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HOUSE BILL NO. 1855

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled January 4, 2001

A BILL to amend and reenact § 11-35 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Public Procurement Act; purchases by public school foundations.

 Patron—McQuigg

 Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 11-35 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 11-35. Title; purpose; applicability.

A. This chapter may be cited as the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

B. The purpose of this chapter is to enunciate the public policies pertaining to governmental procurement from nongovernmental sources, to include governmental procurement which may or may not result in monetary consideration for either party. This chapter shall apply whether the consideration is monetary or nonmonetary and regardless of whether the public body, the contractor, or some third party is providing the consideration.

C. The provisions of this chapter, however, shall not apply, except as stipulated in the provisions of §§ 11-41.1, 11-41.2:2 through 11-41.2:5, 11-49, 11-51, 11-54, 11-56 through 11-61 and 11-72 through 11-80, to any town with a population of less than 3,500 as determined by the last official United States census.

D. Except to the extent adopted by such governing body, the provisions of this chapter also shall not apply, except as stipulated in subsection E, to any county, city or town whose governing body adopts by ordinance or resolution alternative policies and procedures which are based on competitive principles and which are generally applicable to procurement of goods and services by such governing body and the agencies thereof. This exemption shall be applicable only so long as such policies and procedures, or other policies and procedures meeting the requirements of this section, remain in effect in such county, city or town. Such policies and standards may provide for incentive contracting which offers a contractor whose bid is accepted the opportunity to share in any cost savings realized by the locality when project costs are reduced by such contractor, without affecting project quality, during construction of the project. The fee, if any, charged by the project engineer or architect for determining such cost savings shall be paid as a separate cost and shall not be calculated as part of any cost savings.

Except to the extent adopted by such school board, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply, except as stipulated in subsection E, to any school division whose school board adopts by policy or regulation alternative policies and procedures which are based on competitive principles and which are generally applicable to procurement of goods and services by such school board. This exemption shall be applicable only so long as such policies and procedures, or other policies or procedures meeting the requirements of this section, remain in effect in such school division. This provision shall not exempt any school division from any centralized purchasing ordinance duly adopted by a local governing body.

E. Notwithstanding the exemptions set forth in subsection D, the provisions of §§ 11-41 C, 11-41.1, 11-41.2:2 through 11-41.2:5, 11-46 B, 11-49, 11-51, 11-54, 11-56 through 11-61 and 11-72 through 11-80 shall apply to all counties, cities and school divisions, and to all towns having a population greater than 3,500 in the Commonwealth. The method for procurement of professional services set forth in subdivision 3 a of § 11-37 in the definition of competitive negotiation shall also apply to all counties, cities and school divisions, and to all towns having a population greater than 3,500, where the cost of the professional service is expected to exceed \$30,000 in the aggregate or for the sum of all phases of a contract or project. A school board that makes purchases through its public school foundation or purchases educational technology through its educational technology foundation, either as may be established pursuant to § 22.1-212.2:2 shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter, except, relative to such purchases, the school board shall comply with the provisions of §§ 11-51 and 11-72 through 11-80; however, a school board that makes purchases through its public school foundation established pursuant § 22.1-212.2:2 shall not be exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

F. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to those contracts entered into prior to January 1, 1983, which shall continue to be governed by the laws in effect at the time those contracts were executed.

G. To the end that public bodies in the Commonwealth obtain high quality goods and services at reasonable cost, that all procurement procedures be conducted in a fair and impartial manner with

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59 avoidance of any impropriety or appearance of impropriety, that all qualified vendors have access to
60 public business and that no offeror be arbitrarily or capriciously excluded, it is the intent of the General
61 Assembly that competition be sought to the maximum feasible degree, that procurement procedures
62 involve openness and administrative efficiency, that individual public bodies enjoy broad flexibility in
63 fashioning details of such competition, that the rules governing contract awards be made clear in
64 advance of the competition, that specifications reflect the procurement needs of the purchasing body
65 rather than being drawn to favor a particular vendor, and that the purchaser and vendor freely exchange
66 information concerning what is sought to be procured and what is offered. Public bodies may consider
67 best value concepts when procuring goods and nonprofessional services, but not construction or
68 professional services. The criteria, factors, and basis for consideration of best value and the process for
69 the consideration of best value shall be as stated in the procurement solicitation.

70 H. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the selection of services by the Virginia
71 Retirement System related to the management, purchase or sale of authorized investments, including but
72 not limited to actuarial services, shall be governed by the standard set forth in § 51.1-124.30 and shall
73 not be subject to the provisions of this chapter.

74 I. The provisions of this chapter shall apply to procurement of any construction or planning and
75 design services for construction by a Virginia not-for-profit corporation or organization not otherwise
76 specifically exempted when the planning, design or construction is funded by state appropriations greater
77 than \$10,000 unless the Virginia not-for-profit corporation or organization is obligated to conform to
78 procurement procedures which are established by federal statutes or regulations, whether or not those
79 federal procedures are in conformance with the provisions of this chapter.

80 J. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to items purchased by public institutions of higher
81 education for resale at retail bookstores and similar retail outlets operated by such institution. However,
82 such purchase procedures shall provide for competition where practicable.

83 K. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the Virginia Port Authority in the exercise of any
84 of its powers in accordance with Chapter 10 (§ 62.1-128 et seq.) of Title 62.1, provided the Authority
85 implements, by policy or regulation adopted by the Board of Commissioners and approved by the
86 Department of General Services, procedures to ensure fairness and competitiveness in the procurement
87 of goods and services and in the administration of its capital outlay program. This exemption shall be
88 applicable only so long as such policies and procedures meeting the requirements remain in effect.

89 L. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the selection of services by the Board of
90 the Virginia College Savings Plan related to the operation and administration of the Plan, including, but
91 not limited to, contracts or agreements for the management, purchase, or sale of authorized investments
92 or actuarial, record-keeping, or consulting services, shall be governed by the standard set forth in
93 § 23-38.80 and shall not be subject to the provisions of this chapter.

94 M. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the selection of services by the University of
95 Virginia related to the management and investment of its endowment funds shall be governed by the
96 Uniform Management of Institutional Funds Act (§ 55-268.1 et seq.) as required by § 23-76.1 and shall
97 not be subject to the provisions of this chapter.

98 N. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the selection of investment management services
99 by the State Treasurer related to the external management of funds shall be governed by the standard set
100 forth in § 2.1-328.14, and shall be subject to competitive guidelines and policies that are set by the
101 Commonwealth Treasury Board and approved by the Department of General Services; and not be
102 subject to the provisions of this chapter.