

8255

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

June 9, 2011

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Introduced by M. of A. MAGNARELLI, P. RIVERA -- read once and referred  
to the Committee on Local Governments

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law and the county law, in  
relation to purchases through the office of general services

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 103 of the general municipal law,  
2     as amended by section 1 of part FF of chapter 56 of the laws of 2010, is  
3     amended to read as follows:  
4     1. Except as otherwise expressly provided by an act of the legislature  
5     or by a local law adopted prior to September first, nineteen hundred  
6     fifty-three, all contracts for public work involving an expenditure of  
7     more than thirty-five thousand dollars and all purchase contracts  
8     involving an expenditure of more than twenty thousand dollars, shall be  
9     awarded by the appropriate officer, board or agency of a political  
10    subdivision or of any district therein including but not limited to a  
11    soil conservation district, to the lowest responsible bidder furnishing  
12    the required security after advertisement for sealed bids in the manner  
13    provided by this section. In any case where a responsible bidder's gross  
14    price is reducible by an allowance for the value of used machinery,  
15    equipment, apparatus or tools to be traded in by a political subdivi-  
16    sion, the gross price shall be reduced by the amount of such allowance,  
17    for the purpose of determining the low bid. In cases where two or more  
18    responsible bidders furnishing the required security submit identical  
19    bids as to price, such officer, board or agency may award the contract  
20    to any of such bidders. Such officer, board or agency may, in his or her  
21    or its discretion, reject all bids and readvertise for new bids in the  
22    manner provided by this section. In determining whether a purchase is an  
23    expenditure within the discretionary threshold amounts established by  
24    this subdivision, the officer, board or agency of a political subdivi-  
25    sion or of any district therein shall consider the reasonably expected

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 aggregate amount of all purchases of the same commodities, services or  
2 technology to be made within the twelve-month period commencing on the  
3 date of purchase. Purchases of commodities, services or technology  
4 shall not be artificially divided for the purpose of satisfying the  
5 discretionary buying thresholds established by this subdivision. A  
6 change to or a renewal of a discretionary purchase shall not be permit-  
7 ted if the change or renewal would bring the reasonably expected aggre-  
8 gate amount of all purchases of the same commodities, services or tech-  
9 nology from the same provider within the twelve-month period commencing  
10 on the date of the first purchase to an amount greater than the discre-  
11 tionary buying threshold amount. For purposes of this section, "sealed  
12 bids", as that term applies to purchase contracts, shall include bids  
13 submitted in an electronic format including submission of the statement  
14 of non-collusion required by section one hundred three-d of this arti-  
15 cle, provided that the governing board of the political subdivision or  
16 district, by resolution, has authorized the receipt of bids in such  
17 format. Submission in electronic format may, [for technology contracts  
18 only,] be required as the sole method for the submission of bids. Bids  
19 submitted in an electronic format shall be transmitted by bidders to the  
20 receiving device designated by the political subdivision or district.  
21 Any method used to receive electronic bids shall comply with article  
22 three of the state technology law, and any rules and regulations promul-  
23 gated and guidelines developed thereunder and, at a minimum, must (a)  
24 document the time and date of receipt of each bid received electron-  
25 ically; (b) authenticate the identity of the sender; (c) ensure the  
26 security of the information transmitted; and (d) ensure the confiden-  
27 tiality of the bid until the time and date established for the opening  
28 of bids. The timely submission of an electronic bid in compliance with  
29 instructions provided for such submission in the advertisement for bids  
30 and/or the specifications shall be the responsibility solely of each  
31 bidder or prospective bidder. No political subdivision or district ther-  
32 ein shall incur any liability from delays of or interruptions in the  
33 receiving device designated for the submission and receipt of electronic  
34 bids.

