

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1173

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
State & Local Government, March 19, 2001

Title: An act relating to fire district purchases.

Brief Description: Purchasing material, supplies, or equipment by fire districts.

Sponsors: By Representatives Mulliken and Dunshee.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: State & Local Government: 3/19/01 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Patterson, Chair; Fairley, Vice Chair; Gardner, Hale, Haugen, Horn, Kline, T. Sheldon and Swecker.

Staff: Eugene Green (786-7405)

Background: Whenever practicable, fire districts are required to make purchases and contracts for public works based on a competitive bid process. A formal sealed bid procedure must be used for purchases unless the purchase qualifies for an exception. One exception is the purchase of materials, supplies, or equipment when the total cost will not exceed \$4,500.

Even if the purchase of materials, supplies, or equipment does exceed \$4,500, the commissioners may, by resolution, use an alternative bid process when the total estimated cost does not exceed \$10,000. This alternative bid process allows the fire district to secure telephonic or written quotes from at least three different vendors. The alternative bid process must assure that a competitive price is established and that the contract is awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. These contracts must be open to public inspection but need not be advertised.

Summary of Bill: A formal sealed bid procedure is not required for purchases of materials, supplies, or equipment when the total cost will not exceed \$10,000. For purchases that do exceed \$10,000 the commissioners may use the alternative bid process when the total estimated cost does not exceed \$50,000.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: We are just trying to be as efficient and cost-conscious as we can possibly be.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: PRO: Ryan Spiller, Washington Fire Commissioners Association.