

By: Representative Robinson (84th)

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 699

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-53-111, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
 2 TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 3 SERVICES TO APPROVE CONTRACTS BY STATE AGENCIES FOR THE
 4 PROCUREMENT OF CELLULAR TELEPHONES; TO AMEND SECTION 25-53-121,
 5 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
 6 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES TO DEVELOP A LIST OF VENDORS TO
 7 PROVIDE CELLULAR TELEPHONE SERVICES TO STATE AGENCIES; TO AMEND
 8 SECTION 31-7-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THAT
 9 CONTRACTS BY GOVERNING AUTHORITIES FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF CELLULAR
 10 TELEPHONE SERVICE BE ACCEPTED ON THE BASIS OF THE LOWEST AND BEST
 11 BID; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

13 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-53-111, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 14 amended as follows:

15 25-53-111. The Mississippi Department of Information
 16 Technology Services shall have the following additional duties:

17 (a) To establish and coordinate through either state
 18 ownership or commercial leasing, all telecommunications systems
 19 and services affecting the management and operations of the state.

20 (b) To act as the sole centralized customer for the
 21 acquisition, billing and record keeping of all telecommunications
 22 systems or services provided to state agencies whether obtained
 23 through lease or purchase.

24 (c) To charge respective user agencies for their
 25 proportionate cost of the installation, maintenance and operation
 26 of the telecommunications systems and services, including the
 27 operation of the bureau.

28 (d) To offer or provide transmission, switch and
 29 network services on a reimbursable basis to agencies financed
 30 entirely by federal funds, to governing authorities and to other
 31 governmental agencies.

32 (e) To approve or provide state telephone services on a
33 reimbursable basis to full-time students at state institutions of
34 higher learning and junior colleges, including where such services
35 are provided by the state or the institution.

36 (f) To develop coordinated telecommunications systems
37 or services within and among all state agencies and require, where
38 appropriate, cooperative utilization of telecommunications
39 equipment and services by aggregating users. Where such
40 cooperative utilization of telecommunications system or service
41 would affect an agency authorized to receive information from the
42 National Crime Information Center of the Federal Bureau of
43 Investigation, such plans for cooperative utilization shall first
44 be approved by the National Crime Information Center before
45 implementation of such telecommunications systems or service can
46 proceed.

47 (g) To review, coordinate, approve or disapprove all
48 requests by state agencies for the procurement, through purchase
49 or contract for lease of telecommunications systems, cellular
50 telephone services or services including telecommunication
51 proposals, studies and consultation contracts and intra-LATA and
52 inter-LATA transmission channels.

53 (h) To establish and define telecommunications systems
54 and services specifications and designs so as to assure
55 compatibility of telecommunications systems and services within
56 state government and governing authorities.

57 (i) To provide a continuous, comprehensive analysis and
58 inventory of telecommunications costs, facilities and systems
59 within state government.

60 (j) To promote, coordinate or assist in the design and
61 engineering of emergency telecommunications systems, including but
62 not limited to "911" service, emergency medical services and other
63 emergency telecommunications services.

64 (k) To advise and provide consultation to agencies and
65 governing authorities with respect to telecommunications
66 management planning and related matters and to provide training to
67 users within state government in telecommunications technology and
68 system use.

69 (l) To develop policies, procedures and long-range
70 plans, consistent with the protection of citizens' rights to
71 privacy and access to information, for the acquisition and use of
72 telecommunications systems, and to base such policies on current
73 information about state telecommunications activities in relation
74 to the full range of emerging technologies.

75 State agencies shall use a vendor chosen by the Department of
76 Information Technology Services for the procurement of cellular
77 telephone services. Any state agency requesting an increase in
78 expenditure of funds for new telecommunications equipment systems
79 or services shall submit to the Legislative Budget Office with its
80 budget request preceding the fiscal year for which funding is
81 requested detailed justification for such request. The
82 justification shall be provided on forms developed by the
83 Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services in
84 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. In addition,
85 all state agencies shall submit to the bureau, when requested, a
86 long-range plan for use of telecommunications equipment, systems
87 and services.

