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HOUSE BILL NO. 1360

Offered January 22, 2004

A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-2012 of the Code of Virginia, relating to accessibility standards for information technology and telecommunications procurements.

Patron—Nixon

Referred to Committee on Science and Technology

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 2.2-2012 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 2.2-2012. Procurement of information technology and telecommunications goods and services; computer equipment to be based on performance-based specifications.

A. Information technology and telecommunications goods and services of every description shall be procured by (i) VITA for its own benefit or on behalf of other state agencies and institutions or (ii) such other agencies or institutions to the extent authorized by VITA. Such procurements shall be made in accordance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act (§ 2.2-4300 et seq.), *the electronic and information technology accessibility standards of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794d)*, and regulations as may be prescribed by VITA.

The CIO shall disapprove any procurement that does not conform to the statewide information technology plan or to the individual plans of state agencies or public institutions of higher education.

B. All statewide contracts and agreements made and entered into by VITA for the purchase of communications services, telecommunications facilities, and information technology goods and services shall provide for the inclusion of counties, cities, and towns in such contracts and agreements. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 2.2-4301, VITA may enter into multiple vendor contracts for the referenced services, facilities, and goods and services.

B1. The Department may establish contracts for the purchase of personal computers and related devices by public school teachers for use outside the classroom. The computers and related devices shall not be purchased with public funds, but shall be paid for and owned by teachers individually provided that no more than one such computer and related device per year shall be so purchased.

C. If VITA, or any agency or institution authorized by VITA, elects to procure personal computers and related peripheral equipment pursuant to any type of blanket purchasing arrangement under which public bodies, as defined in § 2.2-4301, may purchase such goods from any vendor following competitive procurement but without the conduct of an individual procurement by or for the using agency or institution, it shall establish performance-based specifications for the selection of equipment. Establishment of such contracts shall emphasize performance criteria including price, quality, and delivery without regard to "brand name." All vendors meeting the Commonwealth's performance requirements shall be afforded the opportunity to compete for such contracts.

D. This section shall not be construed or applied so as to infringe upon, in any manner, the responsibilities for accounting systems assigned to the Comptroller under § 2.2-803.

INTRODUCED

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