

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 510 (Baltimore County Delegation)
Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore County Revenue Authority - Purchases - Competitive Bidding

This bill requires the Baltimore County Revenue Authority to use a specified competitive bidding process to purchase commodities and services by formal, written contract from a specified bidder after public notice inviting proposals when the estimated cost of specified commodities and services exceeds \$25,000. The bill prohibits the division of a contract or purchase into smaller parts to avoid the competitive bidding requirements.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore County finances are not directly affected. However, the bill may negatively affect the purchasing ability of the county revenue authority which is an independent corporation. The extent to which this may occur cannot be reliably estimated.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In Baltimore County, when the estimated cost of commodities and services to be purchased by the county is more than \$25,000, the county must purchase the commodities and services by formal, written contract from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder as determined by the county purchasing agent, after public notice inviting proposals.

Background: The Baltimore County Revenue Authority was created by the General Assembly in 1955. The authority constructs, improves, equips, furnishes, maintains, acquires, and operates a wide variety of projects devoted wholly or partially for public uses. The authority is an independent corporation governed by five members appointed by the county executive for five-year terms, with the advice and consent of the county council.

The Baltimore County Revenue Authority operates golf courses, various parking facilities (street meters, surface lots, and parking garages), and a sportsplex in the county from which it generates approximately \$14.4 million in revenue each year.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2012
ncs/hlb

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