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(Neb.)-'Buy Nebraska' Proposal Indefinitely Postponed



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 02/25/2013 11:20 AM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - A legislative committee has killed a measure that would have given Nebraska-based companies an edge over out-of-state companies when bidding on state contracts.

The Legislature's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee reported Monday that it has indefinitely postponed the bill.

Supporters argued that the bill would help local businesses that employ Nebraska residents and pay state taxes, but opponents voiced concerns that bidding preferences would increase the cost for taxpayers.

The bill was supported by Blue Cross & Blue Shield, the Nebraska State AFL-CIO, and the Veterans in Business Forum. It was opposed by the Department of Administrative Services, the Department of Roads, and several groups that represent building and general contractors.

The bill was introduced by Sen. Heath Mello.