35 S 2. Subdivision 3 of section 103 of the general municipal law, as  
36 amended by chapter 343 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as  
37 follows:

38 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision one of this section,  
39 any officer, board or agency of a political subdivision or of any  
40 district therein authorized to make purchases of materials, equipment or  
41 supplies, or to contract for services, may make such purchases, or may  
42 contract for services, [other than services subject to article eight or  
43 nine of the labor law,] when available, through the county in which the  
44 political subdivision or district is located or through any county with-  
45 in the state subject to the rules established pursuant to subdivision  
46 two of section four hundred eight-a of the county law; provided that the  
47 political subdivision or district for which such officer, board or agen-  
48 cy acts shall accept sole responsibility for any payment due the vendor  
49 or contractor. All purchases and all contracts for such services shall  
50 be subject to audit and inspection by the political subdivision or  
51 district for which made. Prior to making such purchases or contracts the  
52 officer, board or agency shall consider whether such contracts will  
53 result in cost savings after all factors, including charges for service,  
54 material, and delivery, have been considered. No officer, board or agen-  
55 cy of a political subdivision or of any district therein shall make any  
56 purchase or contract for any such services through the county in which

1 the political subdivision or district is located or through any county  
2 within the state when bids have been received for such purchase or such  
3 services by such officer, board or agency, unless such purchase may be  
4 made or the contract for such services may be entered into upon the same  
5 terms, conditions and specifications at a lower price through the coun-  
6 ty.

7 S 3. Section 103 of the general municipal law is amended by adding two  
8 new subdivisions 1-b and 14 to read as follows:

9 1-B. A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR ANY DISTRICT THEREIN SHALL HAVE THE  
10 OPTION OF PURCHASING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS HARD-  
11 WARE, SOFTWARE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES THROUGH COOPERATIVE PURCHASING  
12 PERMISSIBLE PURSUANT TO FEDERAL GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION INFORMA-  
13 TION TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE SEVENTY OR ANY SUCCESSOR SCHEDULE. A POLITICAL  
14 SUBDIVISION OR ANY DISTRICT THEREIN THAT PURCHASES THROUGH GENERAL  
15 SERVICES ADMINISTRATION SCHEDULE SEVENTY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND  
16 CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE CONTRACTS SHALL COMPLY WITH FEDERAL SCHEDULE  
17 ORDERING PROCEDURES AS PROVIDED IN FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION  
18 8.405-1 OR 8.405-2 OR SUCCESSOR REGULATIONS, WHICHEVER IS APPLICABLE.  
19 ADHERENCE TO SUCH PROCEDURES SHALL CONSTITUTE COMPLIANCE WITH THE  
20 COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SECTION.

21 14. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION  
22 AND IN ADDITION TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS SECTION  
23 AND SECTION ONE HUNDRED FOUR OF THIS ARTICLE, ANY OFFICER, BOARD OR  
24 AGENCY OF A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR OF ANY DISTRICT THEREIN AUTHORIZED  
25 TO MAKE PURCHASES OF SERVICES, MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES MAY  
26 MAKE SUCH PURCHASES AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY SUCH POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR  
27 ANY DISTRICT THEREIN THROUGH THE USE OF A CONTRACT LET BY ANY OTHER  
28 STATE OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION IF SUCH CONTRACT WAS LET IN ACCORDANCE  
29 WITH COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND WAGE REQUIREMENTS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH  
30 THIS SECTION AND WITH THE INTENT OF EXTENDING ITS USE TO CERTAIN OTHER  
31 GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES. PRIOR TO MAKING SUCH A PURCHASE, THE GOVERNING  
32 BOARD OF THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR DISTRICT MAKING THE PURCHASE SHALL  
33 DETERMINE, UPON REVIEW OF ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION AND, AS APPROPRI-  
34 ATE, UPON ADVICE OF ITS COUNSEL, THAT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBDIVI-  
35 SION HAVE BEEN MET, AND SHALL CERTIFY, BY RESOLUTION, THAT SUCH PURCHASE  
36 IS PERMITTED UNDER THE PROCUREMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE POLI-  
37 TICAL SUBDIVISION OR DISTRICT, ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION ONE HUNDRED  
38 FOUR-B OF THIS ARTICLE.

