

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

HOUSE BILL HB1418:

Hutchison

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to state purchasing and finance; amending 62 O.S. 2001, Section 139.47, which relates to the state contingency and emergency fund; allowing expenditure for emergency response action by the United States Army Corp of Engineers; amending 74 O.S. 2001, Sections 85.7 and 85.44B, which relate to the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act; exempting certain agreements with the United States Army Corp of Engineers for certain requirements; providing an exception to prior payment for certain services rendered by the United States Army Corp of Engineers; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 62 O.S. 2001, Section 139.47, is amended to read as follows:

Section 139.47 A. Where the written findings of fact required by Section 139.46 of this title include one of the following emergencies, and the Governor finds that such emergency exists, and was not foreseen or reasonably foreseeable by the Legislature, the Governor may allocate and authorize the expenditure of monies from the State Emergency Fund to provide for such emergency without any action by the Contingency Review Board:

~~(1)~~ 1. Destruction of or damage to public property caused by fire, hail, tornado, explosion, windstorm, flood, or other catastrophe;

~~(2)~~ 2. Maintenance and operation of the National Guard when called to active state service in cases of emergency;

~~(3)~~ 3. Allocation or expenditures necessary to provide matching funds for participation in any federal disaster relief program, emergency equipment purchase, or otherwise expedite receipt of disaster funds;

~~(4)~~ 4. Allocations or expenditures deemed necessary to remove asbestos from public buildings or facilities;

~~(5)~~ 5. Emergency response action necessary to protect the public health, safety or welfare or livestock, wild animals, birds, fish or other aquatic life from the discharge of any hazardous waste, deleterious substance or any such other waste or substance as will or is likely to be detrimental or cause injury to the public or such livestock, wild animals, birds, fish or other aquatic life;

~~(6)~~ 6. Funding for funeral expenses not to exceed Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) for state employees who are killed in the line of their duty and funding for premiums for six (6) months of insurance coverage already in force for spouse and dependents who are eligible for survivor coverage of those employees pursuant to rules of the Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board, provided, that if funds in the State Emergency Fund are insufficient to cover these expenses, the employing agency of the employees shall pay the expenses; ~~and~~

~~(7)~~ 7. Allocation or expenditures necessary to provide funds for disaster relief programs to political subdivisions for damage caused by fire, hail, tornado, explosion, windstorm, flood or other catastrophe for which federal disaster relief funds have been requested by the Governor and rejected by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). Provided, that no political subdivision shall be deemed eligible for an allocation or expenditure of funds from the State Emergency Fund under this paragraph unless such area has first been deemed a disaster area by an executive declaration by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma; and

8. Allocation or expenditures necessary to provide funds for cooperative actions with the United States Army Corp of Engineers to respond to emergencies or to protect the public health, safety, or welfare.

B. Expenditures made to political subdivisions under this section shall be audited and processed by the Office of Civil Emergency Management. No application for an allocation or expenditure of funds shall be made until it is certified by the political subdivision that no other monies are available to reimburse the requesting entity for expenditures made as a result of the catastrophe. No geographical area which has been declared a disaster area by the Governor may receive an allocation of funds under this section in excess of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) in a calendar year.

Provided further, that the Governor shall allocate, without any action by the Contingency Review Board, monies from the State Emergency Fund to pay expenses for the Court on the Judiciary approved pursuant to Section 16.6 of Title 20 of the Oklahoma Statutes and not otherwise funded by other legislative appropriations.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 85.7, is amended to read as follows:

Section 85.7 A. 1. Except as otherwise provided by the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act, no state agency shall make an acquisition for an amount exceeding Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) without submission of a requisition to the State Purchasing Director and submission of suppliers' competitive bids or proposals to the State Purchasing Director.

2. Any acquisition a state agency makes shall be made pursuant to the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act and rules promulgated pursuant thereto.

- a. Split purchasing for the purpose of evading the requirement of competitive bidding shall be a felony.
- b. The State Purchasing Director may waive or increase the limit of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for a state agency acquisition by not more than ten percent (10%) to perfect an otherwise valid acquisition inadvertently exceeding the limit due to administrative error by the state agency or unforeseeable circumstances. The state agency shall request a waiver upon the discovery of the error or circumstance to the State Purchasing Director on a form the Director requires.
- c. The State Purchasing Director shall report all requests for waivers or increases, stating the amount and whether the request was granted or denied, monthly to the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

3. Contracts for master custodian banks or trust companies, investment managers, investment consultants, and actuaries for the state retirement systems, State Insurance Fund, State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board, pension fund management consultants of the Oklahoma State Pension Commission and the Commissioners of the Land Office, and other professional services as defined in Section 803 of Title 18 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall be exempt from competitive bidding procedures of Section 85.4 of this title. Contracts with financial institutions to act as depositories and managers of the Oklahoma College Savings Plan accounts shall be exempt from competitive bidding procedures. A state agency that makes an acquisition pursuant to this paragraph shall notify the State Purchasing Director within fifteen (15) days following completion of the acquisition. The Department of Central Services shall compile a list of the exempt contracts and send the list to a

member of the Appropriations and Budget Committee of the House of Representatives or Appropriations Committee of the Senate, if the member requests.

