

SENATE BILL 480

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2002 Regular Session  
2lr0506  
CF 2lr0848

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By: **Senators Van Hollen, Currie, Middleton, Munson, and Neall**  
Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002  
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **School Buying Consortium - County Boards of Education - Procurement -**  
3 **Exceptions**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a county board to participate in certain contracts for  
5 goods or commodities; authorizing the advertisement of bids for certain  
6 procurements in certain media; authorizing nonpublic schools to participate in  
7 certain contracts for goods or commodities; and requiring the Department of  
8 Education to establish a process that allows access to certain information.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article - Education  
11 Section 5-112  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2001 Replacement Volume)

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

16 **Article - Education**

17 5-112.

18 (a) This section does not apply to:

19 (1) Contracts for the purchase of books and other materials of instruction  
20 as defined in the State Department of Education Financial Reporting Manual; [and]

21 (2) Emergency repairs; AND

22 (3) A COUNTY BOARD'S PARTICIPATION IN CONTRACTS FOR GOODS OR  
23 COMMODITIES THAT ARE AWARDED BY OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES OR BY  
24 INTERGOVERNMENTAL PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS IF THE LEAD AGENCY FOR  
25 THE CONTRACT FOLLOWS PUBLIC BIDDING PROCEDURES.

26 (b) (1) If the cost of any school building, improvement, supplies, or  
27 equipment is more than \$15,000, the county board, at least 2 weeks before bids are to

1 be filed, shall advertise for bids in [at least one newspaper of general circulation in  
2 the county] A MEDIUM ACCESSIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, WHICH INCLUDES:

3 (I) A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN THE REGION;

4 (II) THE MARYLAND CONTRACT WEEKLY OR COMPARABLE STATE  
5 PUBLICATION; OR

6 (III) AN ELECTRONIC POSTING ON A BID BOARD AND PHYSICAL  
7 POSTING ON THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM BID BOARD.

8 (2) (i) The county board shall draft specifications that provide a clear  
9 and accurate description of the functional characteristics or the nature of an item to  
10 be procured, without modifying the county board's requirements.

11 (ii) The specifications may:

12 1. Include a statement of any of the county board's  
13 requirements; and

14 2. Provide for the submission of samples, inspection, or  
15 testing of the item before procurement.

16 (3) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this subsection,  
17 specifications that use one or more manufacturer's product to describe the standard of  
18 quality, performance, or other characteristics needed to meet the county board's  
19 requirements, must allow for the submission of equivalent products.

20 (ii) Subparagraph (i) of this paragraph does not apply if the county  
21 board determines in the written specification that:

22 1. A particular manufacturer's product is required to  
23 maintain compatibility of service or equipment;

24 2. A particular manufacturer's product is required to meet  
25 the health needs of students;

26 3. Replacement parts or maintenance are a paramount  
27 consideration; or

28 4. A product is purchased for resale.

29 (c) (1) A contract for the school building, improvements, supplies, or other  
30 equipment shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder who conforms to  
31 specifications with consideration given to:

32 (i) The quantities involved;

33 (ii) The time required for delivery;

34 (iii) The purpose for which required;

- 1 (iv) The competency and responsibility of the bidder;
- 2 (v) The ability of the bidder to perform satisfactory service; and
- 3 (vi) The plan for utilization of minority contractors.

4 (2) The county board may reject any and all bids and readvertise for  
5 other bids.

6 (d) (1) In this subsection, the term "minority business enterprise" has the  
7 meaning stated in § 14-301 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

8 (2) In Montgomery County, by resolution and by implementing  
9 regulations, the Montgomery County Board of Education shall establish a minority  
10 business utilization program to facilitate the participation of responsible certified  
11 minority business enterprises in contracts awarded by the Montgomery County Board  
12 of Education in accordance with competitive bidding procedures.

13 (E) NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS MAY PARTICIPATE UNDER ANY CONTRACTS FOR  
14 GOODS OR COMMODITIES THAT ARE AWARDED BY COUNTY BOARDS, OTHER PUBLIC  
15 AGENCIES, OR INTERGOVERNMENTAL PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS, IF THE LEAD  
16 AGENCY FOR THE CONTRACT AWARD FOLLOWS PUBLIC BIDDING PROCEDURES.

17 [(e)] (F) A contract entered into or purchase made in violation of this section  
18 is void.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department shall  
20 establish a process, which may include a website, that provides access to information  
21 about contracts for goods or commodities held by public agencies or  
22 intergovernmental purchasing organizations.

23 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
24 effect October 1, 2002.