LC002229

2023 -- Н 5964

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- DAY CARE PROGRAMS STATE PURCHASES

Introduced By: Representatives Donovan, Boylan, Tanzi, McGaw, Kazarian, Casimiro, Fogarty, Shallcross Smith, Caldwell, and McEntee Date Introduced: March 01, 2023

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 37-2-7, 37-2-9 and 37-2-18 of the General Laws in Chapter 37-2

2 entitled "State Purchases" are hereby amended to read as follows:

- 3 **37-2-7. Definitions.**
- 4

The words defined in this section have the meanings set forth below whenever they appear

5 in this chapter, unless the context in which they are used clearly requires a different meaning or a

6 different definition is prescribed for a particular section, group of sections, or provision:

7 (1) "Business" means any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietorship, joint
8 stock company, joint venture, or any other legal entity through which business is conducted.

9 (2) "Change order" means a written authorization signed by the purchasing agent directing 10 or allowing the contractor to proceed with changes, alterations, or modifications to the terms, 11 conditions, or scope of work on a previously awarded contract.

(3) "Chief purchasing officer" shall mean: (i) For a state agency, the director of the
department of administration, and (ii) For a public agency, the executive director or the chief
operational officer of the agency.

(4) Child care declaration statement" means the form to be completed by bidders on
 contracts pursuant to this chapter.

17 (4)(5) "Construction" means the process of building, altering, repairing, improving, or
 18 demolishing any public structures or building, or other public improvements of any kind to any

public real property. It does not include the routine maintenance or repair of existing structures,
 buildings, or real property performed by salaried employees of the state of Rhode Island in the
 usual course of their jobs.

4 (5)(6) "Contract" means all types of agreements, including grants and orders, for the 5 purchase or disposal of supplies, services, construction, or any other item. It includes awards; 6 contracts of a fixed-price, cost, cost-plus-a-fixed-fee, or incentive type; contracts providing for the 7 issuance of job or task orders; leases; letter contracts; purchase orders; and construction 8 management contracts. It also includes supplemental agreements with respect to any of the 9 foregoing. "Contract" does not include labor contracts with employees of state agencies.

10 ((6)(7) "Contract amendment" means any written alteration in the specifications, delivery 11 point, rate of delivery, contract period, price, quantity, or other contract provisions of any existing 12 contract, whether accomplished by unilateral action in accordance with a contract provision, or by 13 mutual action of the parties to the contract. It includes bilateral actions, such as supplemental 14 agreements, and unilateral actions, such as change orders, administrative changes, notices of 15 termination, and notices of the exercise of a contract option.

16 (7)(8) "Contractor" means any person having a contract with a governmental body.

17 (8)(9) "Data" means recorded information, regardless of form or characteristic.

(9)(10) "Designee" means a duly authorized representative of a person holding a superior
 position.

20 (10)(11) "Employee" means an individual drawing a salary from a state governmental
 21 entity.

(11)(12) "State governmental entity" means any entity created as a legislative body or a
 public or state agency by the general assembly or constitution of this state, except for municipal,
 regional, or county governmental entities.

25 (12)(13) "May" means permissive.

26 (13)(14) "Negotiation" means contracting by either the method set forth in § 37-2-19, 3727 2-20, or 37-2-21.

28 (14)(15) "Person" means any business, individual, organization, or group of individuals.

29 (15)(16) "Procurement" means the purchasing, buying, renting, leasing, or otherwise 30 obtaining of any supplies, services, or construction. It also includes all functions that pertain to the 31 obtaining of any supply, service, or construction item, including a description of requirements, 32 selection and solicitation of sources, preparation, and award of contract, and all phases of contract 33 administration.