88 **SECTION 2.** Section 25-53-121, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
89 amended as follows:

90 25-53-121. (1) The types of contracts permitted in the
91 procurement of telecommunications equipment, systems and related
92 services are defined herein, and the provision in Sections
93 25-53-101 through 25-53-125 supplement the provisions of Chapter
94 7, Title 31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

95 (2) The Mississippi Department of Information Technology
96 Services may, on behalf of any state agency, enter into an

97 equipment support contract with a vendor of telecommunications
98 equipment or services for the purchase or lease of such equipment
99 or services in accordance with the following provisions:

100 (a) Specifications for equipment support contracts
101 shall be developed in advance and shall conform to the following
102 requirements:

103 (i) Specifications for equipment support contracts
104 shall cover a specific class or classes of equipment and service
105 and may include all features associated with that class or
106 classes.

107 (ii) Specifications in the request for proposals
108 for equipment support contracts shall be developed by the
109 Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services.

110 (iii) Specifications shall be based on the
111 projected needs of user agencies.

112 (iv) Specifications for equipment support
113 contracts for purchase or lease of telecommunications equipment
114 may include specifications for the maintenance of the equipment
115 desired.

116 (b) The initial procurement of an equipment support
117 contract, and procurement of equipment and services to be utilized
118 by agencies under an equipment support contract, shall be as
119 follows:

120 (i) Equipment support contracts shall be awarded
121 by competitive sealed bidding.

122 (ii) A using agency may procure required
123 telecommunications equipment and service available under an
124 equipment support contract through release of a purchase order for
125 the required equipment and service to the vendor holding an
126 equipment support contract. However, such procurement by purchase
127 order shall be accomplished in accordance with the procedures and
128 regulations prescribed by the Mississippi Department of

129 Information Technology Services, and shall be subject to all other
130 statutory requirements including approval by the bureau.

131 (c) The final authority for entering into equipment
132 support contracts shall rest with the Mississippi Department of
133 Information Technology Services, and such contracts shall be
134 executed by the Mississippi Department of Information Technology
135 Services in accordance with the procedures and regulations defined
136 by said authority.

137 (d) Equipment support contracts shall include the
138 following terms and conditions:

139 (i) Equipment support contracts shall be valid for
140 not more than one (1) fiscal year with the Mississippi Department
141 of Information Technology Services having an option to renew for
142 two (2) additional fiscal years. The vendor may vary lease or
143 purchase prices for the optional renewal period(s) by an amount
144 equal to the lesser of the lease or purchase price permitted by
145 that vendor's contract with the General Services Administration of
146 the United States government for such equipment and services, or
147 any variance in that vendor's published list prices for such
148 equipment and services during that fiscal year, provided that any
149 increase may not exceed five percent (5%) and the variance must
150 have been authorized by the initial equipment and service order
151 contract.

152 (ii) The prices stated in such contract shall not
153 change for the period of the contract.

154 (iii) Individual items of telecommunications
155 equipment and service which may be included under an equipment
156 support contract may not have a purchase price greater than Fifty
157 Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or a monthly lease price greater
158 than Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00). Such price shall not
159 include costs of maintenance, taxes or transportation.

160 (iv) Equipment support contracts shall include the
161 following annual appropriation dependency clause:

162 "The continuation of this contract is contingent upon the
163 appropriation of funds to fulfill the requirements of the contract
164 by the Legislature. If the Legislature fails to appropriate
165 sufficient monies to provide for the continuance of the contract,
166 the contract shall terminate on the date of the beginning of the
167 first fiscal year for which funds are not appropriated."

168 (3) The Mississippi Department of Information Technology
169 Services may on behalf of any state agency enter into contracts
170 for the lease or purchase of telecommunications equipment systems
171 or services in accordance with the following provisions:

172 (a) The Mississippi Department of Information
173 Technology Services may directly contract for or approve contracts
174 for regulated or tariffed telecommunications services upon
175 determination by the bureau that the application of such service
176 is in the best interests of the State of Mississippi.

177 (b) All other contracts of this type shall be entered
178 into through request for proposals as defined in Sections
179 25-53-101 through 25-53-125.

180 (c) The justification of such contracts must be
181 presented to the bureau prior to issuance of a request for
182 proposals. Such justification shall identify and consider all
183 cost factors relevant to that contract.

184 (d) The term of a lease contract shall not exceed sixty
185 (60) months for a system lease valued less than One Million
186 Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) and shall not exceed one hundred twenty
187 (120) months for a system lease valued One Million Dollars
188 (\$1,000,000.00) or more.

189 (e) All lease contracts must contain the following
190 annual appropriation dependency clause:

191 "The continuation of this contract is contingent upon the
192 appropriation of funds to fulfill the requirements of the contract
193 by the Legislature. If the Legislature fails to appropriate
194 sufficient monies to provide for the continuation of a contract,

195 the contract shall terminate on the date of the beginning of the
196 first fiscal year for which funds are not appropriated."

