

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 490 (St. Mary's County Delegation)
Environment and Transportation

Budget and Taxation

St. Mary's County - Competitive Bidding - Threshold

This bill exempts St. Mary’s County contracts for services and contracts for supplies valued up to \$50,000 from existing requirements to (1) establish a competitive bidding process for awarding contracts for services or supplies up to \$15,000; (2) require a bond in connection with a contract of any amount; and (3) obtain services or supplies in a manner the county commissioners consider appropriate if no bids are submitted for a contract.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill affects only local government operations.

Local Effect: The bill may create operational efficiencies for St. Mary’s County but does not materially affect county finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: County commissioners in commission counties must (1) establish a competitive bidding process for awarding contracts for services or the purchase of supplies if a contract exceeds \$15,000; (2) require a bond in connection with a contract of any amount; and (3) obtain services or supplies in a manner the county commissioners consider appropriate if no bids are submitted. Contracts solely for design or consultation services are exempt from these requirements in Somerset County.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 2025
km/mcr Third Reader - March 13, 2025

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