

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

Senate Bill 437

(Carroll County Senators)

Budget and Taxation

Environment and Transportation

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**Carroll County - Contracts and Purchasing**

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This bill raises the contract value threshold, from \$25,000 to \$50,000, above which the County Commissioners of Carroll County need to give advance public notice and use competitive bidding to purchase supplies and equipment or contract for a public work or improvement.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill applies only to Carroll County.

**Local Effect:** No direct effect on Carroll County finances, but the county likely experiences administrative efficiencies in conducting small procurements. No effect on revenues.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The County Commissioners of Carroll County may enter into a contract for any necessary public work or improvement or for the purchase of supplies and equipment that does not exceed \$25,000 only on an order passed by the county commissioners.

If the cost of a project or a purchase of supplies or equipment exceeds \$25,000, except in emergencies or when there is a sole source of supply, the Chief of the Bureau of Purchasing must provide public notice for at least one week, as specified. The public notice must state the date, time, and place of the opening of the bids. Bids must be opened in the presence

of an employee designated by the commissioners, and the commissioners must award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder whose bid is considered reasonable, or they may reject any and all bids.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 897 and HB 1285 of 2023.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 839 (Carroll County Delegation) - Environment and Transportation.

**Information Source(s):** Carroll County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 26, 2024  
rh/ljm Third Reader - March 19, 2024

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