

House Bill 312 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Freeman of the 140th, May of the 111th, Roberts of the 154th, Golick of the 34th, Smith of the 129th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state government,
2 and Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public officers and
3 employees, so as to provide for the substantial revision and transfer of certain powers, duties,
4 and authority of the Department of Administrative Services, the Georgia Technology
5 Authority, the Office of Planning and Budget, the Board of Regents of the University System
6 of Georgia, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Veterans Service, and the state
7 accounting officer; to change certain provisions regarding the establishment, powers,
8 purchasing authority, procedures, and limitations and vendor qualification of the Georgia
9 Technology Authority; to change certain provisions regarding powers, purchasing personnel,
10 competitive bidding, emergency purchasing, and prohibited practices with respect to the
11 Department of Administrative Services; to provide for additional powers of the Office of
12 Planning and Budget regarding motor vehicles; to change certain provisions regarding the
13 Department of Administrative Services with respect to state vehicles; to change certain
14 provisions regarding automobile purchases by the Department of Agriculture; to change
15 certain provisions regarding automobile purchases by the Department of Veterans Service;
16 to change certain provisions regarding state purchasing of motor vehicles; to change certain
17 provisions regarding certain transporting of campaign literature; to change certain provisions
18 regarding criminal penalties for violations relating to purchase or use of automobiles; to
19 change certain provisions regarding unserviceable property; to change certain provisions
20 regarding surplus equipment and property; to change certain provisions regarding property
21 inventory records; to provide for additional authority of the Department of Administrative
22 Services and the state accounting officer regarding inventory audits; to amend Code Section
23 32-2-61 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to limitations on the power of
24 the Department of Transportation regarding contracts, so as to provide for additional
25 limitations; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting
26 laws; and for other purposes.

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

H. B. 312 (SUB)

- 1 (7) To deposit or invest funds held by it in any state depository or in any investment
2 which is authorized for the investment of proceeds of state general obligation bonds; and
3 to use for its corporate purposes or redeposit or reinvest interest earned on such funds;
- 4 (8) To establish standards for agencies to submit information technology plans to the
5 authority. Standards shall include without limitation content, format, and frequency of
6 submission;
- 7 (9) To provide and approve a technology plan to include strategic planning and direction
8 for technology acquisition, deployment development, and obsolescence management as
9 well as a communications plan to manage costs for voice, video, data, and messaging
10 services for all agencies. The state technology plan shall incorporate plans from agencies
11 and other sources;
- 12 (10) To set technology policy for all agencies except those under the authority, direction,
13 or control of the General Assembly or state-wide elected officials other than the
14 Governor;
- 15 ~~(11) To prescribe procedures for the procurement of technology resources for agencies~~
16 To establish and maintain official employee purchase programs for technology resources
17 facilitated by and through the authority for state employees and public school employees
18 of county or independent boards of education;
- 19 (12) To provide oversight and program management for all technology resources for
20 projects exceeding a cumulative investment of \$1 million to accomplish goals of
21 technology portfolio management;
- 22 (13) To require agencies to submit periodic reports at such frequency and with such
23 content as the board shall define;
- 24 (14) To prepare fiscal impact statements relating to necessary modifications and
25 development of technology to support policies required by proposed legislation;
- 26 (15) To establish architecture for state technology infrastructure to promote efficient use
27 of resources and to promote economic development;
- 28 (16) To provide processes and systems for timely and fiscally prudent management of
29 the state's financial resources to include, without limitation, cash management;
- 30 (17) To establish advisory committees from time to time, including, without limitation,
31 a standing advisory committee composed of representatives from agencies which shall
32 make recommendations to the authority concerning such matters as policies, standards,
33 and architecture;
- 34 (18) To coordinate with agencies, the legislative and judicial branches of government,
35 and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, regarding technology
36 policy;

- 1 (19) To coordinate with local and federal governments to achieve the goals of the
 2 authority;
- 3 (20) To identify and pursue alternative funding approaches;
- 4 (21) To establish technology security standards and services to be used by all agencies;
- 5 (22) To conduct technology audits of all agencies;
- 6 (23) To facilitate and encourage the conduct of business on the Internet;
- 7 (24) To expand and establish policies necessary to ensure the legal authority and
 8 integrity of electronic documents;
- 9 (25) To provide and approve as part of the state technology plan an implementation plan
 10 and subsequent policies and goals designed to increase the use of telecommuting among
 11 state employees;
- 12 (26) To create a center for innovation to create applications of technology that will yield
 13 positive, measurable benefits to the state;
- 14 ~~(27) To establish benchmarks for contracts requiring approval by the board;~~
- 15 ~~(28)~~(27) To canvass sources of supply and to contract through the Department of
 16 Administrative Services for the lease, rental, purchase, or other acquisition of all
 17 technology resource related supplies, materials, services, and equipment required by the
 18 state government or any of its agencies and designate such contracts as mandatory
 19 sources of supply for agency purchases under competitive bidding or to authorize any
 20 agency to purchase or contract for technology;
- 21 ~~(29)~~(28) To establish and enforce standard specifications which shall apply to all
 22 technology and technology resource related supplies, materials, and equipment purchased
 23 or to be purchased for the use of the state government or any of its agencies, which
 24 specifications shall be based on and consistent with industry accepted open network
 25 architecture standards;
- 26 ~~(30)~~(29) To establish ~~processes~~, specifications; and standards for technology resources
 27 procurement, which shall apply to all technology to be purchased, licensed, or leased by
 28 any agency;
- 29 ~~(31)~~(30) To exercise any power granted by the laws of this state to public or private
 30 corporations which is not in conflict with the public purpose of the authority; and
- 31 ~~(32)~~(31) To do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers conferred by
 32 this chapter.
- 33 (b) The authority shall transfer to the general fund of the state treasury any funds of the
 34 authority determined by the authority to be in excess of those needed for the corporate
 35 purposes of the authority."

