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## DIGEST

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Hunter

HB No. 473

**Abstract:** Establishes the "Hire La. First Act" to require the hiring of state residents for state public works and other contracts.

Present law establishes the procedures and limitations to be used by state agencies and political subdivisions in contracting for public work.

Proposed law retains all provisions of present law governing contracts for public works and provides additional requirements for public works contracts by the state.

Proposed law defines a "contract" as all types of state agreements, regardless of what they may be called, for the purchase of materials, supplies, services, or major repairs, or for the making of any public work.

Proposed law requires any contract entered into by a state agency to conform with the requirements of proposed law. Further requires invitations for bids or proposals to contain information relative to the number and types of jobs to be created, wages, and methods to be used by the contractor to recruit unemployed persons or persons working at low wages to fill job openings expected as a result of the contract.

Proposed law requires the contractor to enter into an agreement with the La. Workforce Commission, (hereinafter commission) within seven days of the date the contract is awarded. The agreement shall require the contractor to agree to consider eligible persons referred by the commission or a local workforce agency for any relevant job opening resulting from the contract. An eligible person shall be a resident of the state.

Proposed law requires the commission and the respective local workforce agency to refer eligible persons to the contractor for consideration for job openings. Under the agreement, the contractor is required to consider these persons as the sole source of job applicants for the first 10 days from the date the agreement is executed; however, the hiring decision remains with the contractor.

Proposed law requires the contractor to provide confidential data to the commission pertaining to the rationale for not hiring persons referred by the commission or workforce agency. Such data shall be used by the commission for the purpose of working with stakeholders to better align workforce training efforts to meet the needs of industry.

(Adds R.S. 39:2211-2214)

