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HOUSE BILL 55

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003 INTRODUCED BY

Larry A. Larranaga

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC WORKS; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE NMSA 1978 TO EXEMPT SMALL PUBLIC SCHOOL PROJECTS FROM PREVAILING WAGE RATES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 13-4-11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 35, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"13-4-11. MINIMUM WAGES ON PUBLIC WORKS--WEEKLY PAYMENT--POSTING WAGE SCALE--WITHHOLDING FUNDS. --

A. Every contract or project in excess of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) [to which], except for public school projects budgeted for less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000), that the state or any political subdivision thereof is a party for construction, alteration, demolition or repair [or any combination of these], including painting and

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decorating, of public buildings, public works or public roads of the state and [which requires or] that involves the employment of mechanics, laborers or both shall contain a provision stating the minimum wages to be paid to various classes of laborers and mechanics [which]. The minimum wages shall be [based upon the wages that will be] determined by the director of the labor and industrial division of the labor department [to be] based upon prevailing wages for the corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on contract work of a similar nature in the state or locality [and \underline{A} contract or project shall contain a stipulation that the contractor, subcontractor, employer or any person acting as a contractor shall pay all mechanics and laborers employed on the site of the project unconditionally and not less often than once a week and without subsequent unlawful deduction or rebate The full amounts accrued at time of payment on any account. shall be computed at wage rates not less than those stated in the minimum wage rates issued for the project.

[A.-] B. For the purpose of making wage determinations, the director of the labor and industrial division of the labor department shall conduct a [continuing] program [for the obtaining and compiling of] to continually obtain and compile wage-rate information and shall encourage the voluntary submission of wage-rate data by contractors, contractors' associations, labor organizations, interested

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persons and public officers. Before making a determination of wage rates for any project, [he] the director shall give due regard to [the] this information [thus obtained. Whenever]. The director [deems that the data at hand are insufficient to make a wage determination, he] may have a field survey conducted for the purpose of obtaining sufficient information upon which to make determination of wage rates. Any interested person shall have the right to submit to the director written data, views and arguments why the wage determination should be changed.

[B.] C. The scale of wages to be paid shall be posted by the contractor or person acting as a contractor in a prominent and easily accessible place at the site of the work [and it is further provided that there may be withheld]. The contracting officer may withhold from the contractor, subcontractor, employer or any person acting as a contractor [so] as much of accrued payments [as] that may be considered necessary by the contracting officer to pay to laborers and mechanics [employed on the project] the difference between the rates of wages required by the director of the labor and industrial division—[of the labor department to be paid to laborers and mechanics on the work] and the rates of wages received by such laborers and mechanics and not refunded to the contractor, subcontractor, employer or any person acting as a contractor or their agents.

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[C.] D. The director of the labor and industrial division of the labor department shall have authority to issue rules [and regulations] necessary to [administer and accomplish the purposes] carry out the provisions of the Public Works

Minimum Wage Act."

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