

HB 1661 -- State Purchasing

Sponsor: Pratt

This bill changes the laws regarding state purchasing as it relates to giving preference to any qualified agency for the blind or the severely disabled. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires the Commissioner of the Office of Administration to determine a fair market price for all products and services offered for sale to state agencies and political subdivisions by any qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or the severely disabled;
- (2) Requires the commissioner to develop rules regarding the assignment of products and services to be supplied by nonprofit agencies for the blind and severely disabled;
- (3) Authorizes the commissioner to purchase products and services elsewhere when requisitions cannot be reasonably complied by the nonprofit agencies for the blind and the severely disabled;
- (4) Requires the commissioner to publish a list of suitable products and services provided by qualified nonprofit agencies for the blind and severely disabled and to distribute the list to all purchasing officers of the state and its political subdivisions;
- (5) Requires all products and services provided by nonprofit agencies for the blind and severely disabled to be procured at the price established by the commissioner if the product or service is available within a reasonable time;
- (6) Specifies the language that must be included in all contracts entered into between legislative, executive, or judicial agencies and private contract vendors;
- (7) Prohibits the purchase by any state agency of similar products and services at comparable prices and quality from any other source than a nonprofit agency for the blind or severely disabled if the nonprofit agency certifies that its products meet the comparable performance specifications, price, and quality requirements established by the commissioner;
- (8) Authorizes the commissioner and any state agency to enter into contractual agreements, cooperative working relationships, or other arrangements with nonprofit agencies for the blind and severely disabled and allows the commissioner to secure

information from any state agency in order to develop effective and efficient delivery of products and services;

(9) Requires the head of each state agency to annually submit a report of its purchases to the commissioner who must publish a report of the performance of the state use program to all nonprofit agencies for the blind and the severely disabled, all state agencies, the General Assembly, and the Governor; and

(10) Allows the Governor to appoint a committee of at least eight members to collaborate to further the policy objectives in the bill. The committee must consist of five members of the General Assembly, at least one representative from a qualified nonprofit agency for the blind, at least one representative from a qualified nonprofit agency for the severely disabled, and at least one private citizen.