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HOUSE BILL NO. 97

Offered January 10, 2018

Prefiled December 13, 2017

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-4303 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Public Procurement Act; methods of procurement; single or term contracts for professional services.*

Patrons—Bell, John J., Peace, Boysko and Lopez

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. Goods, services other than professional services, and insurance may be procured by competitive sealed bidding or competitive negotiation.

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:

1. By any public body on a fixed price design-build basis or construction management basis as provided in Chapter 43.1 (§ 2.2-4378 et seq.); or

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

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 practicable under the circumstances. A written determination of the basis for the emergency and for the selection of the particular contractor shall be included in the contract file. The public body shall issue a written notice stating that the contract is being awarded on an emergency basis, 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, or as soon thereafter as is practicable. 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

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59 procurement website to provide the public with centralized visibility and access to the Commonwealth's
60 procurement opportunities.

61 G. A public body may establish purchase procedures, if adopted in writing, not requiring competitive
62 sealed bids or competitive negotiation for single or term contracts for:

63 1. Goods and services other than professional services and non-transportation-related construction, if
64 the aggregate or the sum of all phases is not expected to exceed \$100,000; and

65 2. Transportation-related construction, if the aggregate or sum of all phases is not expected to exceed
66 \$25,000.

67 However, such small purchase procedures shall provide for competition wherever practicable.

68 Such purchase procedures may allow for single or term contracts for professional services without
69 requiring competitive negotiation, provided the aggregate or the sum of all phases is not expected to
70 exceed ~~\$60,000~~ \$100,000.

71 Where small purchase procedures are adopted for construction, the procedures shall not waive
72 compliance with the Uniform State Building Code.

73 For state public bodies, purchases under this subsection that are expected to exceed \$30,000 shall
74 require the (a) written informal solicitation of a minimum of four bidders or offerors and (b) posting of
75 a public notice on the Department of General Services' central electronic procurement website or other
76 appropriate websites. Posting on the Department of General Services' central electronic procurement
77 website shall be required of any state public body. Local public bodies are encouraged to utilize the
78 Department of General Services' central electronic procurement website to provide the public with
79 centralized visibility and access to the Commonwealth's procurement opportunities.

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

88 I. The purchase of goods or nonprofessional services, but not construction or professional services,
89 may be made by reverse auctioning. However, bulk purchases of commodities used in road and highway
90 construction and maintenance, and aggregates shall not be made by reverse auctioning.