

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 377 (Montgomery County Delegation)
Health and Government Operations

Budget and Taxation

**Montgomery County - Village of Friendship Heights Special Taxing District -
Procurement
MC 15-23**

This bill raises the contract value threshold, from \$5,000 to \$20,000, above which the Friendship Heights Village Council must solicit competitive bids for a contract. It also authorizes the council, by majority vote, to enter into an emergency contract that exceeds \$20,000 in value without seeking competitive bids. An “emergency” is an occurrence that the village council reasonably could not foresee and that requires an action to avoid or mitigate serious damage to public health, safety, or welfare.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill affects only the Village of Friendship Heights.

Local Effect: The bill likely has limited or no effect on Village of Friendship Heights finances but creates operational and administrative efficiencies by giving the council greater flexibility to respond to emergencies.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Village of Friendship Heights is a special taxing district in Montgomery County formed by an Act of the General Assembly in 1914.

Under the Montgomery County Code, the Friendship Heights Village Council may not spend more than \$5,000 for material or work without first advertising the specifications

and inviting bids for the contract. After soliciting bids, the council may purchase whatever material or work it may deem best.

There are no provisions in current law allowing for an emergency procurement by the council.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Montgomery County; Village of Friendship Heights; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2023
rh/ljm Third Reader - March 10, 2023

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