

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 155 (Baltimore County Delegation)
Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Baltimore County Revenue Authority - Purchases - Competitive Bidding

This bill requires the Baltimore County Revenue Authority to use a specified competitive bidding process to purchase commodities and services by formal, written contract from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder after public notice inviting proposals when the estimated cost of specified commodities and services exceeds \$25,000. The bill prohibits the division of a contract or purchase into smaller parts to avoid the competitive bidding requirements.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore County finances are not directly affected. However, the bill may negatively affect the purchasing ability of the county revenue authority which is an independent corporation. The extent to which this may occur cannot be reliably estimated.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: In Baltimore County, when the estimated cost of commodities and services to be purchased by the county is more than \$25,000, the county must purchase the commodities and services by formal, written contract from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder as determined by the county purchasing agent, after public notice inviting proposals.

Background: The Baltimore County Revenue Authority was created by the General Assembly in 1955. The authority constructs, improves, equips, furnishes, maintains, acquires, and operates a wide variety of projects devoted wholly or partially for public uses. The authority is an independent corporation governed by five members appointed by the county executive for five-year terms, with the advice and consent of the county council.

The Baltimore County Revenue Authority consists of three major businesses; a parking division, golf division, and the Reisterstown Sportsplex. Over the past 20 years, the authority has financed and constructed parking facilities, golf courses, a District Court facility, a library expansion, and the Reisterstown Sportsplex. The authority also manages and operates parking facilities, golf courses, and the sportsplex.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 510 of 2012 passed the House, but the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee took no action on the bill.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore County, Baltimore County Revenue Authority, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2013
ncs/hlb

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