

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8091--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

April 25, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. PEOPLES-STOKES, LEVENBERG -- read once and referred to the Committee on Local Governments -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to the awarding of certain purchase contracts to purchase food

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 chapter 668 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as  
3 follows:  
4 1. (a) Except as otherwise expressly provided by an act of the legis-  
5 lature or by a local law adopted prior to September first, nineteen  
6 hundred fifty-three, all contracts for public work involving an expendi-  
7 ture of more than thirty-five thousand dollars and all purchase  
8 contracts involving an expenditure of more than twenty thousand dollars,  
9 shall be awarded by the appropriate officer, board or agency of a poli-  
10 tical subdivision or of any district therein including but not limited  
11 to a soil conservation district to the lowest responsible bidder  
12 furnishing the required security after advertisement for sealed bids in  
13 the manner provided by this section~~[-]~~; provided, however, that purchase  
14 contracts (including contracts for service work, but excluding any  
15 purchase contracts necessary for the completion of a public works  
16 contract pursuant to article eight of the labor law) may be awarded on  
17 the basis of best value, as defined in section one hundred sixty-three  
18 of the state finance law, to a responsive and responsible bidder or  
19 offerer in the manner provided by this section except that in a poli-  
20 tical subdivision other than a city with a population of one million  
21 inhabitants or more or any district, board or agency with jurisdiction  
22 exclusively therein the use of best value for awarding a purchase  
23 contract or purchase contracts must be authorized by local law or, in

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

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1 the case of a district corporation, school district or board of cooper-  
2 ative educational services, by rule, regulation or resolution adopted at  
3 a public meeting; and provided, further, that food purchase contracts  
4 (including contracts for food service work, but excluding any purchase  
5 contract necessary for the completion of a public works contract pursu-  
6 ant to article eight of the labor law) may be awarded: (i) to an other-  
7 wise qualified bidder based in New York state who complies with one or  
8 more of the values based procurement standards pursuant to subparagraphs  
9 (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of paragraph (c) of this  
10 subdivision and may be given preference over other bidders, provided,  
11 however, that the cost included in the bid is not more than ten percent  
12 greater than the cost included in a bid by the lowest responsible  
13 bidder; or (ii) awarded to a responsive and responsible bidder or offer-  
14 er based in New York state on the basis of best value, as defined in  
15 section one hundred sixty-three of the state finance law, in the manner  
16 provided by this section, and which complies with one or more of the  
17 values based procurement standards pursuant to subparagraphs (i), (ii),  
18 (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of paragraph (c) of this subdivision.  
19 Provided further that pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subdivision, all  
20 bidders or offerers on food purchase contracts shall provide relevant  
21 supply chain data in their bids or offers to the appropriate officer,  
22 board or agency. The appropriate officer, board or agency shall make  
23 such data publicly available on the entities' respective websites,  
24 excepting data not subject to disclosure pursuant to article six of the  
25 public officers law. In any case where a responsible bidder's or  
26 responsible offerer's gross price is reducible by an allowance for the  
27 value of used machinery, equipment, apparatus or tools to be traded in  
28 by a political subdivision, the gross price shall be reduced by the  
29 amount of such allowance, for the purpose of determining the best value.  
30 In cases where two or more responsible bidders or offerers furnishing  
31 the required security submit identical bids or offers as to price, such  
32 officer, board or agency may award the contract to any of such bidders  
33 or offerers. Such officer, board or agency may, in [~~his or her or its~~]  
34 their discretion, reject all bids or offers and readvertise for new bids  
35 or offers in the manner provided by this section. In determining whether  
36 a purchase is an expenditure within the discretionary threshold amounts  
37 established by this subdivision, the officer, board or agency of a politi-  
38 cal subdivision or of any district therein shall consider the reason-  
39 ably expected aggregate amount of all purchases of the same commodities,  
40 services or technology to be made within the twelve-month period  
41 commencing on the date of purchase. Purchases of commodities, services  
42 or technology shall not be artificially divided for the purpose of  
43 satisfying the discretionary buying thresholds established by this  
44 subdivision. A change to or a renewal of a discretionary purchase shall  
45 not be permitted if the change or renewal would bring the reasonably  
46 expected aggregate amount of all purchases of the same commodities,  
47 services or technology from the same provider within the twelve-month  
48 period commencing on the date of the first purchase to an amount greater  
49 than the discretionary buying threshold amount. For purposes of this  
50 section, "sealed bids" and "sealed offers", as that term applies to  
51 purchase contracts, (including contracts for service work, but excluding  
52 any purchase contracts necessary for the completion of a public works  
53 contract pursuant to article eight of the labor law) shall include bids  
54 and offers submitted in an electronic format including submission of the  
55 statement of non-collusion required by section one hundred three-d of  
56 this article, provided that the governing board of the political subdi-