34

(16)(17) "Public agency" shall mean the Rhode Island industrial recreational building

1 authority, the Rhode Island commerce corporation, the Rhode Island industrial facilities 2 corporation, the Rhode Island refunding bond authority, the Rhode Island housing and mortgage 3 finance corporation, the Rhode Island resource recovery corporation, the Rhode Island public 4 transit authority, the Rhode Island student loan authority, the Howard development corporation, 5 the water resources board corporate, the Rhode Island health and education building corporation, the Rhode Island turnpike and bridge authority, the Blackstone Valley district commission, the 6 7 Narragansett Bay water quality management district commission, the Rhode Island 8 telecommunications authority, the convention center authority, the Channel 36 foundation, the 9 Rhode Island lottery commission their successors and assigns, any other body corporate and politic 10 which has been or will be created or established within this state excepting cities and towns, the 11 university of Rhode Island board of trustees for all purchases that are funded by restricted, 12 sponsored, or auxiliary monies, and the council on postsecondary education for all purchases that 13 are funded by restricted, sponsored, or auxiliary monies.

14 (17)(18) "Purchase request" or "purchase requisition" means that document whereby a 15 using agency requests that a contract be entered into to obtain goods and/or services for a specified 16 need, and may include, but is not limited to, the technical description of the requested item, delivery 17 requirements, transportation mode request, criteria for evaluation of proposals, and/or preparation 18 of suggested sources of supply, and information supplied for the making of any written 19 determination and finding required by § 37-2-6.

20 (18)(19) "Purchasing agency" means any state governmental entity which is authorized by 21 this chapter, its implementing regulations, or by way of delegation from the chief purchasing officer 22 to contract on its own behalf rather than through the central contracting authority of the chief 23 purchasing officer.

24 (19)(20) "Purchasing agent" means any person authorized by a governmental entity in 25 accordance with procedures prescribed by regulations, to enter into and administer contracts and 26 make written determinations and findings with respect to contracts. The term also includes an 27 authorized representative acting within the limits of authority. "Purchasing agent" also means the 28 person appointed in accordance with § 37-2-1.

29 (20)(21) "Services" means the rendering, by a contractor, of its time and effort rather than 30 the furnishing of a specific end product, other than reports that are merely incidental to the required 31 performance of services. "Services" does not include labor contracts with employees of state 32 agencies.

33 (21)(22) "Shall" means imperative.

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(22)(23) "State" means the state of Rhode Island and any of its departments or agencies

1 and public agencies.

2 (23)(24) "Supplemental agreement" means any contract modification which is
3 accomplished by the mutual action of the parties.

4 (24)(25) "Supplies" means all property, including, but not limited to, leases of real
5 property, printing, and insurance, except land or permanent interest in land.

6 (25)(26) "Using agency" means any state governmental entity which utilizes any supplies,
7 services, or construction purchased under this chapter.

8 (26)(27) As used in § 37-2-59, "architect" or "engineer" services means those professional 9 services within the scope of practice of architecture, professional engineering, or registered land 10 surveying pertaining to construction, as defined by the laws of this state. "Consultant" means any 11 person with whom the state and/or a public agency has a contract which contract provides for the 12 person to give direction or information as regards a particular area of knowledge in which the 13 person is a specialist and/or has expertise.

(27)(28) For purposes of §§ 37-2-62 — 37-2-70, "directors" means those members of a
 public agency appointed pursuant to a statute who comprise the governing authority of the board,
 commission, authority, and/or corporation.

17 (28)(29) "State agency" means any department, commission, council, board, bureau, 18 committee, institution, or other governmental entity of the executive or judicial branch of this state 19 not otherwise established as a body corporate and politic, and includes, without limitation, the 20 council on postsecondary education except for purchases which are funded by restricted, sponsored, 21 or auxiliary moneys, the university of Rhode Island board of trustees except for all purchases which 22 are funded by restricted, sponsored, or auxiliary monies, and the council on elementary and 23 secondary education.

(29)(30) "Governmental entity" means any department, commission, council, board,
bureau, committee, institution, legislative body, agency, or government corporation of the
executive, legislative, or judicial branches of state, federal, and/or local governments.

