AB 1250: Negative Consequences for Taxpayers

Counties across California depend on private organizations to efficiently meet a wide array of community needs. Nonprofits, community-based organizations, private contractors, and other private service providers bring expertise and specialization required to maximize taxpayer resources and enhance county services. In San Diego, for example, outside contractors provide important housing and support resources for homeless populations, services that would be difficult or inefficient to provide internally. The contracting process isn’t perfect, but if Sacramento has its say, this cost-saving process could become increasingly ineffective.

Assembly Bill 1250 has already passed through the state Assembly and is currently making its way through the Senate. Proponents assert this bill will improve the county contracting process by adding a layer of new regulations similar to those that govern the state’s contracting process.

Services Will Diminish

These mandates, however, will have two negative consequences for taxpayers: The quality of many county services will diminish and the price of county contracts will increase. This bill puts forth significant new requirements for assessing contractor bids for financial, economic, accounting, engineering, legal and various other service contracts, regardless of what locally established requirements they may already meet. Specifically, it prevents counties from outsourcing if a county job would remain unfilled or displaced by a bid. While these many hardworking county employees, the rationale for providing specialized services utilizing only public employees is questionable to say the least. Some services can be easily provided using only county workers, but many essential services, especially ones that help some of California’s most vulnerable citizens, come from private entities with unique expertise.

Goal is Service, Not Jobs

It should be the goal of counties to provide low-cost, high-quality services to their communities as efficiently and effectively as possible — conversely, it should not be the goal to protect county jobs for protection sake. Additionally, the provisions to ensure private service providers are actually creating savings sounds good in principle, but the vagueness of these requirements will inherently lead to problems. AB 1250 mandates that counties be able to start reviewing public performance by passing their hands will be tied and the competition for bids is ultimately make it better or cheaper. By its own admission, the current draft of AB 1250 applies a state level solution to county problems; this is why 47 of California’s 58 counties have already opposed this legislation. They know that if this law passes their hands will be tied and the quality of their services diminished at a higher cost to taxpayers.

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Upcoming events

We See the People, Not the Cars — Brian Gantzer, President of Operations, Ace Parking
Organizations: Business Executives Council
When: 5:30-8:30 p.m., Sept. 14
Where: La Jolla Marriott, La Jolla
Black Tie Car Show Gala
Organization: San Diego County Chamber of Commerce
When: 9:30 a.m., registration; 11:15 a.m., event
Where: High Performance Aircraft at Gillespie Field, 1960 Joe Crosson Drive, El Cajon
Fundamentos de HR
Organizations: SDEA
When: 9 a.m. — 4 p.m., Sept. 19
Where: SDEA, 8799 Balboa Ave, Suite 270, San Diego
To submit an event for possible inclusion, email the following information to Steve Adams at sadams@sd bj.com: name, time and location of event; event host, event speaker(s) and/ or description of event.