



Sen. Willie Preston

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10400HB1224sam001

LRB104 06221 LNS 26818 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1224

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 1224 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Public Construction Bond Act is amended by  
5 changing Section 1 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 550/1) (from Ch. 29, par. 15)

7 Sec. 1. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, until  
8 January 1, 2029, all officials, boards, commissions, or agents  
9 of this State, or of any political subdivision thereof, in  
10 making contracts for public work of any kind costing over  
11 \$150,000 to be performed for the State, or of any political  
12 subdivision thereof, shall require every contractor for the  
13 work to furnish, supply and deliver a bond to the State, or to  
14 the political subdivision thereof entering into the contract,  
15 as the case may be, with good and sufficient sureties. The  
16 surety on the bond shall be a company that is licensed by the

1 Department of Insurance authorizing it to execute surety bonds  
2 and the company shall have a financial strength rating of at  
3 least A- as rated by A.M. Best Company, Inc., Moody's  
4 Investors Service, Standard & Poor's Corporation, or a similar  
5 rating agency. The amount of the bond shall be fixed by the  
6 officials, boards, commissions, commissioners or agents, and  
7 the bond, among other conditions, shall be conditioned for the  
8 completion of the contract, for the payment of material,  
9 apparatus, fixtures, and machinery used in the work and for  
10 all labor performed in the work, whether by subcontractor or  
11 otherwise.

12 Until January 1, 2029, when making contracts for public  
13 works to be constructed, the Department of Transportation and  
14 the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority shall require every  
15 contractor for those works to furnish, supply, and deliver a  
16 bond to the Department or the Authority, as the case may be,  
17 with good and sufficient sureties only if the public works  
18 contract will cost more than \$500,000. The Department of  
19 Transportation and the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority  
20 shall publicly display the following information by website or  
21 annual report and shall provide that information to interested  
22 parties upon request:

23 (1) a list of each of its defaulted public works  
24 contracts, including the value of the award, the adjusted  
25 contract value, and the amount remaining unpaid by the  
26 Department or Authority, as applicable;

1           (2) the number and the aggregate amount of payment  
2           claims made under the Mechanics Lien Act along with the  
3           number of contracts in which payment claims are made under  
4           the Mechanics Lien Act;

5           (3) for each of its public improvement contracts,  
6           regardless of the contract value, the aggregate annual  
7           revenue of the contractor derived from contracts with the  
8           State;

9           (4) for each of its public works contracts, regardless  
10          of contract value, the identity of the surety providing  
11          the contract bond, payment and performance bond, or both;  
12          and

13          (5) for each of its public works contracts, regardless  
14          of the bond threshold, a list of bidders for each public  
15          works contract, and the amount bid by each bidder.

16          Until January 1, 2029, local governmental units may  
17          require a bond, by ordinance or resolution, for public works  
18          contracts valued at \$150,000 or less.

19          On and after January 1, 2029, all officials, boards,  
20          commissions, or agents of this State, or of any political  
21          subdivision thereof, in making contracts for public work of  
22          any kind costing over \$50,000 to be performed for the State, or  
23          of any political subdivision thereof, shall require every  
24          contractor for the work to furnish, supply and deliver a bond  
25          to the State, or to the political subdivision thereof entering  
26          into the contract, as the case may be, with good and sufficient

1 sureties. The surety on the bond shall be a company that is  
2 licensed by the Department of Insurance authorizing it to  
3 execute surety bonds and the company shall have a financial  
4 strength rating of at least A- as rated by A.M. Best Company,  
5 Inc., Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's  
6 Corporation, or a similar rating agency. The amount of the  
7 bond shall be fixed by the officials, boards, commissions,  
8 commissioners or agents, and the bond, among other conditions,  
9 shall be conditioned for the completion of the contract, for  
10 the payment of material, apparatus, fixtures, and machinery  
11 used in the work and for all labor performed in the work,  
12 whether by subcontractor or otherwise.

