

STATE OF NEW YORK

6809

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 18, 2021

Introduced by Sen. REICHLIN-MELNICK -- read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the state finance law and the education law, in relation
to restoring oversight of certain contracts by the comptroller; and to
repeal certain provisions of the education law relating thereto

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 112 of the state
2 finance law, as amended by section 18 of part L of chapter 55 of the
3 laws of 2012, is amended to read as follows:
4 (a) Before any contract made for or by any state agency, department,
5 board, officer, commission, or institution, except the office of general
6 services, shall be executed or become effective, whenever such contract
7 exceeds fifty thousand dollars in amount and before any contract made
8 for or by the office of general services shall be executed or become
9 effective, whenever such contract exceeds eighty-five thousand dollars
10 in amount, it shall first be approved by the comptroller and filed in
11 his or her office[~~, with the exception of contracts established as a~~
12 ~~centralized contract through the office of general services and purchase~~
13 ~~orders or other procurement transactions issued under such centralized~~
14 ~~contracts. The~~]. Provided, however, that the comptroller shall make a
15 final written determination with respect to approval of such contract
16 within ninety days of the submission of such contract to his or her
17 office unless the comptroller shall notify, in writing, the state agen-
18 cy, department, board, officer, commission, or institution, prior to the
19 expiration of the ninety day period, and for good cause, of the need for
20 an extension of not more than fifteen days, or a reasonable period of
21 time agreed to by such state agency, department, board, officer, commis-
22 sion, or institution and provided, further, that such written determi-
23 nation or extension shall be made part of the procurement record pursu-

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

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1 ant to paragraph f of subdivision one of section one hundred sixty-three
2 of this chapter.

3 § 2. Subdivision 5 of section 355 of the education law is REPEALED and
4 a new subdivision 5 is added to read as follows:

5 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph two of section one
6 hundred twelve and sections one hundred fifteen, one hundred sixty-one,
7 and one hundred sixty-three of the state finance law and section three
8 of the New York state printing and public documents law or any other law
9 to the contrary, the state university trustees are authorized and
10 empowered to:

11 a. (i) purchase materials, proprietary electronic information
12 resources including but not limited to academic, professional, and
13 industry journals, reference handbooks and manuals, research tracking
14 tools, indexes and abstracts equipment and supplies, including computer
15 equipment and motor vehicles, where the amount for a single purchase
16 does not exceed fifty thousand dollars, (ii) execute contracts for
17 services and construction contracts to an amount not exceeding fifty
18 thousand dollars, and (iii) contract for printing to an amount not
19 exceeding fifty thousand dollars, without prior approval by any other
20 state officer or agency, but subject to rules and regulations of the
21 state comptroller not otherwise inconsistent with the provisions of this
22 section and in accordance with the guidelines promulgated by the state
23 university board of trustees after consultation with the state comp-
24 troller. In addition, the trustees, after consultation with the commis-
25 sioner of general services, are authorized to annually negotiate with
26 the state comptroller increases in the aforementioned dollar limits and
27 the exemption of any articles, categories of articles, services, or
28 commodities from these limits;

29 b. establish cash advance accounts for the purpose of purchasing mate-
30 rials, supplies, or services, for cash advances for travel expenses and
31 per diem allowances, or for advance payment of wages and salary. The
32 account may be used to purchase such materials, supplies, or services
33 where the amount of a single purchase does not exceed one thousand
34 dollars, in accordance with such guidelines as shall be prescribed by
35 the state university trustees after consultation with the state comp-
36 troller;

37 c. establish guidelines in consultation with the commissioner of
38 general services authorizing participation by the state university in
39 programs administered by the office of general services for the purchase
40 of available New York state food products. The commissioner of general
41 services shall provide assistance to the state university necessary to
42 enable the university to participate in these programs; and

43 d. award contract extensions for campus transportation without compet-
44 itive bidding where such contracts were secured either through compet-
45 itive bidding or through evaluation of proposals however such extensions
46 may be rejected if the amount to be paid to the contractor in any year
47 of such proposed extension fails to reflect any decrease in the regional
48 consumer price index for the New York, New York-Northeastern, New Jersey
49 area, based upon the consumer price index for all urban consumers
50 (CPI-U) during the preceding twelve-month period. At the time of any
51 contract extension, consideration shall be given to any competitive
52 proposal offered by a public transportation agency. Such contract may be
53 increased for each year of the contract extension by an amount not to
54 exceed the regional consumer price index increase for the New York, New
55 York-Northeastern, New Jersey area, based upon the consumer price index
56 for all urban consumers (CPI-U), during the preceding twelve-month peri-

1 od, provided it has been satisfactorily established by the contractor
2 that there has been at least an equivalent increase in the amount of his
3 cost of operation, during the period of the contract.