27 (30)(31) "Construction management at-risk" or "construction management at-risk 28 services" or "construction management at-risk delivery method" is a construction method wherein 29 a construction manager at-risk provides a range of preconstruction services and construction 30 management services which may include cost estimation and consultation regarding the design of 31 the building project, the preparation and coordination of bid packages, scheduling, cost control, and 32 value engineering, acting as the general contractor during the construction, detailing the trade 33 contractor scope of work, holding the trade contracts and other contracts, evaluating trade 34 contractors and subcontractors, and providing management and construction services, all at a

guaranteed maximum price, which shall represent the maximum amount to be paid by the using
 agency for the building project, including the cost of work, the general conditions, and the fee
 payable to the construction management at-risk firm.

4 (31)(32) "Construction manager at-risk" or "construction management at-risk firm" is a 5 person or business experienced in construction that has the ability to evaluate and to implement 6 drawings and specifications as they affect time, cost and quality of construction and the ability to 7 coordinate and deliver the construction of the project within a guaranteed maximum price, which 8 shall represent the maximum amount to be paid by the using agency for the building project, 9 including the cost of the work, the general conditions, and the fee payable to the construction 10 management at-risk firm. The construction manager at-risk provides consultation services during 11 the preconstruction and construction phases of the project. The project engineer, architect, or 12 owner's program manager may not serve as the construction manager at-risk.

13 (32)(33) "Owner's program manager" shall be an entity engaged to provide project 14 management services on behalf of a state agency for the construction and supervision of the 15 construction of a building project. The owner's program manager acts as the owner's agent in all 16 aspects of the construction project, including, but not limited to, architectural programming, 17 planning, design, construction, and the selection and procurement of an appropriate construction 18 delivery method. The owner's program manager shall have at least seven (7) years' experience in 19 the construction and supervision of construction of buildings of similar size and complexity. The 20 owner's program manager shall not have been employed during the preceding year by the design 21 firm, the construction firm, and/or the subcontractors associated with the project.

22

<u>37-2-9. Authority and duties of the chief purchasing officer.</u>

(a) The chief purchasing officer shall have power and authority over, and may, except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter, adopt regulations pursuant to § 42-35-2 and consistent with this chapter governing the purchasing, management, and control of any and all supplies, services, construction, and other items required to be purchased by the state. The chief purchasing officer shall consider and decide matters of policy with regard to state procurement. The chief purchasing officer shall have the power of review with respect to the implementation of regulations and policy determinations.

30 (b) Regulations shall be adopted governing the following:

31 (1) Conditions and procedures for delegations of purchasing authority;

32 (2) Prequalification, suspension, debarment, and reinstatement of prospective bidders;

- 33 (3) Small purchase procedures;
- 34 (4) Conditions and procedures for the purchase of perishables and items for resale;

- (5) Conditions and procedures for the use of source selection methods authorized by this
 chapter including emergency purchases;
- 3 (6) Opening and rejection of bids or offers, consideration of alternate bids, and waiver of
 4 informalities in offers;
- 5 (7) Confidentiality of technical data and trade secrets information submitted by actual or 6 prospective bidders or offerors;
- 7 (8) Partial, progressive, and multiple awards;
- 8 (9) Supervision of storerooms and inventories, including determination of appropriate 9 stock levels and the management, transfer, sale, or other disposal of state owned property;
- 10 (10) Definitions and classes of contractual services and procedures for acquiring them;
- 11 (11) To sell, trade, or otherwise dispose of surplus supplies and services for the state;
- 12 (12) To exercise general supervision and control over all warehouses, storerooms, stores,
 13 and all inventories of supplies, services, and construction belonging to the state;
- (13) To establish and maintain programs for the development and use of purchasing
 specifications, and for the inspection, testing, and acceptance of supplies, services, and
 construction;
- 17 (14) To develop a program which involves and/or utilizes small business and small
 18 disadvantaged business as contractors;
- (15) To develop standards of conduct which supplement the provisions of chapter 14 of
 title 36, as amended, for personnel involved in the state of Rhode Island purchasing process;
- (16) For all contracts for supplies and services exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000),
 contractors must comply with the requirements of federal executive order no. 11246, as amended,
 § 28-5.1-10, and other regulations as issued by the purchasing agent, and administered by the state
 equal opportunity office of the department of administration. Failure to comply will be considered
 a substantial breach of the contract subject to penalties prescribed in the regulations: and
- 26 (17) To promote and facilitate the establishment and implementation of child care policies
- 27 and practices to be contained within a child care declaration statement as provided in § 37-2-9.1 to
- 28 <u>be completed by bidders submitting bids pursuant to this chapter</u>.
- (c) The chief purchasing officer may adopt such other regulations as deemed advisable to
 carry out the purposes of this chapter.
- 31 **<u>37-2-18. Competitive sealed bidding.</u>**
- (a) Contracts exceeding the amount provided by § 37-2-22 shall be awarded by competitive
 sealed bidding unless it is determined in writing that this method is not practicable or that the best
 value for the state may be obtained by using an electronic reverse auction as set forth in § 37-2-