1 ~~(4) The request for proposals or bids shall describe the evaluation factors to be~~
 2 ~~considered in the award of the contract;~~

3 ~~(5) The terms of the request for proposals or bids may allow for discussions or revisions~~
 4 ~~but shall provide for fair and equal treatment of all vendors. In conducting discussions~~
 5 ~~there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals or bids submitted~~
 6 ~~by competing vendors; and~~

7 ~~(6) The award shall be made to the responsible vendor or vendors complying with the~~
 8 ~~technology and architecture standards and policies of the authority whose proposal or bid~~
 9 ~~was timely and is determined in writing to be the most advantageous to the state, taking~~
 10 ~~into consideration the evaluation factors set forth in the request for proposals or bids. No~~
 11 ~~other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.~~

12 ~~(b) When proposals or bids received pursuant to this Code section are unreasonable or~~
 13 ~~unacceptable, are noncompetitive, or exceed available funds and it is determined in writing~~
 14 ~~by the authority that time or other circumstances will not permit the delay required to~~
 15 ~~resolicit competitive proposals or bids, a contract may be negotiated pursuant to this Code~~
 16 ~~section, provided that each qualified vendor who submitted such a proposal or bid under~~
 17 ~~the original solicitation is notified of the determination and is given a reasonable~~
 18 ~~opportunity to negotiate.~~

19 ~~(c) Every proposal or bid solicited pursuant to this Code section, together with the name~~
 20 ~~of the vendor, shall be recorded, and all such records shall, after award or letting of the~~
 21 ~~contract, be subject to public inspection upon request. Sealed proposals or bids shall be~~
 22 ~~opened in public by the authority, which shall canvass the proposals or bids and award the~~
 23 ~~contract according to the terms of this chapter.~~

24 ~~(d) On all sealed proposals or bids received or solicited by the authority the following~~
 25 ~~certificate of independent price determination shall be used:~~

26 ~~I certify that this proposal (or bid) is made without prior understanding, agreement, or~~
 27 ~~connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a proposal (or bid) for the~~
 28 ~~same materials, supplies, or equipment and is in all respects fair and without collusion or~~
 29 ~~fraud. I understand collusive bidding is a violation of state and federal law and can result~~
 30 ~~in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards. I agree to abide by all conditions of~~
 31 ~~this proposal (or bid) and certify that I am authorized to sign this proposal (or bid) for the~~
 32 ~~vendor.!~~

33 ~~(e) The authority is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the~~
 34 ~~procedures of this Code section or by rule and regulation to implement alternative~~
 35 ~~purchasing procedures advantageous to the state. All rules and regulations relating to~~
 36 ~~implementation of purchasing procedures shall be adopted through public publication,~~
 37 ~~notice, and comment pursuant to and subject to Code Sections 50-13-4, 50-13-6, 50-13-7,~~

1 ~~and 50-13-8, and the authority shall be considered an agency for purposes of such Code~~
 2 ~~sections. Reserved.~~"

3 **SECTION 5.**

4 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-25-7.4, relating to prequalification
 5 of vendors by the Georgia Technology Authority, and inserting in its place a new Code
 6 Section 50-25-7.4 to read as follows:

7 "50-25-7.4.

8 ~~Prospective suppliers may be prequalified for particular types of supplies, services, goods,~~
 9 ~~materials, and equipment at the discretion of the authority. Solicitation mailing lists of~~
 10 ~~potential contractors shall include, but shall not be limited to, such prequalified suppliers.~~
 11 ~~The award of contracts, however, may be conditioned upon prequalification. Reserved.~~"

12 **SECTION 6.**

13 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-25-7.5, relating to small value
 14 noncompetitive purchases for technology resources, and inserting in its place a new Code
 15 Section 50-25-7.5 to read as follows:

16 "50-25-7.5.

17 ~~(a) If the needed supplies, materials, or equipment can reasonably be expected to be~~
 18 ~~acquired for less than \$2,500.00 and are not available on state contracts or through~~
 19 ~~statutorily required sources, the purchase may be effectuated without competitive bidding.~~
 20 ~~(b) Nothing in this Code section shall apply to or affect the laws, rules, and regulations~~
 21 ~~governing emergency purchases. Reserved.~~"

22 **SECTION 7.**

23 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-25-7.6, relating to emergency
 24 purchases of technology resources, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 50-25-7.6
 25 to read as follows:

26 "50-25-7.6.

27 ~~In case of any emergency arising from any unforeseen causes, including delay by~~
 28 ~~contractors, delay in transportation, breakdown in machinery, unanticipated volume of~~
 29 ~~work, or upon the declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor, the authority shall~~
 30 ~~have power to purchase in the open market any necessary supplies, materials, or equipment~~
 31 ~~for immediate delivery to any agency. A report on the circumstances of the emergency and~~
 32 ~~the transactions thereunder shall be duly recorded in a book or file to be kept by the~~
 33 ~~authority. Reserved.~~"

1 ~~(e) This Code section shall not apply to any official employee purchase program for~~
 2 ~~personal computing and computer related equipment facilitated by and through the~~
 3 ~~authority for state employees and public school employees of county or independent boards~~
 4 ~~of education. Reserved.~~"

5 SECTION 10.

6 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-5-51, relating to the powers and
 7 authority of the Department of Administrative Services, and inserting in its place a new Code
 8 Section 50-5-51 to read as follows:

9 "50-5-51.

10 The Department of Administrative Services shall have the power and authority and it shall
 11 be the department's duty, subject to this part:

12 (1) To canvass all sources of supply and to contract for the lease, rental, purchase, or
 13 other acquisition of all supplies, materials, ~~services other than professional and personal~~
 14 ~~employment services, and equipment, and services other than professional and personal~~
 15 ~~employment services~~ required by the state government or any of its ~~departments,~~
 16 ~~institutions, or agencies~~ offices, agencies, departments, boards, bureaus, commissions,
 17 institutions, or other entities of this state under competitive bidding in the manner and
 18 subject to the conditions provided for in this article;

19 (2) To establish and enforce standard specifications which shall apply to all supplies,
 20 materials, ~~and equipment, and services other than professional and personal employment~~
 21 ~~services~~ purchased or to be purchased for the use of the state government for any of its
 22 ~~departments, institutions, or agencies~~ offices, agencies, departments, boards, bureaus,
 23 commissions, institutions, or other entities of the state;

24 (3) To contract for all ~~telephones, telegraph,~~ electric light power, postal, and any and all
 25 other contractual purchases and needs of the state government or any of its ~~departments,~~
 26 ~~institutions, or agencies;~~ offices, agencies departments, boards, bureaus, commissions,
 27 institutions, or other entities of the state or in lieu of such contract to authorize any
 28 ~~department, institution, or agency~~ offices, agencies departments, boards, bureaus,
 29 commissions, institutions, or other entities of the state to purchase or contract for any or
 30 all such services;

31 (4) To have general supervision of all storerooms and stores operated by the state
 32 government or any of its ~~departments, institutions, or agencies~~ offices, agencies
 33 departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, or other entities of the state; to
 34 provide for transfer or exchange to or between all state ~~departments, institutions, and~~
 35 ~~agencies~~ offices, agencies departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, or
 36 other entities of the state or to sell all supplies, materials, and equipment which are

1 surplus, obsolete, or unused; and to maintain inventories of all fixed property and of all
2 movable equipment, supplies, and materials belonging to the state government or any of
3 ~~its departments, institutions, or agencies~~ offices, agencies, departments, boards, bureaus,
4 commissions, institutions, or other entities of the state;

5 (5) To make provision for and to contract for all state printing, including all printing,
6 binding, paper stock, and supplies or materials in connection with the same, except as
7 provided in this part. For the purpose of obtaining bids on printing, it shall have the
8 power to divide the printing into various classes and to provide stipulations and
9 specifications therefor and advertise, receive bids, and contract separately for the various
10 classes;

11 (6) To procure all fidelity bonds covering state officials and employees required by law
12 or administrative directive to give such bonds; and, in order to provide the bonds at a
13 minimum expense to the state, the bonds may be procured under a master policy or
14 policies providing insurance agreements on a group or blanket coverage basis with or
15 without deductibles or excess coverage over the state's retention as determined by the
16 commissioner. Fidelity bonds covering state officials and employees which are procured
17 pursuant to this paragraph shall expressly provide that all state officials and employees
18 who are required by law to be bonded be named in the fidelity bond as insureds or
19 beneficiaries under the terms of the fidelity bond. Inclusion of any state official, officer,
20 or employee required by law or administrative directive to be specifically bonded in a
21 master fidelity bond under the terms of this part shall satisfy any statutory requirement
22 that the official, officer, or employee be bonded. Fidelity bonds procured pursuant to this
23 paragraph shall also expressly provide for indemnification, out of the proceeds of the
24 fidelity bonds, of all state officials and employees for any liability or expense of any
25 nature resulting from a claim on the state official's or employee's bonds which is due to
26 or as a result of an act of a subordinate of the state official or employee. In order to
27 finance the continuing liability established with other agencies of state government, the
28 commissioner is authorized to retain all moneys paid to the department as premiums on
29 policies of insurance, all moneys received as interest, and all moneys received from other
30 sources to set up and maintain a reserve for the payment of such liability and the expenses
31 necessary to administer properly the insurance program. The commissioner shall invest
32 the moneys in the same manner as other such moneys in his or her possession;

33 (7) To establish and operate the state agency for surplus property for the purpose of
34 distributing surplus properties made available by the federal government under Pub. L.
35 152, 81st Congress, as amended, to institutions, organizations, agencies, and others as
36 may be eligible to receive such surplus properties pursuant to applicable provisions of
37 federal law. The commissioner may enter into or authorize the aforesaid state agency for

1 surplus property to enter into cooperative agreements with the federal government for the
 2 use of surplus properties by the state agency. The commissioner is authorized to enter
 3 into contracts with other state, local, or federal agencies, or with other persons with
 4 respect to the construction, operation, maintenance, leasing, or rental of a facility for use
 5 by the state agency. Further, the ~~commission~~ commissioner may acquire real or personal
 6 property for such purposes. ~~All personnel; personal property, including records, office~~
 7 ~~equipment, supplies, contracts, books, papers, documents, maps, appropriations, accounts~~
 8 ~~within and outside the state treasury, funds, and vehicles; and all other similar property~~
 9 ~~under the control of the State Board of Education and used for the direct support and~~
 10 ~~operation of the state agency for surplus property are transferred to the Department of~~
 11 ~~Administrative Services. Each state officer or employee affected under this paragraph~~
 12 ~~shall be entitled to all rights which he or she possessed as a state officer or employee~~
 13 ~~before July 1, 1978, including all rights of rank or grade, rights to vacation, sick pay and~~
 14 ~~leave, rights under any retirement or personnel plan, and any other rights under law or~~
 15 ~~administrative policy. This paragraph is not intended to create any new rights for any~~
 16 ~~state officer or employee but to continue only those rights in effect before July 1, 1978;~~
 17 (8) To delegate, in the department's discretion, to medical facilities under the jurisdiction
 18 of the Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia the ability to purchase
 19 medical equipment and medical supplies necessary for medical teaching purposes; ~~and~~
 20 (9) To enter into or authorize agreements with private nonprofit organizations or other
 21 states and their political subdivisions to effectuate the purposes and policies of this
 22 chapter;
 23 (10) To collect, retain, and carry over from year to year in a reserve fund any moneys,
 24 rebates, or commissions payable to the state that are generated by supply contracts
 25 established pursuant to Code Section 50-5-57; and
 26 (11) To conduct the procurement of all technology resource purchases not exempted
 27 from competitive bidding requirements in accordance with the technology standards and
 28 specifications established by the Georgia Technology Authority."

29 SECTION 11.

30 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-5-52, relating to the auditing of
 31 purchasing records, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 50-5-52 to read as follows:

32 "50-5-52.