13 If the contract is for emergency repairs as provided in  
14 the Illinois Procurement Code, proof of payment for all labor,  
15 materials, apparatus, fixtures, and machinery may be furnished  
16 in lieu of the bond required by this Section.

17 Each such bond is deemed to contain the following  
18 provisions whether such provisions are inserted in such bond  
19 or not:

20 "The principal and sureties on this bond agree that all  
21 the undertakings, covenants, terms, conditions and agreements  
22 of the contract or contracts entered into between the  
23 principal and the State or any political subdivision thereof  
24 will be performed and fulfilled and to pay all persons, firms  
25 and corporations having contracts with the principal or with  
26 subcontractors, all just claims due them under the provisions

1 of such contracts for labor performed or materials furnished  
2 in the performance of the contract on account of which this  
3 bond is given, when such claims are not satisfied out of the  
4 contract price of the contract on account of which this bond is  
5 given, after final settlement between the officer, board,  
6 commission or agent of the State or of any political  
7 subdivision thereof and the principal has been made.".

8 Each bond securing contracts between the Capital  
9 Development Board or any board of a public institution of  
10 higher education and a contractor shall contain the following  
11 provisions, whether the provisions are inserted in the bond or  
12 not:

13 "Upon the default of the principal with respect to  
14 undertakings, covenants, terms, conditions, and agreements,  
15 the termination of the contractor's right to proceed with the  
16 work, and written notice of that default and termination by  
17 the State or any political subdivision to the surety  
18 ("Notice"), the surety shall promptly remedy the default by  
19 taking one of the following actions:

20 (1) The surety shall complete the work pursuant to a  
21 written takeover agreement, using a completing contractor  
22 jointly selected by the surety and the State or any  
23 political subdivision; or

24 (2) The surety shall pay a sum of money to the obligee,  
25 up to the penal sum of the bond, that represents the  
26 reasonable cost to complete the work that exceeds the

1       unpaid balance of the contract sum.

2       The surety shall respond to the Notice within 15 working  
3       days of receipt indicating the course of action that it  
4       intends to take or advising that it requires more time to  
5       investigate the default and select a course of action. If the  
6       surety requires more than 15 working days to investigate the  
7       default and select a course of action or if the surety elects  
8       to complete the work with a completing contractor that is not  
9       prepared to commence performance within 15 working days after  
10      receipt of Notice, and if the State or any political  
11      subdivision determines it is in the best interest of the State  
12      to maintain the progress of the work, the State or any  
13      political subdivision may continue to work until the  
14      completing contractor is prepared to commence performance.  
15      Unless otherwise agreed to by the procuring agency, in no case  
16      may the surety take longer than 30 working days to advise the  
17      State or political subdivision on the course of action it  
18      intends to take. The surety shall be liable for reasonable  
19      costs incurred by the State or any political subdivision to  
20      maintain the progress to the extent the costs exceed the  
21      unpaid balance of the contract sum, subject to the penal sum of  
22      the bond.".

23      The surety bond required by this Section may be acquired  
24      from the company, agent or broker of the contractor's choice.  
25      The bond and sureties shall be subject to the right of  
26      reasonable approval or disapproval, including suspension, by

1 the State or political subdivision thereof concerned. Except  
2 as otherwise provided in this Section, in the case of State  
3 construction contracts, a contractor shall not be required to  
4 post a cash bond or letter of credit in addition to or as a  
5 substitute for the surety bond required by this Section.

6 Prior to the completion of 50% of the contract for public  
7 works, the State or a local governmental unit, except for the  
8 Department of Transportation, may not withhold retainage from  
9 any payment to a contractor who furnishes the bond or bond  
10 substitute required by this Act in an amount in excess of 10%  
11 of any payment made prior to the date of completion of 50% of  
12 the contract for public works. When a contract for public  
13 works is 50% complete, the State or the local governmental  
14 unit, except for the Department of Transportation, shall  
15 reduce the retainage so that no more than 5% is held. After the  
16 contract is 50% complete, no more than 5% of the amount of any  
17 subsequent payments made under the contract for public works  
18 may be withheld as retainage.

