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HOUSE BILL NO. 1703

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 12, 2015

A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-4303 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Public Procurement Act; small purchase procedure for construction.

Patron—Morefield

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 2.2-4303 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 2.2-4303. Methods of procurement.**

A. All public contracts with nongovernmental contractors for the purchase or lease of goods, or for the purchase of services, insurance, or construction, shall be awarded after competitive sealed bidding, or competitive negotiation as provided in this section, unless otherwise authorized by law.

B. Professional services shall be procured by competitive negotiation.

C. Upon a determination made in advance by the public body and set forth in writing that competitive sealed bidding is either not practicable or not fiscally advantageous to the public, goods, services, or insurance may be procured by competitive negotiation. The writing shall document the basis for this determination.

Upon a written determination made in advance by (i) the Governor or his designee in the case of a procurement by the Commonwealth or by a department, agency or institution thereof or (ii) the local governing body in the case of a procurement by a political subdivision of the Commonwealth, that competitive negotiation is either not practicable or not fiscally advantageous, insurance may be procured through a licensed agent or broker selected in the manner provided for the procurement of things other than professional services set forth in § 2.2-4302.2. The basis for this determination shall be documented in writing.

D. Construction may be procured only by competitive sealed bidding, except that competitive negotiation may be used in the following instances upon a determination made in advance by the public body and set forth in writing that competitive sealed bidding is either not practicable or not fiscally advantageous to the public, which writing shall document the basis for this determination:

1. By the Commonwealth, its departments, agencies and institutions on a fixed price design-build basis or construction management basis under § 2.2-4306;

2. By any public body for the construction of highways and any draining, dredging, excavation, grading or similar work upon real property;

3. By any governing body of a locality with a population in excess of 100,000, provided that the locality has the personnel, procedures, and expertise to enter into a contract for construction on a fixed price or not-to-exceed price design-build or construction management basis and shall otherwise be in compliance with the provisions of this section, § 2.2-4308, and other applicable law governing design-build or construction management contracts for public bodies other than the Commonwealth. The procedures of the local governing body shall be consistent with the two-step competitive negotiation process established in § 2.2-4302.2; or

4. As otherwise provided in § 2.2-4308.

E. Upon a determination in writing that there is only one source practicably available for that which is to be procured, a contract may be negotiated and awarded to that source without competitive sealed bidding or competitive negotiation. The writing shall document the basis for this determination. The public body shall issue a written notice stating that only one source was determined to be practicably available, and identifying that which is being procured, the contractor selected, and the date on which the contract was or will be awarded. This notice shall be posted on the Department of General Services' central electronic procurement website or other appropriate websites, and in addition, public bodies may publish in a newspaper of general circulation on the day the public body awards or announces its decision to award the contract, whichever occurs first. Posting on the Department of General Services' central electronic procurement website shall be required of any state public body. Local public bodies are encouraged to utilize the Department of General Services' central electronic procurement website to provide the public with centralized visibility and access to the Commonwealth's procurement opportunities.

F. In case of emergency, a contract may be awarded without competitive sealed bidding or competitive negotiation; however, such procurement shall be made with such competition as is

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59 practicable under the circumstances. A written determination of the basis for the emergency and for the
60 selection of the particular contractor shall be included in the contract file. The public body shall issue a
61 written notice stating that the contract is being awarded on an emergency basis, and identifying that
62 which is being procured, the contractor selected, and the date on which the contract was or will be
63 awarded. This notice shall be posted on the Department of General Services' central electronic
64 procurement website or other appropriate websites, and in addition, public bodies may publish in a
65 newspaper of general circulation on the day the public body awards or announces its decision to award
66 the contract, whichever occurs first, or as soon thereafter as is practicable. Posting on the Department of
67 General Services' central electronic procurement website shall be required of any state public body.
68 Local public bodies are encouraged to utilize the Department of General Services' central electronic
69 procurement website to provide the public with centralized visibility and access to the Commonwealth's
70 procurement opportunities.

71 G. A public body may establish purchase procedures, if adopted in writing, not requiring competitive
72 sealed bids or competitive negotiation for single or term contracts for (i) goods and services other than
73 professional services and (ii) construction if the aggregate of clause (i) or the sum of all phases of
74 clause (ii) is not expected to exceed \$100,000; however, such small purchase procedures shall provide
75 for competition wherever practicable. For local public bodies, such purchase procedures may allow for
76 single or term contracts for professional services without requiring competitive negotiation, provided the
77 aggregate or the sum of all phases is not expected to exceed \$60,000. *Where small purchase procedures
78 are adopted for construction, the procedures shall not waive compliance with the Uniform Statewide
79 Building Code.*

80 For state public bodies, purchases under this subsection that are expected to exceed \$30,000 shall
81 require the ~~(i)~~ (a) written informal solicitation of a minimum of four bidders or offerors and ~~(ii)~~ (b)
82 posting of a public notice on the Department of General Services' central electronic procurement website
83 or other appropriate websites. Posting on the Department of General Services' central electronic
84 procurement website shall be required of any state public body. Local public bodies are encouraged to
85 utilize the Department of General Services' central electronic procurement website to provide the public
86 with centralized visibility and access to the Commonwealth's procurement opportunities.

87 H. A state public body may establish purchase procedures, if adopted in writing, not requiring
88 competitive negotiation for single or term contracts for professional services if the aggregate or the sum
89 of all phases is not expected to exceed \$50,000; however such small purchase procedures shall provide
90 for competition wherever practicable.

91 I. Upon a determination made in advance by a public body and set forth in writing that the purchase
92 of goods, products or commodities from a public auction sale is in the best interests of the public, such
93 items may be purchased at the auction, including online public auctions. Purchase of information
94 technology and telecommunications goods and nonprofessional services from a public auction sale shall
95 be permitted by any authority, department, agency, or institution of the Commonwealth if approved by
96 the Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth. The writing shall document the basis for this
97 determination. However, bulk purchases of commodities used in road and highway construction and
98 maintenance, and aggregates shall not be made by online public auctions.

99 J. The purchase of goods or nonprofessional services, but not construction or professional services,
100 may be made by reverse auctioning. However, bulk purchases of commodities used in road and highway
101 construction and maintenance, and aggregates shall not be made by reverse auctioning.