33 The Department of Administrative Services or the state accounting officer shall have power
 34 to examine books, records, and papers of any ~~board, department, commission, institution,~~
 35 ~~or office, agency, department, board, bureau, commission, institution, or other entity~~ of the
 36 state government relative to purchases and to require those in control thereof to furnish the

1 department with copies of any and all records pertaining thereto; ~~and at the direction of the~~
 2 ~~Governor the department shall report in such detail as may be required any purchase or~~
 3 ~~purchases made by any such branch of the state government."~~

4 SECTION 12.

5 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-5-53, relating to the employment
 6 of purchasing personnel, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 50-5-53 to read as
 7 follows:

8 "50-5-53.

9 Subject to applicable rules of the State Merit System of Personnel Administration, the
 10 Department of Administrative Services may appoint as many assistants and employees, and
 11 fix their salaries, as are essential to the state's interest in the execution of the terms and
 12 provisions of this part. Assignment of an assistant or assistants to any of the departments,
 13 institutions, or agencies of the state may be made by the Department of Administrative
 14 Services. It shall be unlawful for any other agency of the state to employ any person for the
 15 purposes set out in this part unless that person complies with the minimum requirements
 16 for purchasing personnel established by the State Merit System of Personnel
 17 Administration in conjunction with the Department of Administrative Services."

18 SECTION 13.

19 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-5-67, relating to the procedures to
 20 be used by the Department of Administrative Services for competitive sealed bids and
 21 proposals, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 50-5-67 to read as follows:

22 "50-5-67.

23 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Code section, contracts exceeding \$100,000.00
 24 shall be awarded by competitive sealed bidding. If the total requirement of any given
 25 commodity will involve an expenditure in excess of \$250,000.00, sealed bids shall be
 26 solicited by advertisement in the Georgia Procurement Registry established under
 27 subsection (b) of Code Section 50-5-69 and in addition may be solicited by advertisement
 28 in a newspaper of state-wide circulation at least once and at least 15 calendar days, except
 29 for construction projects which shall have 30 calendar days allowed, prior to the date fixed
 30 for opening of the bids and awarding of the contract. Other methods of advertisement,
 31 however, may be adopted by the Department of Administrative Services when such other
 32 methods are deemed more advantageous for the particular item to be purchased. In any
 33 event, it shall be the duty of the Department of Administrative Services to solicit sealed
 34 bids from reputable owners of supplies in all cases where the total requirement will exceed
 35 \$100,000.00. When it appears that the use of competitive sealed bidding is either not

1 ~~practicable~~ justified or not advantageous to the state, a contract may be entered into by
 2 competitive sealed proposals, subject to the following conditions:

3 (1) This method of solicitation shall only be used after a written determination by the
 4 Department of Administrative Services that the use of competitive sealed bidding is not
 5 ~~practicable~~ justified or is not advantageous to the state;

6 (2) Proposals shall be solicited through a request for proposals;

7 (3) Adequate public notice of the request for proposals shall be given in the same manner
 8 as provided for competitive sealed bidding;

9 (4) A register of proposals shall be prepared and made available for public inspection;

10 (5) The request for proposals shall state the relative importance of price and other
 11 evaluation factors;

12 (6) As provided in the request for proposals and under regulations to be developed by the
 13 Department of Administrative Services, discussions may be conducted with ~~reasonable~~

14 qualified offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being
 15 selected for award, for the purpose of clarification to assure full understanding of and
 16 responsiveness to the solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal
 17 treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and ~~revision of proposals; and~~

18 ~~such~~ clarification of proposals. After such clarifications, revisions may be permitted ~~after~~
 19 ~~submissions and~~ to technical proposals and price proposals prior to award for the purpose

20 of obtaining best and final offers. The Department of Administrative Services is
 21 authorized to solicit multiple revisions to price proposals for the purpose of obtaining the

22 most advantageous proposal to the state. In conducting discussions or soliciting any
 23 revisions, there shall be no disclosure of any information contained in ~~derived from~~

24 proposals submitted by competing offerors. However, this prohibition on disclosure of
 25 information shall not prohibit the Department of Administrative Services from disclosing

26 to competing offerors any preliminary rankings and scores of competing offerors'
 27 proposals during the course of any negotiations or revisions of proposals other than with

28 respect to the procurement of construction contracts; and

29 (7) The award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined in
 30 writing to be the most advantageous to the state, taking into consideration price and the
 31 evaluation factors set forth in the request for proposals. No other factors or criteria shall
 32 be used in the evaluation. The contract file shall contain the basis on which the award is
 33 made.

34 (b) Except as otherwise provided for in this part, all contracts for the purchases of supplies,
 35 materials, ~~or~~ equipment, or services other than professional and personal employment

36 services made under this part shall, wherever possible, be based upon competitive bids and
 37 shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, taking into consideration the quality of

1 the articles to be supplied and conformity with the standard specifications which have been
2 established and prescribed, the purposes for which the articles are required, the discount
3 allowed for prompt payment, the transportation charges, and the date or dates of delivery
4 specified in the bid and any other cost affecting the total cost of ownership during the life
5 cycle of the supplies, materials, or equipment as specified in the solicitation document.

6 Competitive bids on such contracts shall be received in accordance with rules and
7 regulations to be adopted by the commissioner of administrative services, which rules and
8 regulations shall prescribe, among other things, the manner, time, and places for proper
9 advertisement for the bids, indicating the time and place when the bids will be received;
10 the article for which the bid shall be submitted and the standard specification prescribed
11 for the article; the amount or number of the articles desired and for which the bids are to
12 be made; and the amount, if any, of bonds or certified checks to accompany the bids. Any
13 and all bids so received may be rejected.

14 (c)(1)(A) When bids received pursuant to this part are unreasonable or unacceptable
15 as to terms and conditions, are noncompetitive, or the ~~low~~ lowest responsible bid
16 exceeds available funds and it is determined in writing by the Department of
17 Administrative Services that time or other circumstances will not permit or justify the
18 delay required to resolicit competitive bids, a contract may be negotiated pursuant to
19 this Code section, provided that each responsible bidder who submitted such a bid
20 under the original solicitation is notified of the determination and is given a reasonable
21 opportunity to negotiate. In cases where the bids received are noncompetitive or the ~~low~~
22 lowest responsible bid exceeds available funds, the negotiated price shall be lower than
23 the lowest rejected bid of any responsible bidder under the original solicitation.