1 18.1. Factors to be considered in determining whether competitive sealed bidding is practicable 2 shall include whether:

3 (1) Specifications can be prepared that permit award on the basis of either the lowest bid 4 price or the lowest evaluated bid price; and

(2) The available sources, the time and place of performance, and other relevant 5 circumstances as are appropriate for the use of competitive sealed bidding. 6

7 (b) The invitation for bids shall state whether the award shall be made on the basis of the 8 lowest bid price or the lowest evaluated or responsive bid price. If the latter basis is used, the 9 objective measurable criteria to be utilized shall be set forth in the invitation for bids, if available. 10 All documents submitted in response to the bid proposal are public pursuant to chapter 38-2 upon 11 opening of the bids. The invitation for bids shall state that each bidder must submit a copy of their 12 bid proposal to be available for public inspection upon the opening of the bids. The burden to 13 identify and withhold from the public copy that is released at the bid opening any trade secrets, 14 commercial or financial information, or other information the bidder deems not subject to public 15 disclosure pursuant to chapter 38-2, the Access to Public Records Act, shall rest with the bidder 16 submitting the bid proposal.

17 (c) Unless the invitations for bid are accessible under the provisions as provided in § 37-2-18 17.1, public notice of the invitation for bids shall be given a sufficient time prior to the date set 19 forth therein for the opening of bids. Public notice may include publication in a newspaper of 20 general circulation in the state as determined by the purchasing agent not less than seven (7) days 21 nor more than twenty-eight (28) days before the date set for the opening of the bids. The purchasing 22 agent may make a written determination that the twenty-eight (28) day limitation needs to be 23 waived. The written determination shall state the reason why the twenty-eight (28) day limitation 24 is being waived and shall state the number of days, giving a minimum and maximum, before the 25 date set for the opening of bids when public notice is to be given.

26 (d) Bids shall be opened and read aloud publicly at the time and place designated in the 27 invitation for bids. Each bid, together with the name of the bidder, shall be recorded and an abstract 28 made available for public inspection.

29

(e) The chief purchasing officer shall adopt and file regulations governing the bidding of 30 highway and bridge construction projects in the state not later than December 31, 2011.

31 (f) Immediately subsequent to the opening of the bids, the copies of bid documents 32 submitted pursuant to subsection 37-2-18(b) shall be made available for inspection by the public. Any objection to any bid on the grounds that it is nonresponsive to the invitation for bids must be 33 34 filed with the purchasing agent within five (5) business days of the opening of the bids. The

1 purchasing agent shall issue a written determination as to whether the subject bid is nonresponsive 2 addressing each assertion in the objection and shall provide a copy of the determination to the 3 objector and all those who submitted bids at least seven (7) business days prior to the award of the 4 contract. If a bid is nonresponsive to the requirements in the invitation to bid, the bid is invalid and 5 the purchasing agent shall reject the bid. The purchasing agent shall have no discretion to waive 6 any requirements in the invitation to bid which are identified as mandatory. Nothing in this section 7 shall be construed to interfere with or invalidate the results of the due diligence conducted by the 8 division of purchasing to determine whether bids are responsive and responsible.

