

## Chapter 685

**(House Bill 839)**

AN ACT concerning

**Carroll County – Contracts and Purchasing**

FOR the purpose of increasing to a certain amount the cost of a public work or improvement or the purchase price of supplies or equipment for which the County Commissioners of Carroll County may enter into a contract; requiring that when the cost of a public work or improvement or the purchase price of supplies or equipment in Carroll County exceeds a certain amount under certain conditions, the ~~Chief of the Bureau of Purchasing~~ Procurement Officer for the County Commissioner shall advertise for bids for a certain amount of time in a media accessible to the general public; and generally relating to contracts and purchases in Carroll County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 The Public Local Laws of Carroll County  
 Section 3–401  
 Article 7 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
 (2014 Edition and January 2023 Supplement, as amended)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article 7 – Carroll County**

3–401.

(a) In contracting for any necessary public work or improvement or for the purchase of supplies and equipment needed at any time by the several departments of the County, the County Commissioners of Carroll County may enter into contracts for public work or improvement and may purchase supplies and equipment on an order passed by the County Commissioners provided that the cost of the public work or improvement or the purchase price of the supplies and equipment does not exceed ~~[\$25,000.00]~~ **\$50,000.00**.

(b) When the cost of any project for public work or improvement, or the purchase price of any supplies and equipment exceeds ~~[\$25,000.00]~~ **\$50,000.00**, except in emergencies or when there is a sole source of supply, the ~~Chief of the Bureau of Purchasing~~ **PROCUREMENT OFFICER** for the County Commissioner shall provide public notice for at least one week in a media accessible to the general public including, but not limited to a newspaper circulated in Carroll County and an internet web site, for bids to perform the public work or improvement or to furnish the supplies and equipment. The public notice shall state the date, time and place of opening of the bids.

(c) The bids shall be opened in the presence of an employee designated by the County Commissioners of Carroll County.

(d) The County Commissioners of Carroll County shall award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder whose bid is considered reasonable, or in their discretion, may reject any and all bids.

(e) The County Commissioners may authorize nonprofit entities that are funded by the County or eligible to receive county funds, to participate in county procurement contracts.

(f) The County Commissioners may authorize the ~~Chief of the Bureau of Purchasing~~ **PROCUREMENT OFFICER** to participate in cooperative or piggyback purchasing with other governmental agencies or associations, provided the public notice for the bid is in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the soliciting agency or association.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

**Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.**