

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 485

By Senators Woodrum and Oliverio

[Introduced February 14, 2025; referred
to the Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §5A-3-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to
2 the Purchasing Division; and exempting the Secretary of State from the competitive
3 bidding process for specific purchases of securing, facilitating, or supporting critical
4 election infrastructure.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. PURCHASING DIVISION.

§5A-3-1. Division created; purpose; director; applicability of article; continuation.

1 (a) The Purchasing Division within the Department of Administration is continued. The
2 underlying purposes and policies of the Purchasing Division are:

3 (1) To serve as a source of expertise in procurement methods and practices for the various
4 state agencies, and to assist and facilitate state agencies in procurement matters, including for
5 travel services;

6 (2) To simplify, clarify and modernize the law governing procurement by this state;

7 (3) To permit the continued development of procurement policies and practices;

8 (4) To make as consistent as possible the procurement rules and practices among the
9 various spending units;

10 (5) To provide for increased public confidence in the procedures followed in public
11 procurement;

12 (6) To ensure the fair and equitable treatment of all persons who deal with the procurement
13 system of this state;

14 (7) To provide increased economy in procurement activities and to maximize to the fullest
15 extent practicable the purchasing value of public funds;

16 (8) To foster effective broad-based competition within the free enterprise system;

17 (9) To provide safeguards for the maintenance of a procurement system of quality and
18 integrity; and

19 (10) To obtain in a cost-effective and responsive manner the commodities and services

required by spending units for those spending units to better serve this state's businesses and residents.

(b) The provisions of this article apply to all of the spending units of state government, except as otherwise provided by this article or by law.

(c) The provisions of this article do not apply to the judicial branch, the West Virginia State Police, the West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services, the legislative branch, to purchases of stock made by the Alcohol Beverage Control Commissioner and to purchases of textbooks, instructional materials, digital content resources, instructional technology, hardware, software, telecommunications and technical services by the State Board of Education for use in and in support of the public schools, and to purchases of critical election infrastructure security, systems, and assets by the West Virginia Secretary of State.

(d) The provisions of this article do not apply to any contract, agreement, or memorandum of understanding between a spending unit of state government and West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, West Virginia University or Marshall University for services, except that any contract entered into under §9-2-6(5) of this code for the provision of Medicaid services by a risk-bearing entity is not exempt from the provisions of this article.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, commodities and services may be purchased by a spending unit in the open market for immediate delivery in emergencies: *Provided*, That the purchase and a description of the circumstances warranting such emergency purchase are timely reported by the agency head or other authorized agent of the spending unit under the provisions of § 5A-3-4(a)(2) of this code.

(f) The provisions of this article apply to every expenditure of public funds by a spending unit for commodities and services irrespective of the source of the funds, except as otherwise provided by this article or by law.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to exempt West Virginia Secretary of State purchases for

securing, facilitating, or supporting critical election infrastructure from the competitive bidding process.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.