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**SENATE BILL NO. 712**

Offered January 22, 2010

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-4343 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 23-91.29:1, relating to the branch campus of George Mason University in the Republic of Korea.*

Patrons—Petersen; Delegate: Keam

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 2.2-4343 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 23-91.29:1 as follows:**

§ 2.2-4343. Exemption from operation of chapter for certain transactions.

A. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

1. The Virginia Port Authority in the exercise of any of its powers in accordance with Chapter 10 (§ 62.1-128 et seq.) of Title 62.1, provided the Authority implements, by policy or regulation adopted by the Board of Commissioners and approved by the Department of General Services, procedures to ensure fairness and competitiveness in the procurement of goods and services and in the administration of its capital outlay program. This exemption shall be applicable only so long as such policies and procedures meeting the requirements remain in effect.

2. The Virginia Retirement System for selection of services related to the management, purchase or sale of authorized investments, actuarial services, and disability determination services. Selection of these services shall be governed by the standard set forth in § 51.1-124.30.

3. The State Treasurer in the selection of investment management services related to the external management of funds shall be governed by the standard set forth in § 2.2-4514, and shall be subject to competitive guidelines and policies that are set by the Commonwealth Treasury Board and approved by the Department of General Services.

4. The Department of Social Services or local departments of social services for the acquisition of motor vehicles for sale or transfer to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients.

5. The College of William and Mary in Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Virginia, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in the selection of services related to the management and investment of their endowment funds, endowment income, gifts, all other nongeneral fund reserves and balances, or local funds of or held by the College or Universities pursuant to § 23-44.1, 23-50.10:01, 23-76.1, or 23-122.1. However, selection of these services shall be governed by the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (§ 55-268.11 et seq.) as required by §§ 23-44.1, 23-50.10:01, 23-76.1, and 23-122.1.

6. The Board of the Virginia College Savings Plan for the selection of services related to the operation and administration of the Plan, including, but not limited to, contracts or agreements for the management, purchase, or sale of authorized investments or actuarial, record keeping, or consulting services. However, such selection shall be governed by the standard set forth in § 23-38.80.

7. Public institutions of higher education for the purchase of items for resale at retail bookstores and similar retail outlets operated by such institutions. However, such purchase procedures shall provide for competition where practicable.

8. The purchase of goods and services by agencies of the legislative branch that may be specifically exempted therefrom by the Chairman of the Committee on Rules of either the House of Delegates or the Senate. Nor shall the contract review provisions of § 2.2-2011 apply to such procurements. The exemption shall be in writing and kept on file with the agency's disbursement records.

9. Any town with a population of less than 3,500, except as stipulated in the provisions of §§ 2.2-4305, 2.2-4308, 2.2-4311, 2.2-4315, 2.2-4330, 2.2-4333 through 2.2-4338, 2.2-4343.1, and 2.2-4367 through 2.2-4377.

10. Any county, city or town whose governing body has adopted, by ordinance or resolution, alternative policies and procedures which are (i) based on competitive principles and (ii) generally applicable to procurement of goods and services by such governing body and its agencies, except as stipulated in subdivision 12.

This exemption shall be applicable only so long as such policies and procedures, or other policies and procedures meeting the requirements of § 2.2-4300, remain in effect in such county, city or town. Such policies and standards may provide for incentive contracting that offers a contractor whose bid is accepted the opportunity to share in any cost savings realized by the locality when project costs are

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59 reduced by such contractor, without affecting project quality, during construction of the project. The fee,  
60 if any, charged by the project engineer or architect for determining such cost savings shall be paid as a  
61 separate cost and shall not be calculated as part of any cost savings.

62 11. Any school division whose school board has adopted, by policy or regulation, alternative policies  
63 and procedures that are (i) based on competitive principles and (ii) generally applicable to procurement  
64 of goods and services by the school board, except as stipulated in subdivision 12.

65 This exemption shall be applicable only so long as such policies and procedures, or other policies or  
66 procedures meeting the requirements of § 2.2-4300, remain in effect in such school division. This  
67 provision shall not exempt any school division from any centralized purchasing ordinance duly adopted  
68 by a local governing body.

69 12. Notwithstanding the exemptions set forth in subdivisions 9 through 11, the provisions of  
70 subsections C and D of § 2.2-4303, and §§ 2.2-4305, 2.2-4308, 2.2-4311, 2.2-4315, 2.2-4317, 2.2-4330,  
71 2.2-4333 through 2.2-4338, 2.2-4343.1, and 2.2-4367 through 2.2-4377 shall apply to all counties, cities  
72 and school divisions, and to all towns having a population greater than 3,500 in the Commonwealth.

73 The method for procurement of professional services set forth in subdivision 3 a of § 2.2-4301 in the  
74 definition of competitive negotiation shall also apply to all counties, cities and school divisions, and to  
75 all towns having a population greater than 3,500, where the cost of the professional service is expected  
76 to exceed \$30,000 in the aggregate or for the sum of all phases of a contract or project. A school board  
77 that makes purchases through its public school foundation or purchases educational technology through  
78 its educational technology foundation, either as may be established pursuant to § 22.1-212.2:2 shall be  
79 exempt from the provisions of this chapter, except, relative to such purchases, the school board shall  
80 comply with the provisions of §§ 2.2-4311 and 2.2-4367 through 2.2-4377.