4. Requisitions pursuant to this section shall not be required prior to emergency acquisitions by a state agency not exceeding Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00). The state agency shall submit a requisition to the State Purchasing Director within five (5) days following the acquisition together with a statement of the emergency. The State Purchasing Director shall send the requisition and a written analysis to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives specifying the facts and circumstances giving rise to the emergency requisition.

5. Requisitions pursuant to this section for acquisitions to alleviate a serious environmental emergency shall not be required if, upon receiving a request from the Chair of the Corporation Commission and after having examined the facts and circumstances of the case, the Governor certifies in writing the existence of a serious environmental emergency. For the purposes of this section, "serious environmental emergency" means a situation within the jurisdiction of the Commission:

- a. in which serious damage to the environment will quickly occur if immediate action is not taken and the damage will be so significant that the urgent need for action outweighs the need for competitive bids, or
- b. a situation in which human life or safety is in imminent danger or significant property interests are threatened with imminent destruction.

6. Acquisitions for repairs of equipment in emergencies, of livestock through a market agency, dealer, commission house, or livestock auction market bonded or licensed under federal or state law, the purchase or collection of semen or embryos, and the

placement of embryos into recipient livestock shall not require requisitions pursuant to this section or any other provisions of the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act.

7. The Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society shall select suppliers for the restoration of historical sites and museums and shall not be subject to the requisition requirements of this section or any other provision of the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act. The Board may send a requisition to the State Purchasing Director and request supplier bid or proposal submission procedures, but supplier and bid selection will be the prerogative of the Board and will be based on contractors' documented qualifications and experience.

8. Purchases of postage by state agencies shall be made pursuant to Sections 90.1 through 90.4 of this title.

9. Sole source or sole brand acquisitions by a state agency or the State Purchasing Director shall comply with Section 85.45j of this title.

10. Acquisitions for the design, development, communication, or implementation of the state employees flexible benefits plan shall not be subject to the requirements of this section; provided, that the Flexible Benefits Advisory Council shall use procedures consistent with the competitive bid requirements of the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act.

11. a. Any acquisition of a service which the Department of Central Services has approved as qualifying for a fixed and uniform rate shall be made pursuant to provisions of this paragraph.
- b. The Department of Central Services shall establish criteria and guidelines for those services which may qualify for a fixed and uniform rate.
- c. Fixed and uniform rate contracts authorized by this paragraph shall be limited to contracts for those

services furnished to persons directly benefiting from such services and shall not be used by a state agency to employ consultants or to make other acquisitions.

- d. Any state agency desiring to have a service qualified for a fixed and uniform rate shall make a request for service qualification to the Department of Central Services and submit documentation to support the request. The Department of Central Services shall approve or deny the request. If the Department of Central Services approves the request, the state agency shall establish a fixed and uniform rate for the service. No contracts shall be entered into by the state agency until the rate has been approved by the state agency in a public hearing. The proposed rate shall be clearly and separately identified in the agenda of the state agency for the hearing and shall be openly and separately discussed during such hearing. The state agency shall notify the Director of the Department of Central Services of its pending consideration of the proposed rate at least thirty (30) days before the state agency is to meet on the proposed rate. The state agency shall deliver to the Director of the Department of Central Services a copy of the agenda items concerning the proposed rate with supporting documentation. The Director of the Department of Central Services shall communicate any observation, reservation, criticism, or recommendation to the agency, either in person at the time of the hearing or in writing delivered to the state agency before or at the time of the hearing. The Director of the Department of Central Services shall specifically note in the written communications whether the

Director of the Department of Central Services has determined the rate to be excessive. Any written communication presented in the absence of the Director of the Department of Central Services shall be presented orally during the public hearing. Whether made in person or in writing, any comment made by the Director of the Department of Central Services shall be made a part of the minutes of the hearing in full.

- e. Within two (2) weeks after the convening of the Legislature, the administrative officer of the state agency shall furnish to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and to any member of the House or Senate, if requested by the member, a complete list of all of the types of services paid for by uniform fixed rates, the amount of the rate last approved by the agency for the service, and the number of contracts then in existence for each type of service. Any rate which has been determined to be excessive by the Director of the Department of Central Services shall be specifically identified in the list by the state agency.
- f. At any time, the Director of the Department of Central Services may review, suspend, or terminate a contract entered into pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph if the Director of the Department of Central Services determines the contract is not necessary, is excessive, or is not justified.

