

On this day, October 27, in 1972, President Nixon signed into law legislation providing for qualifications-based selection (QBS) of architecture, engineering, (A&E) and related services, including surveying and mapping. It was 50 years ago today the Brooks Act became law.

At the time of its enactment, the Brooks Act was a radical departure from the norm of lowest bid in Federal procurement. It set a precedent that enabled qualitative factors to become commonplace in various contemporary acquisition procedures. In other words, A&E was for past performance and best value before it was cool.

Enacted by Public Law 92-582, the Brooks Act was named for its author, then-Representative Jack Brooks (D-TX). Although agencies had used qualifications am Q ao c