9 (g) Subsequent to the awarding of the bid, all documents pertinent to the awarding of the 10 bid that were not made public pursuant to subsection 37-2-18(e) shall be made available and open 11 to public inspection, pursuant to chapter 38-2, the Access to Public Records Act, and retained in 12 the bid file. The copy of the bid proposal provided pursuant to subsection 37-2-18(b) shall be 13 retained until the bid is awarded.

(h) The contract shall be awarded with reasonable promptness by written notice to the
responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is either the lowest bid price, lowest evaluated, or
responsive bid price.

(i) Correction or withdrawal of bids may be allowed only to the extent permitted byregulations issued by the chief purchasing officer.

(j) As of January 1, 2011, this section shall apply to contracts greater than one million
dollars (\$1,000,000); on January 1, 2012 for all contracts greater than seven hundred fifty thousand
dollars (\$750,000); on January 1, 2013 for all contracts greater than five hundred thousand dollars
(\$500,000); and on January 1, 2014 for all contracts awarded pursuant to this section.

23 (k) Preference shall be provided to bidders which possess a stated child care policy when

24 two (2) or more bidders submit equal bids and for bids on contracts of less than twenty-five

25 thousand dollars (\$25,000), and for bids for occasional and temporary personal services.

26 SECTION 2. Chapter 37-2 of the General Laws entitled "State Purchases" is hereby 27 amended by adding thereto the following section:

28 **37-2-9.2.** Child care declaration statement.

- 29 (a) The chief purchasing officer shall prepare a child care declaration statement as required
- 30 by § 37-2-9 in substantially the following form:

31 VENDOR CHILD CARE POLICY PROGRAM -- CHILD CARE DECLARATION

- 32
- 33 The business concern listed below hereby declares the following status on the "Child Care
- 34 Policy" of the State of Rhode Island. It is incumbent upon the concern to notify the state of any

STATEMENT

1	changes applicable to this declaration.
2	Business Name <u>Telephone No.</u>
3	<u>Signature</u> <u>Title</u>
4	Note: A "stated child care policy" may include services and/or benefits for employees and
5	their families, including infants through school-age child care centers or family day care homes,
6	before and after school programs, day camps, services for ill children, children with special needs,
7	family leave, and more. Please refer to the attached instructions for definitions. Please check ALL
8	items on the form that apply to your business concern.
9	PART ONE
10	Does your business have a stated child care policy?
11	If YES, please attach a copy
12	PART TWO
13	Does your business provide child care assistance?
14	If YES, Please check which form(s) of assistance
15	<u>YES</u> <u>NO</u>
16	Level I Assistance
17	Subsidized company child care center; Subsidized network of child care homes
18	Child care reimbursement in addition to other benefits; Child care reimbursement in a
19	flexible benefit package; Paid parental leave
20	Purchase of spaces for employees in community child care program(s) (centers or homes)
21	Level II Assistance
22	Salary set aside; flexible spending account funded with employee salary dollars; Section
23	<u>125</u>
24	Child care referral services; Parenting seminars
25	Counseling on work/family issues; Start-up of a self-supporting center
26	Start-up contributions to a "consortium center"
27	Level III Assistance
28	Flexible work hours; Flex-place/work-at-home
29	Permanent; part-time; job sharing
30	Work-at-home following maternity leave; Unpaid parental leave
31	Donation to enhance child care program
32	Other (Describe)
33	I HAVE READ AND COMPLETED:
34	(Signed)

