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THIRD READING

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Bill No: SB 1223  
Author: Padilla (D)  
Introduced: 2/19/26  
Vote: 21

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SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 4-0, 4/21/26  
AYES: Caballero, Alvarado-Gil, McNerney, Padilla  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ashby

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

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**SUBJECT:** Fairs: contracting

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This bill would prohibit a fair from issuing any invitation to bid or request for proposal, in connection with the awarding of a contract, for services to any person or entity, in a manner that limits the bidding directly or indirectly to any one bidder. The bill would make any contract awarded in violation of this prohibition void.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Fairs & Expositions (F&E) Branch. The F&E provides fiscal and policy oversight of the network of California fairs. Among other things, the F&E determines the requirements for competitive bidding procedures to provide services for fairs. Existing law states the competitive bidding procedures shall include, but not be limited to:
  - a) Requirements for submission of bids and accompanying documentation
  - b) Guidelines for the use of requests for proposals (RFP), invitations to bid, or other methods of bidding

- c) A bid protest procedure
- 2) Prohibits a state agency from drafting an RFP on a public contract for services to be rendered to the state in a way that directly or indirectly limits bidding to any one bidder and states any contract awarded in violation of this requirement shall be rendered void.

This bill states a fair shall not issue any invitation to bid or request for proposal, in connection with the awarding of a contract, for services to any person or entity, in a manner that limits the bidding directly or indirectly to any one bidder and any contract awarded in violation of this shall be void.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 5/4/26)

None received

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 5/4/26)

None received

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** According to the author:

California's fairs are a tradition that brings communities together each year to celebrate and enjoy local agriculture, food, and entertainment. In order for these fairs to operate, they manage millions of dollars in contracts each year to provide rides, food vendors, and other services. Recent investigations have revealed that competitive bidding requirements do not apply to state fairs. Bids are being written in a way that applies only to a single contractor, opening the door to favoritism and corruption. SB 1223 would prohibit a fair from issuing a request for proposal or invitation to bid that is written in a way that applies only to one party, helping to protect competitive bidding in fair contracts.

Prepared by: Reichel Everhart / AGRI. / (916) 651-1508  
5/5/26 15:55:45

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