

SUMMARY

Virginia Public Procurement Act; competitive negotiation; newspaper publication of notices for requests for proposals. Requires the Department of General Services to (i) provide an electronic data file of all agencies' business opportunities posted on the Department's central electronic procurement website at no charge to any requesting newspaper or other print publication with circulation in Virginia using the comma-separated values (CSV) format, another available format used by the Department, or a file format as agreed to by the parties and (ii) send the data file automatically via electronic mail on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis as agreed to by the parties. Local public bodies have the option to either (a) post all business opportunities on the Department's central electronic procurement website or (b) provide an electronic data file of all business opportunities at no charge to any requesting newspaper or other print publication with circulation in Virginia. The bill also provides a two-year transition period with regard to the required publication in newspapers of all Requests for Proposals (RFP), after which time newspaper publication of RFPs will be discretionary. Specifically, the bill provides that from July 1, 2015, until June 30, 2017, public bodies that issue an RFP shall continue to publish a public notice of the RFP in a newspaper of general circulation; however, such notice shall include a statement indicating the website, either the Department of General Services' central electronic procurement website (www.eva.virginia.gov) or the public body's public government or other appropriate website, where all public notices for RFPs issued from the public body are located. Finally, the bill requires that all public bodies issuing RFPs on or after July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, to ascertain the method by which an offeror submitting a proposal in response to the RFP became aware of the solicitation, whether by newspaper publication, website posting, other method, or combination of the above. Such public bodies shall report such findings by October 1, 2016, to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology.