

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 770

(Washington County Delegation)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Washington County - Purchasing Goods and Services - Public Bidding

This bill increases the authority of the county commissioners or any employee of Washington County to enter into a contract of sale or purchase or for any county work, project, or other expenditure without advertising for bids.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Increasing the authority of the Washington County Commissioners and county employees to award contracts without competitive bidding would provide the benefit of increased operational flexibility; however, this may result in contracts being awarded at a higher cost.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill increases, from \$25,000 to \$50,000, the amount at which the procurement of goods and services by the Washington County Commissioners or a county employee would require a competitive bidding process. In addition, the county commissioners or a county employee are authorized to enter into a contract without first advertising for bids, regardless of the value, if a contract is for an indeterminate amount of goods or services procured on an as-needed basis over a period of time.

The bill also authorizes the county commissioners to award a contract on the basis of the qualifications, resources, and experience of the bidder, regardless of whether the bidder is the lowest bidder, if the contract or purchase or other expenditure is for the procurement of professional or technical services, including architectural, design engineering, legal, medical, technological, or technical services.

Current Law: The Washington County Commissioners or a county employee may not enter into any contract of sale or purchase or any contract for any county work, project, or other expenditure to which the county is a party if the amount of the contract exceeds \$25,000 without advertising for bids at least one week before the bid by publication in at least one newspaper that is published in the county or through electronic media. A contract of purchase or other expenditure must be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder who submits a responsive bid.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2008
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