
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Currently, counties, municipalities, townships, school districts, and other political subdivisions may participate in contracts which the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has entered for the purchase of supplies and services. For purchases made outside of those contracts, political subdivisions must follow competitive bidding procedures. Under the bill, political subdivisions may purchase supplies and services outside a DAS contract and without complying with competitive selection procedures, if the supplies or services can be purchased at a lower rate than is available through such a contract. The bill could result in a reduction of expenditures to those political subdivisions that are able to make purchases at a lower rate than is available through a DAS contract.

This bill also eliminates the requirement that state printing contracts be executed within Ohio. This could lower costs for the state. According to a spokesperson from DAS, during a recent two-year period, 14 printing jobs were not awarded to the lowest bidder because of the in-state requirement. For these 14 jobs, if DAS had accepted the lowest bids, the state would have saved a total of \$972,400. The bill does, however, add a requirement that businesses from states which do not accept bids from Ohio cannot bid on contracts for state printing in Ohio.

□ *LBO staff: Leslie Little, Senior Analyst*

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