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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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**BILL:** **Senate Bill 157**  
Procurement – Specialized Printing Services Contracts – Board of Public Works Approval

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

**DATE:** February 3, 2021

**POSITION:** Letter of Information

Upon review of Senate Bill 157 – Procurement – Specialized Printing Services Contracts – Board of Public Works Approval, the Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments for your consideration.

Senate Bill 157 establishes a new category of “Specialized Printing Services” within State Finance and Procurement Article, § 11-101 and prohibits the Board of Public Works (BPW) from delegating procurement of Specialized Printing Services. Senate Bill 157 also lists Specialized Printing Services as services rather than commodities. Under current law, printing services are defined as commodities. The changes under Senate Bill 157 would have the following impacts:

- As noted above, Senate Bill 157 prohibits BPW to delegate the approval of procurements for Specialized Printing Services and would categorize Specialized Printing Services as services. These changes would require DGS to control and directly oversee these procurements. **There would be a significant increase in the workload within the Office of State Procurement (OSP) requiring additional procurement officers as well as additional staff to manage BPW agenda preparation.**
- Under Senate Bill 157, “Specialized Printing Services” include ballots and documents containing personally identifiable information (PII). This would require an extensive effort by DGS to identify printing contracts containing PII. **The number of contracts containing PII is unknown, but likely includes contracts procured by most state agencies using delegated authority.**
- Many of these contracts may be **under \$50,000** which is within current agency delegated authority or **under \$200,000** which is within BPW’s delegated authority to DGS for preferred provided providers. Also, many of these printing contracts are **one-time only purchases**. Therefore, retaining BPW’s ability to delegate authority to agencies may be the more sensible approach.



- **Senate Bill 157 may negatively affect the time to award Specialized Printing Services.** BPW meetings are held every two weeks so the cycle time for completing procurements would be extended based upon when the contract award could be presented to BPW for approval. The workload and cycle time for the additional reviews and approval of these contracts would impact OSP and using agencies both operationally and fiscally.
- **Senate Bill 157 may negatively affect small businesses.** Most printing contracts are small procurements designated as “Small Business Reserve” and preferred provider procurements that are generally awarded to small and disadvantaged small businesses. Delaying printing contracts due to the requirement of additional approvals may negatively affect vendors’ revenues.

For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at 410-260-2908.