24 (B) With respect to procurement for construction contracts, if the bid from the lowest
25 responsible and responsive bidder exceeds the funds budgeted for the contract, a
26 contract may be negotiated with such apparent low bidder to obtain a contract price
27 within the budgeted amount. Such negotiations may include changes in the scope of
28 work and other bid requirements.

29 (2) When proposals received pursuant to this part are unreasonable or unacceptable as
30 to terms and conditions, are noncompetitive, or the lowest responsible proposal exceeds
31 available funds and it is determined in writing by the Department of Administrative
32 Services that time or other circumstances will not permit or justify the delay required to
33 resolicit competitive proposals, a contract may be negotiated pursuant to this Code
34 section, provided that each responsible offeror who submitted such a proposal under the
35 original solicitation is notified of the determination and is given a reasonable opportunity
36 to negotiate. In cases where the proposals received are noncompetitive or the lowest
37 responsible proposal exceeds available funds, any contract award made pursuant to this

1 paragraph shall be made to the offeror whose negotiated proposal is most advantageous
 2 to the state according to the evaluation criteria in the request for proposals rather than to
 3 the offeror whose negotiated proposal offers the lowest price, provided that the negotiated
 4 price of the most advantageous proposal is lower than the price of the rejected responsible
 5 proposal with the lowest price under the original solicitation.

6 (d) Every bid or proposal conforming to the terms of the advertisement provided for in this
 7 Code section, together with the name of the bidder, shall be recorded, and all such records
 8 with the name of the successful bidder or offeror indicated thereon shall, after award or
 9 letting of the contract, be subject to public inspection upon request. The Department of
 10 Administrative Services shall also, within ~~five days~~ one day after the award or letting of
 11 the contract, publish the name of the successful bidder or offeror on public display in a
 12 conspicuous place in the department's office or on the Georgia Procurement Registry so
 13 that it may be easily seen by the public. The public notice on public display shall also show
 14 the price or the amount for which the contract was let and the commodities covered by the
 15 contract. The Department of Administrative Services shall also, within ~~five days~~ one day
 16 after the award or letting of the contract, publish on public display the names of all persons
 17 whose bids, offers, or proposals were rejected by it, together with a statement giving the
 18 reasons for such rejection. Bids, offers, or proposals shall be opened in public by the
 19 Department of Administrative Services, which shall canvass the bids, offers, or proposals
 20 and award the contract according to the terms of this part. A proper bond for the faithful
 21 performance of any contract shall be required of the successful bidder or offeror in the
 22 discretion of the Department of Administrative Services. After the contracts have been
 23 awarded, the Department of Administrative Services shall certify to the ~~various~~
 24 ~~departments, institutions, and agencies of the state government~~ offices, agencies,
 25 departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, or other entities of the state the
 26 sources of the supplies and the contract price of the various supplies, materials, services,
 27 and equipment so contracted for.

28 (e) On all bids or proposals received or solicited by the Department of Administrative
 29 Services, by any ~~department, agency, board, or bureau of the state,~~ office, agency,
 30 department, board, bureau, commission, institution, or other entity of the state or by any
 31 person in behalf of any ~~department, agency, board, or bureau of the state,~~ office, agency,
 32 department, board, bureau, commission, institution, or other entity of the state except in
 33 cases provided for in Code Section 50-5-58, the following certificate of independent price
 34 determination shall be used:

35 I certify that this bid, offer, or proposal is made without prior understanding, agreement,
 36 or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a bid, offer, or proposal
 37 for the same materials, supplies, services, or equipment and is in all respects fair and

1 without collusion or fraud. I understand collusive bidding is a violation of state and
 2 federal law and can result in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards. I agree to
 3 abide by all conditions of this bid, offer, or proposal and certify that I am authorized to
 4 sign this bid, offer, or proposal for the bidder or offeror.'

5 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the commissioner of administrative
 6 services is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to govern auctions conducted by
 7 state agencies in which vendors' prices are made public during the bidding process to
 8 enable the state agency or agencies to seek a lower price. This auction bidding process will
 9 continue until the lowest price is obtained within the auction's time limit. This auction
 10 bidding process shall not be used to procure construction services or for any contract for
 11 goods or services valued at less than \$100,000.00.

12 (g) Any reference in this article to sealed bids or sealed proposals shall not preclude the
 13 Department of Administrative Services from receiving bids and proposals by way of the
 14 Internet or other electronic means or authorizing state agencies from receiving bids and
 15 proposals by way of the Internet or other electronic means; provided, however, any bids
 16 or proposals received by any state agency by way of any electronic means must comply
 17 with security standards established by the Georgia Technology Authority."

18 SECTION 13A.

19 Said title is further amended by striking subsection (a) of Code Section 50-5-69, relating to
 20 purchases without competitive bidding, and inserting in its place a new subsection (a) to read
 21 as follows:

22 "(a) If the needed supplies, materials, ~~or equipment,~~ or service can reasonably be expected
 23 to be acquired for less than \$5,000.00 and is not available on state contracts or through
 24 statutorily required sources, the purchase may be effectuated without competitive bidding.
 25 The commissioner of administrative services may by rule and regulation authorize the
 26 various ~~state departments, agencies, and instrumentalities~~ offices, agencies, departments,
 27 boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, authorities, or other entities of the state to make
 28 purchases in their own behalf ~~which do not exceed \$100,000.00~~ and may provide the
 29 circumstances and conditions under which such purchases may be effected. In order to
 30 assist and advise the commissioner of administrative services in making determinations to
 31 allow offices, agencies, departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions,
 32 authorities, or other entities of the state to make purchases in their own behalf, there is
 33 created a Purchasing Advisory Council consisting of the executive director of the Georgia
 34 Technology Authority or his or her designee; the director of the Office of Planning and
 35 Budget or his or her designee; the chancellor of the University System of Georgia or his
 36 or her designee; the commissioner of technical and adult education or his or her designee;

1 the commissioner of transportation or his or her designee; the Secretary of State or his or
 2 her designee; the commissioner of human resources or his or her designee; the
 3 commissioner of community health or his or her designee; and one member to be appointed
 4 by the Governor. The commissioner of administrative services shall promulgate the
 5 necessary rules and regulations governing meetings of such council and the method and
 6 manner in which such council will assist and advise the commissioner of administrative
 7 services."

