



HOUSE BILL 654: Statewide Contracts/Nonprofits for the Blind.

2021-2022 General Assembly

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| Committee: | | Date: | June 3, 2021 |
| Introduced by: | Reps. Hardister, Reives, Lambeth, Bradford | Prepared by: | Howard Marsilio |
| Analysis of: | Second Edition | | Staff Attorney |

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 654 would require State departments, agencies and political subdivisions to purchase goods and services under contracts established between the Department of Administration and nonprofit work centers for the blind and severely disabled under certain circumstances, and appropriate thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to implement the provisions of this act.*

CURRENT LAW: Generally, the Secretary of Administration has the power and authority to canvas sources of supply, and to purchase or to contract for the purchase, lease, and lease-purchase of goods and services to meet the needs of State government or any of its departments, institutions, or agencies by competitive bidding or other suitable means as required or exempted by law.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 654 would:

- Require the Secretary of Administration to, at least annually, canvas nonprofit work centers for the blind and severely disabled for goods and services required by State government departments, institutions, and agencies, and political subdivisions to purchase and contract for those goods and services.
- Require all State departments, institutions, and agencies and political subdivisions to make requisition or issue orders for purchases upon the sources of supply certified by the Secretary of Administration.
- Make it unlawful for any State department, institution, or agency or any political subdivisions to purchase from other sources than those certified by the Secretary unless the requisition cannot be fulfilled because of insufficient availability of goods or services required.
- Require the Secretary to include in contracts that the nonprofit work centers maintain the price of goods or services substantially in accord with that paid by governmental agencies for similar goods or services of equivalent quality.
- Exempt purchases made pursuant to these provisions from competitive bidding and related procedural requirements and clarify this exemption would not prohibit a nonprofit work center from submitting bids if competitively bid.
- Appropriate from the General Fund to the Department of Administration the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to implement the provisions of this act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Sections 1 and 2 of this act would become effective October 1, 2021, and apply to requisitions made on or after that date. The remainder of this act would become effective July 1, 2021.

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Legislative Analysis
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