12. Specifically prescribed nonmedical adaptive technology-related acquisitions for individuals with disabilities who are clients of the State Department of Rehabilitation Services and which are prescribed by a physician, rehabilitation engineer, qualified rehabilitation technician, speech therapist, speech pathologist,

occupational therapist, physical therapist, or qualified sensory aids specialist, and other client acquisitions, shall not be subject to the requisition requirements of this section. The Commission for Rehabilitation Services shall develop standards for the purchase of such acquisitions and may elect to utilize the Purchasing Division for an acquisition. The standards shall foster economy, provide a short response time, include appropriate safeguards, require written records, ensure appropriate competition for economical and efficient purchasing, and shall be approved by the State Purchasing Director.

13. The Department of Human Services shall develop procedures for acquisitions of specifically prescribed nonmedical assistive technology-related items not exceeding the acquisition purchase amount requiring a requisition pursuant to this section for individuals under sixteen (16) years of age who are recipients of Supplemental Security Income which are prescribed by a physician, qualified sensory aids specialist or qualified special education instructor. The procedures shall reflect standards for the acquisition of such nonmedical assistive technology-related items, may provide for utilization of the Purchasing Division when appropriate, shall foster economy, provide a short response time, shall include appropriate safeguards and written records to ensure appropriate competition and economical and efficient purchasing, and shall be approved by the State Purchasing Director.

14. a. Structured settlement agreements entered into by the Attorney General's office in order to settle any lawsuit involving the state, the Legislature, any state agency or any employee or official of the state shall not be subject to the competitive bidding requirements of this section if:
- (1) prior to entering into any contract for the services of an entity to administer a structured settlement agreement, the Attorney General

receives proposals from at least three entities engaged in providing such services, and

(2) the selection of a particular entity is made on the basis of the response to the request which is the most economical and provides the most competent service which furthers the best interests of the state.

b. A list of any such structured settlement agreements entered into by the Attorney General with summary thereon for the previous calendar year shall be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate on January 31 of each year.

15. Purchases available pursuant to a multistate or multigovernmental contract through the Purchasing Division, if the terms of the contract are more favorable to or will result in more favorable terms, conditions, accessibility, prices, control, or efficiency for the state than purchasing from a company distributing to state agencies through a statewide contract or other contract shall be exempt from competitive bidding procedures.

16. The Commission on Marginally Producing Oil and Gas Wells shall be exempt from the competitive bid requirements of this section for contracts with local vendors for the purpose of holding special events and exhibitions throughout the state.

17. Agreements entered into by any state agency with the United States Army Corp of Engineers in order to provide emergency response or to protect the public health, safety, or welfare shall not require requisitions and shall not be subject to competitive bidding requirements of this section.

B. Acquisitions shall be awarded to the lowest and best, or best value, bidder at a specified time and place, which shall be open to the public.

C. Bids for professional service contracts for an amount requiring submission of requisitions to the State Purchasing Director shall be evaluated by the State Purchasing Director and the state agency contracting for such service. Both cost and technical expertise shall be considered in determining the lowest and best, or best value, bid. Further, the state agency shall present its evaluation and recommendation to the State Purchasing Director. A documented evaluation report containing the evaluations of the State Purchasing Director and the state agency contracting for such service shall be completed prior to the awarding of a professional service contract and such report shall be a matter of public record.

D. When requested by the State Insurance Fund, the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board, or the governing board of a state retirement system authorized to hire investment managers, the Department of Central Services shall assist the requesting body in the process of selecting investment managers. When requested by the Flexible Benefits Advisory Council, the Department of Central Services shall assist the Council in the process of selecting contracts for the design, development, communication, or implementation of the state employees flexible benefits plan.

E. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, the acquisition of food items or food products by a state agency from a public trust created pursuant to Sections 176 through 180.56 of Title 60 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall comply with competitive bidding procedures pursuant to the provisions of this section.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 85.44B, is amended to read as follows:

Section 85.44B Payment for products or services pursuant to a contract executed by a state agency, whether or not such state agency is subject to the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act, Section 85.1 et seq. of this title, shall be made only after products have been provided or services rendered. This ~~does~~ section shall not

prohibit the payment for subscriptions to magazines, periodicals, or books or for payment to vendors providing subscription services.

This section shall not prohibit payment for services provided by the United States Army Corp of Engineers prior to the services being rendered if the action is taken pursuant to a cooperative agreement between a state agency and the Corp to provide emergency response or to protect the public health, safety, or welfare.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2003.

SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

49-1-5115            KB            01/16/03