8 **SECTION 14.**

9 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-5-71, relating to emergency
 10 purchases, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 50-5-71 to read as follows:

11 "50-5-71.

12 In case of any emergency arising from any unforeseen causes, including delay by
 13 contractors, delay in transportation, breakdown in machinery, unanticipated volume of
 14 work, or upon the declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor, the Department of
 15 Administrative Services or any other ~~department, institution, or agency of~~ office, agency,
 16 department, board, bureau, commission, institution, or other entity of the state government
 17 to which emergency purchasing powers have been granted by the Department of
 18 Administrative Services shall have power to purchase in the open market any necessary
 19 supplies, materials, services, or equipment for immediate delivery to any office, agency,
 20 department, board, bureau, commission, institution, or agency other entity of the state
 21 government. A report on the circumstances of the emergency and the transactions
 22 thereunder shall be duly recorded in a book or file to be kept by the Department of
 23 Administrative Services."

24 **SECTION 15.**

25 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-5-80, relating to the purchase of
 26 items through the Department of Administrative Services for personal ownership, and
 27 inserting in its place a new Code Section 50-5-80 to read as follows:

28 "50-5-80.

29 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'person' includes natural persons, firms,
 30 partnerships, corporations, or associations.

31 (b) It shall be unlawful for any employee or official of the state or any other person to
 32 purchase, directly or indirectly, through the Department of Administrative Services, or
 33 through any ~~agency, department, board, or bureau~~ office, agency, department, board,
 34 bureau, commission, institution, authority, or other entity of the state, any article, material,
 35 merchandise, ware, commodity, or other thing of value for the personal or individual

1 ownership of himself or herself or other person or persons. All articles, materials,
 2 merchandise, wares, commodities, or other things of value purchased, directly or indirectly,
 3 by or through the Department of Administrative Services or by or through any ~~agency,~~
 4 ~~department, board, or bureau~~ office, agency, department, board, bureau, commission,
 5 institution, authority or other entity of the state shall be and remain the property of the state
 6 until sold or disposed of by the state in accordance with the laws governing the disposition
 7 or sale of other state property.

8 (c) It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to sell or deliver any article, material,
 9 merchandise, ware, commodity, or other thing of value to any person, directly or indirectly,
 10 by or through the Department of Administrative Services or by or through any ~~department,~~
 11 ~~agency, board, or bureau~~ office, agency, department, board, bureau, commission,
 12 institution, authority, or other entity of the state for the individual and personal ownership
 13 of such person or other person or persons except that property of the state may be sold or
 14 otherwise disposed of in accordance with the laws governing the sale or other disposition
 15 of state property.

16 (d) Any person who violates any provision of this Code section shall be guilty of a
 17 misdemeanor.

18 (e) This Code section shall not apply to any official employee purchase program for
 19 technology resources facilitated by and through the Georgia Technology Authority for state
 20 employees and public school employees of county or independent boards of education."

21 SECTION 16.

22 Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public officers and employees,
 23 is amended in Code Section 45-12-73, relating to the powers and duties of the Office of
 24 Planning and Budget, by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (10); by striking the period
 25 at the end of paragraph (11) and inserting in its place "; and"; and by adding a new paragraph
 26 immediately following paragraph (11), to be designated paragraph (12), to read as follows:

27 "(12) Promulgate rules and regulations governing:

28 (A) The use of passenger-carrying automobiles purchased or leased by any office,
 29 agency, department, board, bureau, commission, institution, authority, or other entity
 30 of the state;

31 (B) The rental of passenger-carrying automobiles by officials, officers, and employees
 32 of the state and for reimbursement of rental expense;

33 (C) A system of billings for motor vehicle service including the provision of fuel,
 34 maintenance, and repair costs for vehicles which are owned or leased by any office,
 35 agency, department, board, bureau, commission, institution, authority, or other entity
 36 of the state; and

1 (D) Acquisition, utilization, preventive maintenance, repair, and replacement of all
 2 other motor vehicles, exclusive of the off-the-road and highly specialized motor vehicle
 3 equipment as defined by the Office of Planning and Budget, owned or leased by any
 4 office, agency, department, board, bureau, commission, institution, authority, or other
 5 entity of the state."

6 SECTION 17.

7 Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state government, is amended
 8 by striking Code Section 50-19-1, relating to the authority of the Department of
 9 Administrative Services to issue rules governing the use of state vehicles and to establish a
 10 motor pool, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 50-19-1 to read as follows:

11 "50-19-1.

12 (a) The Department of Administrative Services is authorized and empowered:

13 (1) To establish and operate an interagency motor pool near the state capitol and to
 14 establish and operate motor pools at such other locations as may be desirable to promote
 15 efficient and economical use of passenger-carrying automobiles by officers, officials, or
 16 employees of the state and of the various departments, institutions, boards, bureaus, or
 17 agencies offices, agencies, departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions,
 18 authorities, or other entities of the state. ~~Further, the Department of Administrative~~
 19 ~~Services is authorized to provide for the operation, maintenance, and repair of such~~
 20 ~~passenger-carrying automobiles from funds appropriated for this purpose by law,~~
 21 ~~including the establishment of maintenance and repair centers; and;~~

22 (2) To purchase passenger-carrying automobiles for the use of officers, officials, or
 23 employees of the state and of the various offices, agencies, departments, institutions,
 24 boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, authorities, or other entities or agencies of the
 25 state who are required to travel by automobile in performance of their official duties; and

26 (b) ~~The commissioner of administrative services is authorized and empowered:~~

27 (1) ~~To promulgate rules and regulations governing the use of passenger-carrying~~
 28 ~~automobiles purchased by any department, institution, board, bureau, or agency of the~~
 29 ~~state from funds appropriated by law;~~

30 (2) ~~To promulgate rules and regulations governing the rental of passenger-carrying~~
 31 ~~automobiles by officials, officers, and employees of the state and to provide for~~
 32 ~~reimbursement of rental expense;~~

33 (3) ~~To provide rules and regulations, including a system of billings for motor vehicle~~
 34 ~~service (including the provision of fuel), maintenance, and repair costs, governing the~~
 35 ~~maintenance, repair, service, and sale of fuel for motor vehicles which are: the use of~~
 36 ~~motor vehicles in any motor pool operated by the Department of Administrative Services~~

1 and to collect, retain, and carry over from year to year in a reserve fund any moneys
 2 collected for the use of such motor vehicles.