197 (f) The Mississippi Department of Information
198 Technology Services shall maintain a list of all such contracts.
199 This list shall show as a minimum the name of the vendor, the
200 annual cost of each contract and the term of the contract or the
201 purchase cost.

202 (g) Upon the advance written approval of the bureau,
203 state agencies may extend contracts for the lease of
204 telecommunications equipment, systems and related services on a
205 month-to-month basis for a period not to extend more than one (1)
206 calendar year for the stated lease prices.

207 (h) With respect to the procurement of cellular
208 telephone services, the Department of Information Technology
209 Services shall develop a list of approved vendors for the delivery
210 of those services to state agencies. The department may exercise
211 the option of selecting one (1) vendor to provide the services, or
212 if it deems such to be most advantageous to the state, it may
213 select multiple vendors. If it chooses to utilize multiple
214 vendors, the department may select vendors on the basis of the
215 lowest and best bid proposals, or it may establish a state
216 contract per minute price and allow any vendor who agrees to
217 provide service at the contract price to be added to the list of
218 vendors.

219 No agency shall contract for cellular telephone services with
220 any vendor unless the vendor has been approved by the Department
221 of Information Technology Services.

222 **SECTION 3.** Section 31-7-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
223 amended as follows:

224 31-7-13. All agencies and governing authorities shall
225 purchase their commodities and printing; contract for garbage
226 collection or disposal; contract for solid waste collection or

227 disposal; contract for sewage collection or disposal; contract for
228 public construction; and contract for rentals as herein provided.

229 (a) **Bidding procedure for purchases not over \$3,500.00.**
230 Purchases, except contracts for cellular telephone services, which
231 do not involve an expenditure of more than Three Thousand Five
232 Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00), exclusive of freight or shipping
233 charges, may be made without advertising or otherwise requesting
234 competitive bids. However, nothing contained in this paragraph
235 (a) shall be construed to prohibit any agency or governing
236 authority from establishing procedures which require competitive
237 bids on purchases of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
238 (\$3,500.00) or less.

239 (b) **Bidding procedure for purchases over \$3,500.00 but**
240 **not over \$15,000.00.** Purchases, except contracts for cellular
241 telephone services, which involve an expenditure of more than
242 Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00) but not more than
243 Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00), exclusive of freight and
244 shipping charges may be made from the lowest and best bidder
245 without publishing or posting advertisement for bids, provided at
246 least two (2) competitive written bids have been obtained. Any
247 governing authority purchasing commodities pursuant to this
248 paragraph (b) may authorize its purchasing agent, or his designee,
249 with regard to governing authorities other than counties, or its
250 purchase clerk, or his designee, with regard to counties, to
251 accept the lowest and best competitive written bid. Such
252 authorization shall be made in writing by the governing authority
253 and shall be maintained on file in the primary office of the
254 agency and recorded in the official minutes of the governing
255 authority, as appropriate. The purchasing agent or the purchase
256 clerk, or their designee, as the case may be, and not the
257 governing authority, shall be liable for any penalties and/or
258 damages as may be imposed by law for any act or omission of the
259 purchasing agent or purchase clerk, or their designee,

260 constituting a violation of law in accepting any bid without
261 approval by the governing authority. The term "competitive
262 written bid" shall mean a bid submitted on a bid form furnished by
263 the buying agency or governing authority and signed by authorized
264 personnel representing the vendor, or a bid submitted on a
265 vendor's letterhead or identifiable bid form and signed by
266 authorized personnel representing the vendor. "Competitive" shall
267 mean that the bids are developed based upon comparable
268 identification of the needs and are developed independently and
269 without knowledge of other bids or prospective bids. Bids may be
270 submitted by facsimile, electronic mail or other generally
271 accepted method of information distribution. Bids submitted by
272 electronic transmission shall not require the signature of the
273 vendor's representative unless required by agencies or governing
274 authorities.

