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House Chair, Veterans Caucus  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony for HB 1214**  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Good afternoon Chairman, Madam Vice – Chair, and esteemed members of the committee. I am Delegate C.T. Wilson and it's a privilege to be here to present:

**House Bill 1214 - Procurement – Transparency and Application to County Contracts**

**Bill Overview:**

Altering the definition of “unit” for the purposes of applying certain provisions of law governing procurement to certain county procurement contracts using State funds or for the benefit of the State; requiring certain invitations for bids and requests for proposals to include certain instructions; altering the period of time within which a unit is required to publish a certain notice of award in a competitive sealed bid or sole source procurement in EMaryland Marketplace; etc.

**Bill Outline:**

1. Whenever procurement is based on competitive sealed bids, a procurement officer shall seek bids by issuing an invitation for bids.
2. Whenever a procurement officer determines that an initial preparation of specifications for price bids is impracticable, the invitation for bids may include a request for unpriced technical offers or samples; and direct bidders to submit price bids:
3. A unit shall consider the prices submitted by bidders whose technical offers or samples have been found acceptable.
4. Price bids may not be opened until after the unit has completed evaluation of the technical offers or samples
5. A unit shall give public notice of an invitation for bids before bid opening in accordance with this subsection
6. A procurement officer shall open bids in public at the time and place designated in the invitation for bids; and announce, record, and post.
7. After obtaining any approval required by law, the procurement officer shall award the procurement contract to the responsible bidder who submits the responsive bid that: is the lowest bid price; if the invitation for bids so provides, is the lowest evaluated bid price; or if it is most favorable to the State.

8. Not more than 15 days after the execution and approval of a procurement contract in excess of \$50,000 awarded under this section, or a lower amount set by the Board by regulation
9. An unsuccessful bidder may request a debrief within 3 days after receiving notice of contract award
10. If a procurement officer decides to conduct a pre-bid conference to explain the requirements of a procurement that is expected to exceed \$100,000, as soon as practicable after the conference concludes, the procurement officer shall have written minutes of the conference prepared.
11. A member of office staff shall be assigned to each unit that is authorized by law to enter into a procurement contract

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, this bill aims to alter the definition of “unit” solely for the purpose of applying certain provisions using State funds or contracts. This requires proposals and bids to be established in a certain manner along with delivery of notices to unsuccessful bidders. Certain documents and minutes must be published in eMaryland Marketplace. A member of the office shall be assigned to certain procurement units to ensure certain goals are being met.

**Thank you** for your time and I request a favorable report for **HB 1214**. I am open to any questions or concerns that you may have regarding this bill.