3 ~~(A) Owned by any department, institution, board, bureau, or agency of the state;~~

4 ~~(B) Owned by any other governmental entity; or~~

5 ~~(C) Purchased with state grant funds for use under contract to any department,~~
 6 ~~institution, board, bureau, or agency of the state in order to allow said department,~~
 7 ~~institution, board, bureau, or agency to carry out its duties;~~

8 ~~(4) To provide policies and regulations governing acquisition, utilization, preventive~~
 9 ~~maintenance, repair, and replacement of all motor vehicles, exclusive of the off-the-road~~
 10 ~~and highly specialized motor vehicle equipment, owned by any department, institution,~~
 11 ~~board, bureau, or agency of the state; and~~

12 ~~(5) To promulgate rules and regulations authorizing and governing the rental of~~
 13 ~~interagency motor pool vehicles by officials, officers, and employees of local political~~
 14 ~~subdivisions of the state when, in the sole discretion of the commissioner of~~
 15 ~~administrative services, it is in the best interests of the state to allow such rentals."~~

16 **SECTION 18.**

17 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-19-3, relating to an exception for
 18 the Department of Agriculture to purchase vehicles, and inserting in its place a new Code
 19 Section 50-19-3 to read as follows:

20 "50-19-3.

21 ~~The Department of Agriculture is authorized to purchase passenger-carrying automobiles~~
 22 ~~through the Department of Administrative Services for the use of Department of~~
 23 ~~Agriculture employees in the performance of their official duties; and the Department of~~
 24 ~~Agriculture is expressly authorized and empowered to purchase and maintain such~~
 25 ~~passenger-carrying automobiles for such purposes. The number of such automobiles and~~
 26 ~~regulations governing their use, utilization, and replacement shall be determined by the~~
 27 ~~Department of Agriculture, subject to any budgetary or other restrictions enacted by the~~
 28 ~~General Assembly. The Department of Agriculture is authorized to contract with the~~
 29 ~~Department of Administrative Services for any automobile or motor vehicle services~~
 30 ~~provided for in this article. Reserved."~~

31 **SECTION 19.**

32 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-19-4, relating to the acceptance of
 33 vehicles by units of the university system, and inserting in its place a new Code Section
 34 50-19-4 to read as follows:

1 "50-19-4.

2 ~~Where passenger-carrying automobiles or other motor vehicles may be donated or where~~
 3 ~~the use of such motor vehicles may be donated to units of the university system for the~~
 4 ~~more effective performance of their educational, research, or other duties, such unit is~~
 5 ~~authorized to take title to or possession of such vehicles and to pay such costs as are~~
 6 ~~reasonable and necessary for their maintenance, protection, and operation. Reserved."~~

7 **SECTION 20.**

8 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-19-5, relating to an exception for
 9 the Department of Veterans Service to purchase certain vehicles, and inserting in its place
 10 a new Code Section 50-19-5 to read as follows:

11 "50-19-5.

12 ~~The Department of Veterans Service is authorized and empowered to purchase, through the~~
 13 ~~Department of Administrative Services as other state purchases are made, an ambulance~~
 14 ~~for use in transporting Georgia veterans to and from United States Department of Veterans~~
 15 ~~Affairs hospitals and other hospitals and to, from, and between facilities operated by the~~
 16 ~~State Board of Veterans Service for the care and treatment of veterans. Such purchase shall~~
 17 ~~not fall within the restrictions relating to purchase, use, and furnishing of automobiles as~~
 18 ~~provided in this article. Reserved."~~

19 **SECTION 21.**

20 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-19-6, relating to the authority of
 21 state institutions to purchase vehicles, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 50-19-6
 22 to read as follows:

23 "50-19-6.

24 The various ~~departments, institutions, boards, bureaus, or agencies~~ offices, agencies,
 25 departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, authorities, or other entities of the
 26 state, ~~except for the Department of Agriculture, which is provided for in Code Section~~
 27 ~~50-19-3, are authorized, subject to the appropriation of funds for such purposes~~ approval
 28 of the Office of Planning and Budget, to purchase, lease, or accept as donations
 29 passenger-carrying automobiles and other motor vehicles for the use of officers, officials,
 30 and employees in the performance of their official duties. The operation, use, maintenance,
 31 service, and repair of passenger-carrying automobiles shall be governed by the rules and
 32 regulations promulgated by the ~~Department of Administrative Services pursuant to Code~~
 33 ~~Section 50-19-1, except as otherwise provided by law~~ Office of Planning and Budget
 34 pursuant to Code Section 45-12-73."

SECTION 22.

Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-19-8, relating to the transportation of campaign literature at state expense, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 50-19-8 to read as follows:

"50-19-8.

It shall be unlawful for any officer of this state or any employee of any ~~department, bureau, agency, board, or institution~~ office, agency, department, board, bureau, commission, institution, authority, or other entity of the state while traveling in vehicles upon which the state is paying transportation mileage to transport any political campaign literature or matter; or to engage in soliciting votes; or to transport any person or persons soliciting votes in any election or primary."

SECTION 23.

Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-19-9, relating to penalties for violations of rules and regulations governing the purchase or use of vehicles, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 50-19-9 to read as follows:

"50-19-9.