4 Guidelines promulgated by the state university board of trustees
5 shall, to the extent practicable, require that competitive proposals be
6 solicited for purchases, and shall include requirements that purchases
7 and contracts authorized under this section be at the lowest available
8 price, including consideration of prices available through other state
9 agencies, consistent with quality requirements, and as will best promote
10 the public interest. Such purchases may be made directly from any
11 contractor pursuant to any contract for commodities let by the office of
12 general services or any other state agency.

13 § 3. Subdivision 6 of section 355 of the education law is REPEALED and
14 a new subdivision 6 is added to read as follows:

15 6. To enter into any contract or agreement deemed necessary or advis-
16 able after consultation with appropriate state agencies for carrying out
17 the objects and purposes of the state university without prior review or
18 approval by any state officer or agency other than the state comptroller
19 and the attorney general including contracts with non-profit corpo-
20 rations organized by officers, employees, alumni or students of the
21 state university for the furtherance of its objects and purposes.
22 Contracts or agreements entered into with the federal government to
23 enable participation in federal student loan programs, including any and
24 all instruments required thereunder, shall not be subject to the
25 requirements of section forty-one of the state finance law; provided,
26 however, that the state shall not be liable for any portion of any
27 defaults which it has agreed to assume pursuant to any such agreement in
28 an amount in excess of money appropriated or otherwise lawfully avail-
29 able therefor at the time the liability for payment arises.

30 § 4. Paragraph b of subdivision 16 of section 355 of the education law
31 is REPEALED and a new paragraph b is added to read as follows:

32 b. (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision two of section
33 one hundred twelve of the state finance law relating to the dollar
34 threshold requiring the comptroller's approval of contracts and subdivi-
35 sion six of section one hundred sixty-three of the state finance law,
36 authorize contracts for the purchase of goods and services for state
37 university health care facilities:

38 (A) for any contract which does not exceed seventy-five thousand
39 dollars; or

40 (B) for joint or group purchasing arrangements which do not exceed
41 seventy-five thousand dollars without prior approval by any other state
42 officer or agency in accordance with procedures and requirements found
43 in paragraph a of subdivision five of this section.

44 (ii) contracts authorized hereunder shall be subject to article four-
45 teen of the civil service law and the applicable provisions of agree-
46 ments between the state and employee organizations pursuant to article
47 fourteen of the civil service law. The trustees are authorized to nego-
48 tiate annually with the state comptroller increases in the aforemen-
49 tioned dollar limits.

50 § 5. Subdivision 12 of section 373 of the education law is REPEALED
51 and a new subdivision 12 is added to read as follows:

52 12. To make and execute contracts, lease agreements, and all other
53 instruments necessary or convenient for the exercise of its corporate
54 powers and the fulfillment of its corporate purposes under this article;

55 § 6. Subdivision a of section 6218 of the education law is REPEALED
56 and a new subdivision a is added to read as follows:

1 a. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph two of section one
2 hundred twelve and sections one hundred fifteen, one hundred sixty-one
3 and one hundred sixty-three of the state finance law and section three
4 of the New York state printing and public documents law or any other law
5 to the contrary, the city university trustees are authorized and
6 empowered to:

7 (i) purchase materials; proprietary electronic information resources,
8 including, but not limited to, academic, professional and industry jour-
9 nals, reference handbooks and manuals, research tracking tools, indexes
10 and abstracts; and equipment and supplies, including computer equipment
11 and motor vehicles, where the amount for a single purchase does not
12 exceed fifty thousand dollars, (ii) execute contracts for services to an
13 amount not exceeding fifty thousand dollars, and (iii) contract for
14 printing to an amount not exceeding fifty thousand dollars, without
15 prior approval by any other state officer or agency, but subject to
16 rules and regulations of the state comptroller not otherwise inconsis-
17 ent with the provisions of this section and in accordance with the
18 guidelines promulgated by the city university board of trustees after
19 consultation with the state comptroller. In addition, the trustees are
20 authorized to annually negotiate with the state comptroller increases in
21 the aforementioned dollar limits and the exemption of any articles,
22 categories of articles, services, or commodities from these limits.
23 Guidelines promulgated by the city university board of trustees shall,
24 to the extent practicable, require that competitive proposals be solici-
25 ted for purchases, and shall include requirements that purchases and
26 contracts authorized under this section be at the lowest available
27 price.

28 § 7. Subdivision a-1 of section 6218 of the education law is REPEALED.

29 § 8. Section 6283 of the education law is REPEALED.

30 § 9. This act shall take effect immediately.