81 13. A public body that is also a utility operator may purchase services through or participate in  
82 contracts awarded by one or more utility operators that are not public bodies for utility marking services  
83 as required by the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act (§ 56-265.14 et seq.). A purchase of  
84 services under this subdivision may deviate from the procurement procedures set forth in this chapter  
85 upon a determination made in advance by the public body and set forth in writing that competitive  
86 sealed bidding is either not practicable or not fiscally advantageous to the public, and the contract is  
87 awarded based on competitive principles.

88 14. Procurement of any construction or planning and design services for construction by a Virginia  
89 nonprofit corporation or organization not otherwise specifically exempted when (i) the planning, design  
90 or construction is funded by state appropriations of \$10,000 or less or (ii) the Virginia nonprofit  
91 corporation or organization is obligated to conform to procurement procedures that are established by  
92 federal statutes or regulations, whether those federal procedures are in conformance with the provisions  
93 of this chapter.

94 15. Purchases, exchanges, gifts or sales by the Citizens' Advisory Council on Furnishing and  
95 Interpreting the Executive Mansion.

96 16. The Eastern Virginia Medical School in the selection of services related to the management and  
97 investment of its endowment and other institutional funds. The selection of these services shall, however,  
98 be governed by the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (§ 55-268.11 et seq.).

99 17. The Department of Corrections in the selection of pre-release and post-incarceration services.

100 18. The Board of the Chippokes Plantation Farm Foundation in entering into agreements with  
101 persons for the construction, operation, and maintenance of projects consistent with the Chippokes  
102 Plantation State Park Master Plan approved by the Director of the Department of Conservation and  
103 Recreation pursuant to the requirements of § 10.1-200.1 and designed to further an appreciation for rural  
104 living and the contributions of the agricultural, forestry, and natural resource based industries of the  
105 Commonwealth, provided such projects are supported solely by private or nonstate funding.

106 19. The University of Virginia Medical Center to the extent provided by subdivision B 3 of  
107 § 23-77.4.

108 20. The purchase of goods and services by a local governing body or any authority, board,  
109 department, instrumentality, institution, agency or other unit of state government when such purchases  
110 are made under a remedial plan established by the Governor pursuant to subsection C of § 2.2-4310 or  
111 by a chief administrative officer of a county, city or town pursuant to § 15.2-965.1.

112 21. The contract by community services boards or behavioral health authorities with an administrator  
113 or management body pursuant to a joint agreement authorized by § 37.2-512 or 37.2-615.

114 22. *Procurement of any construction or planning and design services and contracts with or assigned*  
115 *to George Mason University by the corporation or other legal entity created by the board of visitors of*  
116 *George Mason University for the establishment, operation, and governance of the branch campus of*  
117 *George Mason University in the Republic of Korea, pursuant to § 23-91.29:1.*

118 B. Where a procurement transaction involves the expenditure of federal assistance or contract funds,  
119 the receipt of which is conditioned upon compliance with mandatory requirements in federal laws or  
120 regulations not in conformance with the provisions of this chapter, a public body may comply with such

federal requirements, notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, only upon the written determination of the Governor, in the case of state agencies, or the governing body, in the case of political subdivisions, that acceptance of the grant or contract funds under the applicable conditions is in the public interest. Such determination shall state the specific provision of this chapter in conflict with the conditions of the grant or contract.

§ 23-91.29:1. *Establishment of branch campus in the Republic of Korea.*

*In recognition that global educational opportunities benefit the intellectual and economic interests of the Commonwealth, the board of visitors of George Mason University is authorized to establish, operate, and govern a branch campus of George Mason University in the Republic of Korea. The board of visitors shall have the same powers with respect to operation and governance of its branch campus in Korea as are vested in the board by the Code of Virginia with respect to George Mason University in Virginia, including, but not limited to, fixing of fees and charges, the establishment of academic standards, and the conferral of degrees. This authority shall also include the creation of a corporation or other legal entity controlled by George Mason University to establish, operate, and govern a branch campus in the Republic of Korea; however, no such corporation or other legal entity shall be deemed a state or governmental agency, advisory agency, public body or agency, or other instrumentality. Further, no director, officer, or employee of any such corporation or other legal entity shall be deemed an officer or employee of the Commonwealth for any purpose. In operating the branch campus, the board of visitors shall provide for appropriate professional opportunities for Virginia-based faculty to teach or conduct research on the campus and educational opportunities for Virginia-based students to study or conduct research on the Republic of Korea campus.*

*Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the Commonwealth or of George Mason University.*

*In its operation of any branch campus established in the Republic of Korea, the board of visitors and its employees and the corporation or other legal entity to which the establishment, operation, and governance of the branch campus has been delegated shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex and shall not abridge the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and religion. Any agreement the board of visitors enters to establish, operate, or govern the branch campus in the Republic of Korea shall contain contractual assurances to the board that the branch campus shall operate without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex and without abridging the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and religion.*

**2. That the corporation or other legal entity that may be created by the board of visitors of George Mason University to establish, operate, and govern the branch campus of George Mason University in the Republic of Korea shall be deemed a sole source provider pursuant to the Virginia Public Procurement Act (§ 2.2-4300 et seq. of the Code of Virginia) for the purpose of implementing the provisions of § 23-91.29:1 of the Code of Virginia and for any contracts with or assigned to George Mason University.**

**3. That this act shall expire on July 1, 2012, if a corporation or other legal entity is not created by George Mason University pursuant to § 23-91.29:1 of the Code of Virginia.**