1 vision or district, by resolution, has authorized the receipt of bids  
2 and offers in such format. Submission in electronic format may, for  
3 technology contracts only, be required as the sole method for the  
4 submission of bids and offers. Provided however, the appropriate offi-  
5 cer, board or agency of a city with a population of one million inhabit-  
6 ants or more, or any district, board or agency with jurisdiction exclu-  
7 sively within such city, may authorize or require bids and offers for  
8 any contract to be submitted in an electronic format. Bids and offers  
9 submitted in an electronic format shall be transmitted by bidders and  
10 offerers to the receiving device designated by the political subdivision  
11 or district. Any method used to receive electronic bids and offers  
12 shall comply with article three of the state technology law, and any  
13 rules and regulations promulgated and guidelines developed thereunder  
14 and, at a minimum, must ~~[(a)]~~ (i) document the time and date of receipt  
15 of each bid and offer received electronically; ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) authenticate  
16 the identity of the sender; ~~[(c)]~~ (iii) ensure the security of the  
17 information transmitted; and ~~[(d)]~~ (iv) ensure the confidentiality of  
18 the bid or offer until the time and date established for the opening of  
19 bids or offers. The timely submission of an electronic bid or offer in  
20 compliance with instructions provided for such submission in the adver-  
21 tisement for bids or offers and/or the specifications shall be the  
22 responsibility solely of each bidder or offerer or prospective bidder or  
23 offerer. No political subdivision or district therein shall incur any  
24 liability from delays of or interruptions in the receiving device desig-  
25 nated for the submission and receipt of electronic bids and offers.

26 (b) (i) All relevant supplier data, including supplier data from  
27 subcontractors, shall be submitted to the entity advertising the bid or  
28 offer at the time of bid or offer, to the best of the bidder's or  
29 offerer's ability, and updated by the winning bidder or offerer at the  
30 point of contract execution. Such data shall also be updated annually by  
31 the winning bidder or offerer and upon any changes to supplier informa-  
32 tion related to the contract. Such data required pursuant to this para-  
33 graph shall include the name and facility address of each supplier,  
34 distributor, processor, and producer involved in the provision of the  
35 products that the bidder or offerer will supply.

36 (ii) The provisions of this paragraph shall apply to all bidders' or  
37 offerers' food purchase contracts and bid proposals.

38 (c) For the purposes of this subdivision, "values based procurement  
39 standards" shall mean procurement criteria that is based on:

40 (i) local economies. Food products in which fifty-one percent or more  
41 of the raw agricultural materials have been grown, harvested, processed  
42 and manufactured within one hundred miles of the location of the  
43 purchaser, or in which the bidder or offerer of such food products  
44 participates in the department of agriculture and markets' grown and  
45 certified program pursuant to section one hundred fifty-six-h of the  
46 agriculture and markets law; or

47 (ii) environmental resilience. Preference shall be given to the  
48 producers that adopt one or more practices that contribute to improved  
49 soil health and increased carbon sequestration and storage, and that  
50 achieve net short-term and long-term greenhouse gas benefits. Building  
51 on progress made by the department of agriculture and markets' climate  
52 resilient farming program pursuant to section one hundred fifty-one-n of  
53 the agriculture and markets law, participation in such program shall  
54 qualify businesses for this preference, or usage of specific practices.  
55 Such practices shall:

1 (A) preserve and rebuild soil quality through use of soil health prac-  
2 tices, including but not limited to planting cover crops, adopting  
3 no-till and reduced tillage, increasing crop rotations and intercrop-  
4 ping, and planting perennial crops, to improve the function and resili-  
5 ence of soils;

6 (B) achieve the reduction or elimination of synthetic pesticides and  
7 fertilizers;

8 (C) avoid the use of hormones or antibiotics except for treatment of a  
9 sick animal or for disease control, where disease control is defined as  
10 use where it can be shown that a particular disease or infection is  
11 present on the premises where the animal is kept;

12 (D) protect and enhance wildlife habitats and biodiversity;

13 (E) avoid contributing to water quality impairment and deterioration  
14 of local air quality;

15 (F) reduce greenhouse gas emissions attributable to livestock through  
16 use of feed management, prescribed grazing, amendments for treatment of  
17 agricultural waste, and manure management; or

18 (G) reduce on-farm energy and water consumption, food waste and green-  
19 house gas emissions; or

20 (iii) racial equity. Minority and women-owned business enterprises, as  
21 defined by article fifteen-A of the executive law, or socially disadvan-  
22 tagged farms. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "socially disadvan-  
23 tagged" shall mean individuals who have been subject to discrimination by  
24 virtue of their membership of a particular group which may include, but  
25 is not limited to, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska  
26 Native, Hispanic or Latino, and Asian or Pacific Islander; or

27 (iv) valued workforce. Suppliers who respect and protect workers'  
28 rights, regardless of immigration status, to organize a union, to affil-  
29 iate with worker centers and alternative forms of worker representation  
30 and to bargain collectively free from retaliation and interference; as  
31 evidenced by agreeing to enter into a labor peace agreement with a bona  
32 fide labor union; having worker-led workplace health and safety commit-  
33 tees; or being a worker-owned cooperative; or

34 (v) valued agricultural sector. Suppliers who pay farmers a fair  
35 price, using United States department of agriculture pricing standards,  
36 for the products they supply that covers their actual cost of  
37 production; and to suppliers who pay fair remuneration to farmers for  
38 their management and labor; or

39 (vi) animal welfare. Producers who provide more humane care for farmed  
40 animals by providing enough space and environmental enrichments to allow  
41 animals to carry out their natural behaviors, using pain control as  
42 needed when carrying out physical alterations, utilizing responsible,  
43 therapeutic antibiotic use, and requiring humane handling and slaughter,  
44 as demonstrated by enrollment in an independent animal welfare certif-  
45 ication program with regular, third-party on-farm audits assessing a  
46 producer's compliance with one hundred percent of the program's welfare  
47 standards; or

48 (vii) nutrition. Foods that promote health and well being, comprised  
49 of namely whole grains, fresh and minimally-processed fruits and vegeta-  
50 bles, essential fats (including nuts, seeds and fish), and whole plant-  
51 -based and lean proteins so as to decrease sodium, added sugars, artifi-  
52 -cial additives, and saturated, hydrogenated, and trans fats.

53 § 2. Subdivision 1 of section 103 of the general municipal law, as  
54 amended by section 2 of chapter 2 of the laws of 2012, is amended to  
55 read as follows:

1 1. (a) Except as otherwise expressly provided by an act of the legis-  
2 lature or by a local law adopted prior to September first, nineteen  
3 hundred fifty-three, all contracts for public work involving an expendi-  
4 ture of more than thirty-five thousand dollars and all purchase  
5 contracts involving an expenditure of more than twenty thousand dollars,  
6 shall be awarded by the appropriate officer, board or agency of a poli-  
7 tical subdivision or of any district therein including but not limited  
8 to a soil conservation district to the lowest responsible bidder  
9 furnishing the required security after advertisement for sealed bids in  
10 the manner provided by this section[7]; provided, however, that purchase  
11 contracts (including contracts for service work, but excluding any  
12 purchase contracts necessary for the completion of a public works  
13 contract pursuant to article eight of the labor law) may be awarded on  
14 the basis of best value, as defined in section one hundred sixty-three  
15 of the state finance law, to a responsive and responsible bidder or  
16 offerer in the manner provided by this section except that in a poli-  
17 tical subdivision other than a city with a population of one million  
18 inhabitants or more or any district, board or agency with jurisdiction  
19 exclusively therein the use of best value of awarding a purchase  
20 contract or purchase contracts must be authorized by local law or, in  
21 the case of a district corporation, school district or board of cooper-  
22 ative educational services, by rule, regulation or resolution adopted at  
23 a public meeting; and provided, further, that food purchase contracts  
24 (including contracts for service work, but excluding any purchase  
25 contract necessary for the completion of a public works contract pursu-  
26 ant to article eight of the labor law) may be awarded: (i) to an other-  
27 wise qualified bidder based in New York state who complies with one or  
28 more of the values based procurement standards pursuant to subparagraphs  
29 (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of paragraph (c) of this  
30 subdivision and may be given preference over other bidders, provided,  
31 however, that the cost included in the bid is not more than ten percent  
32 greater than the cost included in a bid by the lowest responsible  
33 bidder; or (ii) awarded to a responsive and responsible bidder or offer-  
34 er based in New York state on the basis of best value, as defined in  
35 section one hundred sixty-three of the state finance law, and in the  
36 manner provided by this section, and which complies with one or more of  
37 the values based procurement standards pursuant to subparagraphs (i),  
38 (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of paragraph (c) of this subdivi-  
39 sion. Provided further that pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subdivi-  
40 sion, all bidders or offerers on food purchase contracts shall provide  
41 relevant supply chain data in their bids or offers to the appropriate  
42 officer, board or agency. The appropriate officer, board or agency shall  
43 make such data publicly available on the entities' respective websites,  
44 excepting data not subject to disclosure pursuant to article six of the  
45 public officers law. In determining whether a purchase is an expendi-  
46 ture within the discretionary threshold amounts established by this  
47 subdivision, the officer, board or agency of a political subdivision or  
48 of any district therein shall consider the reasonably expected aggregate  
49 amount of all purchases of the same commodities, services or technology  
50 to be made within the twelve-month period commencing on the date of  
51 purchase. Purchases of commodities, services or technology shall not be  
52 artificially divided for the purpose of satisfying the discretionary  
53 buying thresholds established by this subdivision. A change to or a  
54 renewal of a discretionary purchase shall not be permitted if the change  
55 or renewal would bring the reasonably expected aggregate amount of all  
56 purchases of the same commodities, services or technology from the same

1 provider within the twelve-month period commencing on the date of the  
2 first purchase to an amount greater than the discretionary buying thres-  
3 hold amount. In any case where a responsible bidder's or responsible  
4 offerer's gross price is reducible by an allowance for the value of used  
5 machinery, equipment, apparatus or tools to be traded in by a political  
6 subdivision, the gross price shall be reduced by the amount of such  
7 allowance, for the purpose of determining the low bid or best value. In  
8 cases where two or more responsible bidders or offerers furnishing the  
9 required security submit identical bids or offers as to price, such  
10 officer, board or agency may award the contract to any of such bidders  
11 or offerers. Such officer, board or agency may, in [~~his, her or its~~]  
12 their discretion, reject all bids or offers and readvertise for new bids  
13 or offers in the manner provided by this section.

14 (b) (i) All relevant supplier data, including supplier data from  
15 subcontractors, shall be submitted to the entity advertising the bid or  
16 offer at the time of bid, to the best of the bidder's or offerer's abil-  
17 ity, and updated by the winning bidder or offerer at the point of  
18 contract execution. Such data shall also be updated annually by the  
19 winning bidder or offerer and upon any changes to supplier information  
20 related to the contract. Such data required pursuant to this paragraph  
21 shall include the name and facility address of each supplier, distribu-  
22 tor, processor, and producer involved in the provision of the products  
23 that the bidder or offerer will supply.

24 (ii) The provisions of this paragraph shall apply to all bidders' and  
25 offerers' food purchase contracts and bid proposals.