39 S 4. Section 104 of the general municipal law, as amended by chapter  
40 137 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

41 S 104. Purchase through office of general services; CERTAIN FEDERAL  
42 CONTRACTS. 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section one hundred  
43 three of this article or of any other general, special or local law, any  
44 officer, board or agency of a political subdivision, of a district ther-  
45 ein, of a fire company or of a voluntary ambulance service authorized to  
46 make purchases of materials, equipment, food products, or supplies, or  
47 services available pursuant to sections one hundred sixty-one and one  
48 hundred sixty-seven of the state finance law, may make such purchases,  
49 except of printed material, through the office of general services  
50 subject to such rules as may be established from time to time pursuant  
51 to sections one hundred sixty-three and one hundred sixty-seven of the  
52 state finance law [or through the general services administration pursu-  
53 ant to section 1555 of the federal acquisition streamlining act of 1994,  
54 P.L. 103-355]; provided that any such purchase shall exceed five hundred  
55 dollars and that the political subdivision, district, fire company or  
56 voluntary ambulance service for which such officer, board or agency acts

1 shall accept sole responsibility for any payment due the vendor. All  
2 purchases shall be subject to audit and inspection by the political  
3 subdivision, district, fire company or voluntary ambulance service for  
4 which made. No officer, board or agency of a political subdivision, or a  
5 district therein, of a fire company or of a voluntary ambulance service  
6 shall make any purchase through such office when bids have been received  
7 for such purchase by such officer, board or agency, unless such purchase  
8 may be made upon the same terms, conditions and specifications at a  
9 lower price through such office. Two or more fire companies or voluntary  
10 ambulance services may join in making purchases pursuant to this  
11 section, and for the purposes of this section such groups shall be  
12 deemed "fire companies or voluntary ambulance services."

13 2. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED THREE OF THIS  
14 ARTICLE OR OF ANY OTHER GENERAL, SPECIAL OR LOCAL LAW, ANY OFFICER,  
15 BOARD OR AGENCY OF A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION, OR OF A DISTRICT THEREIN,  
16 MAY MAKE PURCHASES FROM FEDERAL GENERAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION SUPPLY  
17 SCHEDULES PURSUANT TO SECTION 211 OF THE FEDERAL E-GOVERNMENT ACT OF  
18 2002, P.L. 107-347, AND PURSUANT TO SECTION 1122 OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE  
19 AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1994, P.L. 103-160, OR ANY SUCCESSOR  
20 SCHEDULES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT THERETO.  
21 PRIOR TO MAKING SUCH PURCHASES THE OFFICER, BOARD OR AGENCY SHALL  
22 CONSIDER WHETHER SUCH PURCHASES WILL RESULT IN COST SAVINGS AFTER ALL  
23 FACTORS, INCLUDING CHARGES FOR SERVICE, MATERIAL, AND DELIVERY, HAVE  
24 BEEN CONSIDERED.

25 S 5. Subdivision 2 of section 408-a of the county law, as amended by  
26 section 2 of part X of chapter 62 of the laws of 2003, is amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 2. The board of supervisors may, in the case of any purchase contract  
29 or any contract for services, [other than services subject to article  
30 eight or nine of the labor law,] of the county to be awarded to the  
31 lowest responsible bidder after advertisement for bids, authorize the  
32 inclusion of a provision whereby purchases may be made or such services  
33 may be obtained under such contract by any political subdivision or fire  
34 company (as both are defined in section one hundred of the general  
35 municipal law) or district. In such event, the board shall adopt rules  
36 prescribing the conditions under which, and the manner in which,  
37 purchases may be made or services may be obtained by such political  
38 subdivision, fire company or district.

39 S 6. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that  
40 the amendments to subdivision 1 of section 103 of the general municipal  
41 law made by section one of this act shall not affect the expiration of  
42 such subdivision and shall be deemed to expire therewith.