

Sunday, June 12, 2011

## **Editorial: Don't miss the chance**

### ***Governor, lawmakers should make historic changes to benefit Ohio***

When the Ohio House and Senate have finished harmonizing the differences between their budget bills, the finished product should maintain the governor's \$427 million cut in nursing-home funding and include an effective reform of the rules governing public contracting, as well as a system for rewarding teachers based on merit.

State agencies and local governments, along with universities and school districts, need relief from antiquated rules - no longer in place in any other state - that force public building projects to use a contracting system that invites conflict and delays and inflates costs.

Gov. John Kasich and the House have put forward budget language to that relief, but the Senate is trying to water it down. So-called "multiple prime" contracting, currently required on major public building projects, requires the use of separate, independent contractors for mechanical, heating, electrical and plumbing work, with no single company in charge. That leads to conflict rather than coordination on a large project, which often means waste, delays, duplication and lawsuits. Experts have estimated it can add between 5 and 30 percent to a project's cost. The state spends about \$3 billion a year on construction, so even a 5 percent overage amounts to \$150 million of taxpayers' money wasted.

**Editorial continued here: <http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/editorials/stories/2011/06/12/dont-miss-the-chance.html?sid=101>**

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