26 (c) For the purposes of this subdivision, "values based procurement  
27 standards" shall mean procurement criteria that is based on:

28 (i) local economies. Food products in which fifty-one percent or more  
29 of the raw agricultural materials have been grown, harvested, processed  
30 and manufactured within one hundred miles of the location of the  
31 purchaser, or in which the bidder or offerer of such food products  
32 participates in the department of agriculture and markets' grown and  
33 certified program pursuant to section one hundred fifty-six-h of the  
34 agriculture and markets law; or

35 (ii) environmental resilience. Preference shall be given to producers  
36 that adopt one or more practices that contribute to improved soil health  
37 and increased carbon sequestration and storage, and that achieve net  
38 short-term and long-term greenhouse gas benefits. Building on progress  
39 made by the department of agriculture and markets' climate resilient  
40 farming program pursuant to section one hundred fifty-one-n of the agri-  
41 culture and markets law, participation in such program shall qualify  
42 businesses for this preference, or usage of specific practices. Such  
43 practices shall:

44 (A) preserve and rebuild soil quality through use of soil health prac-  
45 tices, including but not limited to planting cover crops, adopting  
46 no-till and reduced tillage, increasing crop rotations and intercrop-  
47 ping, and planting perennial crops, to improve the function and resili-  
48 ence of soils;

49 (B) achieve the reduction or elimination of synthetic pesticides and  
50 fertilizers;

51 (C) avoid the use of hormones or antibiotics except for treatment of a  
52 sick animal or for disease control, where disease control is defined as  
53 use where it can be shown that a particular disease or infection is  
54 present on the premises where the animal is kept;

55 (D) protect and enhance wildlife habitats and biodiversity;

1 (E) avoid contributing to water quality impairment and deterioration  
2 of local air quality;

3 (F) reduce greenhouse gas emissions attributable to livestock through  
4 use of feed management, prescribed grazing, amendments for treatment of  
5 agricultural waste, and manure management; or

6 (G) reduce on-farm energy and water consumption, food waste and green-  
7 house gas emissions; or

8 (iii) racial equity. Minority and women-owned business enterprises, as  
9 defined by article fifteen-A of the executive law, or socially disadvan-  
10 tagged farms. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "socially disadvan-  
11 tagged" shall mean individuals who have been subject to discrimination by  
12 virtue of their membership of a particular group which may include, but  
13 is not limited to, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska  
14 Native, Hispanic or Latino, and Asian or Pacific Islander; or

15 (iv) valued workforce. Suppliers who respect and protect workers'  
16 rights, regardless of immigration status, to organize a union, to affil-  
17 iate with worker centers and alternative forms of worker representation  
18 and to bargain collectively free from retaliation and interference; as  
19 evidenced by agreeing to enter into a labor peace agreement with a bona  
20 fide labor union; having worker-led workplace health and safety commit-  
21 tees; or being a worker-owned cooperative; or

22 (v) valued agricultural sector. Suppliers who pay farmers a fair  
23 price, using United States department of agriculture pricing standards,  
24 for the products they supply that covers their actual cost of  
25 production; and to suppliers who pay fair remuneration to farmers for  
26 their management and labor; or

27 (vi) animal welfare. Producers who provide more humane care for farmed  
28 animals by providing enough space and environmental enrichments to allow  
29 animals to carry out their natural behaviors, using pain control as  
30 needed when carrying out physical alterations, utilizing responsible,  
31 therapeutic antibiotic use, and requiring humane handling and slaughter,  
32 as demonstrated by enrollment in an independent animal welfare certif-  
33 ication program with regular, third-party on-farm audits assessing a  
34 producer's compliance with one hundred percent of the program's welfare  
35 standards; or

36 (vii) nutrition. Foods that promote health and well being, comprised  
37 of namely whole grains, fresh and minimally-processed fruits and vegeta-  
38 bles, essential fats (including nuts, seeds and fish), and whole plant-  
39 -based and lean proteins so as to decrease sodium, added sugars, artifi-  
40 -cial additives, and saturated, hydrogenated, and trans fats.

41 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however that  
42 the amendments to subdivision 1 of section 103 of the general municipal  
43 law made by section one of this act shall be subject to the expiration  
44 and reversion of such subdivision pursuant to subdivision (a) of section  
45 41 of part X of chapter 62 of the laws of 2003, when upon such date the  
46 provisions of section two of this act shall take effect.