19 Subject to the limitations in this Section, a State agency  
20 may withhold as retainage a portion of the moneys from the  
21 payment of a contract that is entered into on or after the  
22 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 104th General  
23 Assembly if and only if the State agency determines that  
24 satisfactory progress has not been achieved by a contractor or  
25 subcontractor during any period for which a payment is to be  
26 made. Satisfactory progress shall be clearly provided for in

1 the contract between the State agency and the contractor or  
2 subcontractor. Retainage may not be used as a substitute for  
3 good contract management, and the State agency may not  
4 withhold funds without cause. Determinations to retain and the  
5 specific amount to be withheld must be made by the State agency  
6 on a case-by-case basis based on the performance of milestones  
7 under the current contract as provided for in the contract  
8 between the State agency and the contractor. A contractor may  
9 not withhold retainage from a subcontractor except to the  
10 extent a State agency has withheld retainage from the  
11 contractor which is attributable to that subcontractor's  
12 subcontract.

13 Prior to the completion of 50% of the contract for public  
14 works, the contractor and their respective subcontractors  
15 shall not withhold from their subcontractors retainage in  
16 excess of 10% of any payment made prior to the date of  
17 completion of 50% of the contract for public works. When the  
18 contract for public works is 50% complete, the contractor and  
19 its subcontractors shall reduce the retainage so that no more  
20 than 5% is withheld from their respective subcontractors.  
21 After the contract is 50% complete, the contractor and its  
22 subcontractors shall not withhold more than 5% of the amount  
23 of any subsequent payments made under the contract to their  
24 respective subcontractors.

25 When other than motor fuel tax funds, federal-aid funds,  
26 or other funds received from the State are used, a political



1 subdivision may allow the contractor to provide a  
2 non-diminishing irrevocable bank letter of credit, in lieu of  
3 the bond required by this Section, on contracts under \$100,000  
4 to comply with the requirements of this Section. Any such bank  
5 letter of credit shall contain all provisions required for  
6 bonds by this Section.

7 In order to reduce barriers to entry for diverse and small  
8 businesses, the Department of Transportation may implement a  
9 5-year pilot program to allow a contractor to provide a  
10 non-diminishing irrevocable bank letter of credit in lieu of  
11 the bond required by this Section on contracts under \$500,000.  
12 Projects selected by the Department of Transportation for this  
13 pilot program must be classified by the Department as low-risk  
14 scope of work contracts. The Department shall adopt rules to  
15 define the criteria for pilot project selection and  
16 implementation of the pilot program.

17 In this Section:

18 "Local governmental unit" has the meaning ascribed to it  
19 in Section 2 of the Local Government Prompt Payment Act.

20 "Material", "labor", "apparatus", "fixtures", and  
21 "machinery" include those rented items that are on the  
22 construction site and those rented tools that are used or  
23 consumed on the construction site in the performance of the  
24 contract on account of which the bond is given.

25 "Retainage" means a portion of money withheld from a  
26 payment, including, but not limited to, a payment as defined

1 in the Local Government Prompt Payment Act or the State Prompt  
2 Payment Act, made to a contractor or subcontractor intended to  
3 ensure that the contractor or subcontractor completes the  
4 requirements of the contract or subcontract. "Retainage" does  
5 not include (i) moneys withheld due to violations of local,  
6 State, or federal laws or (ii) moneys withheld from grants to  
7 entities for capital improvements to non-State property.

8 Nothing in this amendatory Act of the 104th General  
9 Assembly may be construed to modify any provision of the State  
10 Prompt Payment Act or the Local Government Prompt Payment Act.

11 (Source: P.A. 102-968, eff. 1-1-23; 103-570, eff. 1-1-24.)

12 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect June 1,  
13 2027."