Any person violating any provision of this article or any other general law relating to purchase of automobiles with state funds ~~and~~ or use of automobiles by state officers or employees shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, also shall be removed from office."

SECTION 24.

Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-16-144, relating to the disposition of unserviceable property, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 50-16-144 to read as follows:

"50-16-144.

~~When any public property becomes unserviceable, it may be sold or otherwise disposed of by order of the proper authority, and an entry of the same shall be made in the inventory book; and the money received therefrom shall be paid into the treasury. Reserved.~~

SECTION 25.

Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-5-17, relating to revenue from the sale of surplus state equipment, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 50-5-17 to read as follows:

1 "50-5-17.
 2 ~~In order to ensure continuity of service from year to year, the~~ The Department of
 3 Administrative Services is authorized to retain in a reserve fund moneys ~~paid into it~~
 4 generated from the sale of its any surplus ~~equipment~~ and to ~~apply such funds to the~~
 5 ~~purchase of new equipment~~ personal property pursuant to Article 4 of this chapter. Such
 6 funds may be used to cover any cost associated with disposing of the state's surplus
 7 personal property or such funds may, subject to the approval of the Office of Planning and
 8 Budget, be used to purchase personal property for the Department of Administrative
 9 Services or for any offices, agencies, departments, boards, bureaus, commissions,
 10 institutions, authorities, or other entities of the state government."

11 **SECTION 26.**

12 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-16-160, relating to the duty of the
 13 Department of Administrative Services to maintain inventory records of personal property
 14 owned by state institutions, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 50-16-160 to read
 15 as follows:

16 "50-16-160.

17 (a) It shall be the duty of the Department of Administrative Services to establish and
 18 maintain an accurate central inventory of movable personal property owned by the state
 19 and any ~~office, department, board, bureau, commission, institution, or other agency~~ offices,
 20 agencies, departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, authorities, or other
 21 entities of the state; and it shall be the duty of each officer and employee thereof to furnish
 22 the Department of Administrative Services full information for such inventory and
 23 otherwise assist it in establishing and maintaining the inventory.

24 (b) The inventory shall be maintained on a current basis; and state officers and employees
 25 shall furnish the Department of Administrative Services such information as may be
 26 required by it to keep the inventory current.

27 (c) The inventory records shall be available for inspection at all times during normal
 28 working hours; and copies of the inventory records or any part thereof shall be provided
 29 to the Governor and the General Assembly, or committees thereof, upon request."

30 **SECTION 27.**

31 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-16-161, relating to inclusion or
 32 exclusion of personal property from inventory records, and inserting in its place a new Code
 33 Section 50-16-161 to read as follows:

1 "50-16-161.

2 ~~(a) This part shall apply to movable personal property for all state agencies, authorities,~~
 3 ~~and entities except for those agencies, authorities, and entities provided for in subsection~~
 4 ~~(a) of Code Section 50-16-161.1, which shall be defined as any item which meets the~~
 5 ~~following criteria:~~

6 ~~(1) Any item which is basically nonconsumable and nonexpendable in nature, such as~~
 7 ~~motor vehicles, mechanized and nonmechanized equipment, office equipment,~~
 8 ~~appliances, etc.;~~

9 ~~(2) Any item with an estimated usable life expectancy of three or more years and an item~~
 10 ~~acquisition cost of \$1,000.00 or more; or~~

11 ~~(3) Any item or items which an agency feels should be included in its personal property~~
 12 ~~inventory even though it fails to meet the criteria outlined above.~~

13 ~~(b) The Department of Administrative Services shall be authorized to include or exclude~~
 14 ~~items from the inventory as it deems necessary; and the determination shall be binding~~
 15 ~~upon the various departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, and other~~
 16 ~~agencies of the state government. Reserved.~~

17 SECTION 28.

18 Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-16-161, relating to inclusion or
 19 exclusion of personal property from inventory records, and inserting in its place a new Code
 20 Section 50-16-161 to read as follows:

21 "50-16-161.

22 ~~(a) This part shall apply to movable personal property, which shall be defined as any item~~
 23 ~~which meets the following criteria:~~

24 ~~(1) Any item which is basically nonconsumable and nonexpendable in nature, such as~~
 25 ~~motor vehicles, mechanized and nonmechanized equipment, office equipment,~~
 26 ~~appliances, etc.;~~

27 ~~(2) Any item with an estimated usable life expectancy of three or more years and an item~~
 28 ~~acquisition cost of \$1,000.00 or more; or~~

29 ~~(3) Any item or items which an agency feels should be included in its personal property~~
 30 ~~inventory even though it fails to meet the criteria outlined above.~~

31 ~~(b) The Department of Administrative Services shall be authorized to include or exclude~~
 32 ~~items from the inventory as it deems necessary; and the determination shall be binding~~
 33 ~~upon the various departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, and other~~
 34 ~~agencies of the state government. Reserved.~~

SECTION 29.

Said title is further amended by striking Code Section 50-16-162, relating to rules and regulations governing the inventory of personal property, and inserting in its place a new Code Section 50-16-162 to read as follows:

"50-16-162.

The ~~commissioner of administrative services~~ state accounting officer is authorized and directed to adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations establishing those items of personal property required to be kept on the inventory records of all offices, agencies, departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, authorities, or other entities of the state as may be necessary to carry out this part."

SECTION 30.

Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section immediately following Code Section 50-16-162, to be designated Code Section 50-16-163, to read as follows:

"50-16-163.

The Department of Administrative Services or the state accounting officer shall have the power to examine books, records, papers, or personal property of offices, agencies, departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, authorities, or other entity of the state for the purposes of ensuring compliance with this part."

SECTION 30A.

Code Section 32-2-61 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to limitations on the power of the Department of Transportation regarding contracts, is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting in its place a new subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) The department is prohibited from entering into any contract for the purchase of supplies, materials, ~~and~~ equipment, or services, except as authorized by Article 3 of Chapter 5 of Title 50."

SECTION 31.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2005.

(b) Section 28 of this Act shall become effective on June 30, 2006.

SECTION 32.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.