

**§5A-3-10. Competitive bids; publication of solicitations for sealed bids; purchase of products of nonprofit workshops; employee to assist in dealings with nonprofit workshops.**

(a) A purchase of and contract for commodities, printing and services shall be based, whenever possible, on competitive bids.

(b) The director shall solicit sealed bids for the purchase of commodities and printing which is estimated to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars. No spending unit shall issue a series of requisitions or divide or plan procurements to circumvent this twenty-five thousand dollar threshold or otherwise avoid the use of sealed bids. Any spending unit which awards multiple contracts for the same or similar commodity or service to an individual vendor over any twelve-month period, the total value of which exceeds twenty-five thousand dollars, shall file copies of all contracts awarded to the vendor within the twelve preceding months with the director immediately upon exceeding the twenty-five thousand dollar limit, along with a statement explaining how the multiple contract awards do not circumvent the twenty-five thousand dollar threshold. If the spending unit does not immediately report to the director, the director may suspend the purchasing authority of the spending unit until the spending unit complies with the reporting requirement of this subsection. The director may conduct a review of any spending unit to ensure compliance with this subsection. Following a review, the director shall complete a report summarizing his or her findings and forward the report to the spending unit. In addition, the director shall report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance on the first day of January and July of each year the spending units which have reported under this subsection and the findings of the director.

(c) The director may permit bids by electronic transmission to be accepted in lieu of sealed bids.

(d) Bids shall be solicited by public notice. The notice may be published by any advertising medium the director deems advisable. The director may also solicit sealed bids by sending requests by mail or electronic transmission to prospective vendors.

(e) The director shall, without competitive bidding, purchase commodities and services produced and offered for sale by nonprofit workshops, as defined in section one, article one of this chapter, which are located in this state: *Provided*, That such commodities and services shall be of a fair market price and of like quality comparable to other commodities and services otherwise available as determined by the director with the advice of the committee on the purchase of commodities and services from the handicapped.

To encourage contracts for commodities and services with nonprofit workshops, the director shall employ a person whose responsibilities in addition to other duties shall be to identify all commodities and services available for purchase from nonprofit workshops, to evaluate the need of the state for commodities and services to coordinate the various nonprofit workshops in their production efforts and to make available to such workshops information about available opportunities within state government for purchase of commodities or services which might be produced and sold by such workshops. Funds to employ such a person shall be included annually in the budget.

*Note: WV Code updated with legislation passed through the [2014 1st Special Session](#)*

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