

2015 National Defense Authorization Act Benefits Women Owned Small Businesses

OVERVIEW

On December 14, 2014, President Obama signed into law the FY2015 National Defense Authorization Act. Section 825 of the House Amendment S.1847 to the Act gives federal contracting officers more options for contracting actions by giving them authority for Sole Source Contracts for Economically Disadvantaged Small Business concerns Owned and Controlled by Women—the Small Business Act 8(m) program—and in particular, Economically Disadvantaged Woman-Owned Small Businesses (EDWOSB) such as Kegman, Inc.

WHY IS THIS LEGISLATION IMPORTANT?

- Women own or lead more than 25% of U.S. businesses, yet are awarded less than 5% of government contracts.
- The population growth rate of women-entrepreneurs never been greater than today.
- It will help EDWOSBs, like Kegman Inc., increase federal contracting opportunities.
- It will help employ more American workers in American communities.
- It will aid contracting officers in meeting the government's statutory goals for contracts awarded to Woman-Owned Small Businesses.

THE DETAILS

A federal contracting officer may award a sole source contract to an EDWOSB if:

- The business is “responsible” with respect to performance of the contract,
- The contracting officer does not have a reasonable expectation that 2 or more businesses will submit offers,
- The anticipated award price of the contract (including options) will not exceed:
 - \$6.5 million (under a standard manufacturing industrial classification code),
 - \$4.0 million (under all other industrial classification codes), and
- The contracting officer estimates the contract price will be fair and reasonable.

For More Information:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/3979/text>

<https://www.sba.gov/content/president-obama-signs-law-new-authority-increase-opportunities-women-owned-small-businesses>