the tax payer’s interest by opposing this legislation.

The Concerned Contractors of Pennsylvania is an advocacy group organized to protect and promote the rights of plumbing, electrical, HVAC and general contractors. Concerned Contractors represent many small business owners and construction workers across the state. The mission of the Concerned Contractors is to shed light on unfair and needlessly expensive bidding practices.

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