
State Government Committee

HB 2398

Brief Description: Clarifying current requirements for public purchases of goods and services from nonprofit agencies for the blind.

Sponsors: Representatives Holy, Riccelli, Appleton, Haler, Stokesbary, Ormsby, Parker, Santos and S. Hunt.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adds references in procurement law to existing purchasing requirements for blind-made goods and services.

Hearing Date: 1/21/16

Staff: Dawn Eychaner (786-7135).

Background:

State agencies as well as counties, cities, and other political subdivisions must purchase goods and services from nonprofit agencies for the blind whenever possible. To qualify, nonprofit agencies for the blind must be located in-state and must manufacture or distribute blind-made products. The goods and services must be equal in quality and price to those available from other sources. This requirement is codified in a title dealing with miscellaneous business regulations.

In 2011, state procurement responsibilities were consolidated in the Department of Enterprise Services (DES). The DES adopts policies and procedures for the effective and efficient management of contracts by state agencies and enters into master contracts which may be utilized by state, local, and nonprofit agencies. In general, laws relating to contracting and the purchase of goods and services are codified in a title dealing with public contracts and indebtedness.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

References to the law relating to the purchase of blind-made goods and services are added to laws relating to public purchasing and preferences.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.