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SENATE BILL NO. 1415

Offered January 15, 2025

A BILL to amend and reenact § 2.2-4343 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Public Procurement Act; purchase of testing kits during a disaster caused by a communicable disease of public health threat; exemption.

Patron—Roem

Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 2.2-4343 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.2-4343. Exemption from operation of chapter for certain transactions.

A. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

1. The Virginia Port Authority in the exercise of any of its powers in accordance with Chapter 10 (§ 62.1-128 et seq.) of Title 62.1, provided that the Authority implements, by policy or regulation adopted by the Board of Commissioners, procedures to ensure fairness and competitiveness in the procurement of goods and services and in the administration of its capital outlay program. This exemption shall be applicable only so long as such policies and procedures meeting the requirements remain in effect.

2. The Virginia Retirement System for selection of services related to the management, purchase or sale of authorized investments, actuarial services, and disability determination services. Selection of these services shall be governed by the standard set forth in § 51.1-124.30.

3. The State Treasurer in the selection of investment management services related to the external management of funds shall be governed by the standard set forth in § 2.2-4514, and shall be subject to competitive guidelines and policies that are set by the Commonwealth Treasury Board and approved by the Department of General Services.

4. The Department of Social Services or local departments of social services for the acquisition of motor vehicles for sale or transfer to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients.

5. The College of William and Mary in Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Virginia, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in the selection of services related to the management and investment of their endowment funds, endowment income, gifts, all other nongeneral fund reserves and balances, or local funds of or held by the respective public institution of higher education pursuant to § 23.1-2210, 23.1-2306, 23.1-2604, or 23.1-2803. However, selection of these services shall be governed by the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (§ 64.2-1100 et seq.) as required by §§ 23.1-2210, 23.1-2306, 23.1-2604, and 23.1-2803.

6. The Board of the Commonwealth Savers Plan for the selection of services related to the operation and administration of the Plan, including, but not limited to, contracts or agreements for the management, purchase, or sale of authorized investments or actuarial, record keeping, or consulting services. However, such selection shall be governed by the standard set forth in § 23.1-706.

7. Public institutions of higher education for the purchase of items for resale at retail bookstores and similar retail outlets operated by such institutions. However, such purchase procedures shall provide for competition where practicable.

8. The purchase of goods and services by agencies of the legislative branch that may be specifically exempted therefrom by the Chairman of the Committee on Rules of either the House of Delegates or the Senate. Nor shall the contract review provisions of § 2.2-2012 apply to such procurements. The exemption shall be in writing and kept on file with the agency's disbursement records.

9. Any town with a population of less than 3,500, except as stipulated in the provisions of §§ 2.2-4305, 2.2-4311, 2.2-4315, 2.2-4330, 2.2-4333 through 2.2-4338, 2.2-4343.1, and 2.2-4367 through 2.2-4377 and Chapter 43.1 (§ 2.2-4378 et seq.).

10. Any county, city or town whose governing body has adopted, by ordinance or resolution, alternative policies and procedures which are (i) based on competitive principles and (ii) generally applicable to procurement of goods and services by such governing body and its agencies, except as stipulated in subdivision 12.

This exemption shall be applicable only so long as such policies and procedures, or other policies and procedures meeting the requirements of § 2.2-4300, remain in effect in such county, city or town. Such policies and standards may provide for incentive contracting that offers a contractor whose bid is accepted the opportunity to share in any cost savings realized by the locality when project costs are reduced by such contractor, without affecting project quality, during construction of the project. The fee, if any, charged by the project engineer or architect for determining such cost savings shall be paid as a separate cost and shall

59 not be calculated as part of any cost savings.

60 11. Any school division whose school board has adopted, by policy or regulation, alternative policies and
61 procedures that are (i) based on competitive principles and (ii) generally applicable to procurement of goods
62 and services by the school board, except as stipulated in subdivision 12.

63 This exemption shall be applicable only so long as such policies and procedures, or other policies or
64 procedures meeting the requirements of § 2.2-4300, remain in effect in such school division. This provision
65 shall not exempt any school division from any centralized purchasing ordinance duly adopted by a local
66 governing body.

67 12. Notwithstanding the exemptions set forth in subdivisions 9 through 11, the provisions of subsections
68 B, C, and D of § 2.2-4303, §§ 2.2-4305, 2.2-4311, 2.2-4315, 2.2-4317, 2.2-4330, 2.2-4333 through 2.2-4338,
69 2.2-4342, 2.2-4343.1, and 2.2-4367 through 2.2-4377, Chapter 43.1 (§ 2.2-4378 et seq.), and § 58.1-1902
70 shall apply to all counties, cities, and school divisions and to all towns having a population greater than 3,500
71 in the Commonwealth.

72 The method for procurement of professional services through competitive negotiation set forth in §§
73 2.2-4302.2, 2.2-4303.1, and 2.2-4303.2 shall also apply to all counties, cities, and school divisions, and to all
74 towns having a population greater than 3,500, where the cost of the professional service is expected to exceed
75 \$80,000 in the aggregate or for the sum of all phases of a contract or project. A school board that makes
76 purchases through its public school foundation or purchases educational technology through its educational
77 technology foundation, either as may be established pursuant to § 22.1-212.2:2 shall be exempt from the
78 provisions of this chapter, except, relative to such purchases, the school board shall comply with the
79 provisions of §§ 2.2-4311 and 2.2-4367 through 2.2-4377.

80 13. A public body that is also a utility operator may purchase services through or participate in contracts
81 awarded by one or more utility operators that are not public bodies for utility marking services as required by
82 the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act (§ 56-265.14 et seq.). A purchase of services under this
83 subdivision may deviate from the procurement procedures set forth in this chapter upon a determination made
84 in advance by the public body and set forth in writing that competitive sealed bidding is either not practicable
85 or not fiscally advantageous to the public, and the contract is awarded based on competitive principles.

86 14. Procurement of any construction or planning and design services for construction by a Virginia
87 nonprofit corporation or organization not otherwise specifically exempted when (i) the planning, design or
88 construction is funded by state appropriations of \$10,000 or less or (ii) the Virginia nonprofit corporation or
89 organization is obligated to conform to procurement procedures that are established by federal statutes or
90 regulations, whether those federal procedures are in conformance with the provisions of this chapter.

91 15. Purchases, exchanges, gifts or sales by the Citizens' Advisory Council on Furnishing and Interpreting
92 the Executive Mansion.

93 16. The Department of Corrections in the selection of pre-release and post-incarceration services and the
94 Department of Juvenile Justice in the selection of pre-release and post-commitment services.

95 17. The University of Virginia Medical Center to the extent provided by subdivision A 3 of § 23.1-2213.

96 18. The purchase of goods and services by a local governing body or any authority, board, department,
97 instrumentality, institution, agency or other unit of state government when such purchases are made under a
98 remedial plan established by the Governor pursuant to subsection C of § 2.2-4310 or by a chief administrative
99 officer of a county, city or town pursuant to § 15.2-965.1.

100 19. The contract by community services boards or behavioral health authorities with an administrator or
101 management body pursuant to a joint agreement authorized by § 37.2-512 or 37.2-615.

102 20. The purchase of Virginia-grown food products for use by a public body where the annual cost of the
103 product is not expected to exceed \$100,000, provided that the procurement is accomplished by (i) obtaining
104 written informal solicitation of a minimum of three bidders or offerors if practicable and (ii) including a
105 written statement regarding the basis for awarding the contract.

106 21. The Virginia Industries for the Blind when procuring components, materials, supplies, or services for
107 use in commodities and services furnished to the federal government in connection with its operation as an
108 AbilityOne Program-qualified nonprofit agency for the blind under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, 41 U.S.C.
109 §§ 8501-8506, provided that the procurement is accomplished using procedures that ensure that funds are
110 used as efficiently as practicable. Such procedures shall require documentation of the basis for awarding
111 contracts. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 2.2-1117, no public body shall be required to purchase such
112 components, materials, supplies, services, or commodities.

113 22. The purchase of personal protective equipment for private, nongovernmental entities by the Governor
114 pursuant to subdivision (11) of § 44-146.17 during a disaster caused by a communicable disease of public
115 health threat for which a state of emergency has been declared. However, such purchase shall provide for
116 competition where practicable and include a written statement regarding the basis for awarding any contract.
117 *As used in this subdivision, "personal protective equipment" means equipment or supplies worn or employed*
118 *to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses and may include items*
119 *such as gloves, safety glasses and shoes, earplugs or earmuffs, hard hats, respirators, coveralls, vests, full*

120 *body suits, hand sanitizer, plastic shields, or testing kits for the communicable disease of public health threat.*
121 B. Where a procurement transaction involves the expenditure of federal assistance or contract funds, the
122 receipt of which is conditioned upon compliance with mandatory requirements in federal laws or regulations
123 not in conformance with the provisions of this chapter, a public body may comply with such federal
124 requirements, notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, only upon the written determination of the
125 Governor, in the case of state agencies, or the governing body, in the case of political subdivisions, that
126 acceptance of the grant or contract funds under the applicable conditions is in the public interest. Such
127 determination shall state the specific provision of this chapter in conflict with the conditions of the grant or
128 contract.

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