

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 639

(Senator McKay)

Budget and Taxation

Garrett County - Bids and Contracts - Advertisement Exceptions

This bill exempts specified indeterminate amount contracts and vehicle purchases by Garrett County from an existing requirement to advertise for bids if a contract exceeds \$50,000. Specifically, it authorizes the Garrett County Commissioners, or any employee of Garrett County, to enter into a purchase or work project contract for an indeterminate amount of goods or services procured on an as-needed basis over a period of time without advertising for bids, regardless of contract value. It also allows the County Commissioners, or any employee of Garrett County, to enter into a contract for the purchase of one or more vehicles for up to \$100,000 without advertising for bids.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill pertains only to Garrett County.

Local Effect: The bill may result in cost savings from reduced advertising requirements and improved operational efficiency, but any such effects are expected to be minimal.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Garrett County Commissioners and employees cannot enter into a contract of sale or purchase of more than \$50,000 without advertising for bids in one or more newspapers circulated in the county, with the exception of professional services required to be licensed in the State and used personal property that meets specified appraisal standards. Professional services that are required under State law to be licensed can be solicited by written bids. The advertisement for bids must appear in a newspaper at

least one week prior to the date on which bids for a contract are due. Any contract of sale must be awarded to the highest responsible bidder, and any contract of purchase must be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. However, the county commissioners maintain the right to reject any and all bids. These provisions do not apply to necessary repairs made in case of emergency, and any contract entered into in violation of these provisions is considered null and void. If any of the county commissioners violates any of these provisions, they are liable to indictment, and, upon conviction, must forfeit their office.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 1334 (Delegate Hinebaugh) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Garrett County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2025
km/mcr

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