1	Do not write below this line
2	Date Filed: Expiration date:
3	(b) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the meanings set forth
4	below as applied to the various forms of child care assistance set forth on the child care declaration
5	statement:
6	(1) "Child care referral services" means a service to employees which provides
7	information, referrals and consultation regarding local child care services such as locations, hours
8	and rates.
9	(2) "Child care reimbursement in a flexible benefit package" means a system which allows
10	employees to make individual choices among a range of benefits provided by the employer such as
11	health, dental and retirement, and child care is included as a benefit choice.
12	(3) "Child care reimbursement in addition to other benefits" means an employer helps
13	employees pay for child care expenses by reimbursing the employee or their child care provider for
14	all or part of the cost of child care; allows an employee to select the child care provider, or an
15	employer may designate providers or conditions (e.g. only reimburse licensed providers); such
16	reimbursement is provided to the employee in addition to other employee benefits.
17	(4) "Counseling on work/family issues" means a company which provides through in-
18	house or contracted services, group, family or individual counseling services to support employees
19	in the resolution of work-family issues.
20	(5) "Donation to enhance child care program" means a company which has contributed
21	funds, goods, and/or services to a child care program, for the purpose of improving the quality,
22	affordability, or accessibility of said programs.
23	(6) "Flexible work hours" means that employees are allowed to make choices about work
24	schedules, with such possible options as five (5) day/forty (40) hour vs. four (4) day/forty (40) hour
25	work weeks or a flexible hour's schedule within a day; may include establishment of "core" working
26	hours during which an employee must be present at the work site.
27	(7) "Flexplace/work-at-home" means a company which offers employees the option to
28	work in their own homes; may be available part-or full-time.
29	(8) "Paid parental leave" means employees are given paid time off work due to childbirth
30	or adoption, with a guaranteed return to the same or a comparable job and seniority status.
31	(9) "Parenting seminars" means a company which offers workshops, educational
32	presentations, and related activities to provide information and support in such areas as parenting
33	skills, work-family relations, child development, and related topics; may be provided by in-house
34	staff or by contracted service.

1 (10) "Permanent part-time/job sharing" means a company which offers job opportunities 2 in which employees may work less than full- time while retaining permanent employment status, 3 and/or two (2) employees may share a single full-time position with salary and benefits pro-rated between the two (2) employees. 4 5 (11) "Purchase of services for employees in community child care programs" means a 6 company which contributes funds, goods and/or services to the child care program in the 7 community center or family day care home for the purpose of preferential consideration for use by 8 employees. 9 (12) "Salary set-aside/flexible spending account funded with employee salary dollars" 10 means an employer has set up a qualified dependent care assistance plan under IRS Sections 125 11 and 129, which allows employees to designate an amount up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per 12 year to be set aside from their salaries to pay for dependent care; since such a salary set aside is not 13 taxed, both employee and employer receive financial benefits. (13) "Start-up contributions to a consortium center" means a company which has provided 14 15 funds, goods and/or services to a child care center, working in cooperation to develop and support 16 a child care service available to employees of contributing companies. 17 (14) "Start-up of a self-supporting center" means a company which has provided funds, 18 goods and/or services to directly assist in the land acquisition, design, construction, renovation, 19 equipment, furnishing or other cost associated with starting a child care program; this was a one-20 time-only assistance for the start-up, with the center now operating on a self-supporting basis. 21 (15) "Subsidized company child care center" means group care for children (may range 22 from twelve (12) to three hundred (300) children), in a licensed setting such as a preschool or other center, which may serve infants, toddlers, preschoolers or school-age children; the center receives 23 funds, goods and/or services from an employer which thus subsidizes part or all of the child care 24 25 center operating costs, and employees of the subsidizing employer may enroll dependents in this 26 center. 27 (16) "Subsidized network of child care homes" means care for up to twelve (12) children 28 in the home of a licensed caregiver; may include one home or a network of two (2) or more family 29 day care homes, which receive funds, goods and/or services from an employer who thus subsidizes 30 part or all of the home operating costs; employees of the subsidizing employer may enroll 31 dependents in this care home. 32 (17) "Unpaid parental leave" means that employees are allowed unpaid time off due to 33 childbirth or adoption, with a guaranteed return to the same or a comparable job and seniority status. (18) "Work-at-home following maternity leave" means that employees are offered the 34

- 1 option to perform their jobs at home for a period following leave for childbirth or adoption.
 - SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

LC002229

2

EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- DAY CARE PROGRAMS STATE PURCHASES

1 This act would provide preference to businesses which possess a stated child care policy

2 for its employees who contract with a governmental body for state purchases.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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