275 (c) **Bidding procedure for purchases over \$15,000.00.**

276 (i) **Publication requirement.** Purchases which
277 involve an expenditure of more than Fifteen Thousand Dollars
278 (\$15,000.00), exclusive of freight and shipping charges, may be
279 made from the lowest and best bidder after advertising for
280 competitive sealed bids once each week for two (2) consecutive
281 weeks in a regular newspaper published in the county or
282 municipality in which such agency or governing authority is
283 located. The date as published for the bid opening shall not be
284 less than seven (7) working days after the last published notice;
285 however, if the purchase involves a construction project in which
286 the estimated cost is in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars
287 (\$15,000.00), such bids shall not be opened in less than fifteen
288 (15) working days after the last notice is published and the
289 notice for the purchase of such construction shall be published
290 once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks. The notice of
291 intention to let contracts or purchase equipment shall state the
292 time and place at which bids shall be received, list the contracts

293 to be made or types of equipment or supplies to be purchased, and,
294 if all plans and/or specifications are not published, refer to the
295 plans and/or specifications on file. If there is no newspaper
296 published in the county or municipality, then such notice shall be
297 given by posting same at the courthouse, or for municipalities at
298 the city hall, and at two (2) other public places in the county or
299 municipality, and also by publication once each week for two (2)
300 consecutive weeks in some newspaper having a general circulation
301 in the county or municipality in the above provided manner. On
302 the same date that the notice is submitted to the newspaper for
303 publication, the agency or governing authority involved shall mail
304 written notice to, or provide electronic notification to the main
305 office of the Mississippi Contract Procurement Center that
306 contains the same information as that in the published notice.

307 (ii) **Bidding process amendment procedure.** If all
308 plans and/or specifications are published in the notification,
309 then the plans and/or specifications may not be amended. If all
310 plans and/or specifications are not published in the notification,
311 then amendments to the plans/specifications, bid opening date, bid
312 opening time and place may be made, provided that the agency or
313 governing authority maintains a list of all prospective bidders
314 who are known to have received a copy of the bid documents and all
315 such prospective bidders are sent copies of all amendments. This
316 notification of amendments may be made via mail, facsimile,
317 electronic mail or other generally accepted method of information
318 distribution. No addendum to bid specifications may be issued
319 within two (2) working days of the time established for the
320 receipt of bids unless such addendum also amends the bid opening
321 to a date not less than five (5) working days after the date of
322 the addendum.

323 (iii) **Filing requirement.** In all cases involving
324 governing authorities, before the notice shall be published or
325 posted, the plans or specifications for the construction or

326 equipment being sought shall be filed with the clerk of the board
327 of the governing authority. In addition to these requirements, a
328 bid file shall be established which shall indicate those vendors
329 to whom such solicitations and specifications were issued, and
330 such file shall also contain such information as is pertinent to
331 the bid.

332 (iv) **Specification restrictions.**

333 1. Specifications pertinent to such bidding
334 shall be written so as not to exclude comparable equipment of
335 domestic manufacture. However, if valid justification is
336 presented, the Department of Finance and Administration or the
337 board of a governing authority may approve a request for specific
338 equipment necessary to perform a specific job. Further, such
339 justification, when placed on the minutes of the board of a
340 governing authority, may serve as authority for that governing
341 authority to write specifications to require a specific item of
342 equipment needed to perform a specific job. In addition to these
343 requirements, from and after July 1, 1990, vendors of relocatable
344 classrooms and the specifications for the purchase of such
345 relocatable classrooms published by local school boards shall meet
346 all pertinent regulations of the State Board of Education,
347 including prior approval of such bid by the State Department of
348 Education.

349 2. Specifications for construction projects
350 may include an allowance for commodities, equipment, furniture,
351 construction materials or systems in which prospective bidders are
352 instructed to include in their bids specified amounts for such
353 items so long as the allowance items are acquired by the vendor in
354 a commercially reasonable manner and approved by the
355 agency/governing authority. Such acquisitions shall not be made
356 to circumvent the public purchasing laws.

357 (v) Agencies and governing authorities may
358 establish secure procedures by which bids may be submitted via
359 electronic means.

360 (d) **Lowest and best bid decision procedure.**

361 (i) **Decision procedure.** Purchases may be made
362 from the lowest and best bidder. In determining the lowest and
363 best bid, freight and shipping charges shall be included.
364 Life-cycle costing, total cost bids, warranties, guaranteed
365 buy-back provisions and other relevant provisions may be included
366 in the best bid calculation. All best bid procedures for state
367 agencies must be in compliance with regulations established by the
368 Department of Finance and Administration. If any governing
369 authority accepts a bid other than the lowest bid actually
370 submitted, it shall place on its minutes detailed calculations and
371 narrative summary showing that the accepted bid was determined to
372 be the lowest and best bid, including the dollar amount of the
373 accepted bid and the dollar amount of the lowest bid. No agency
374 or governing authority shall accept a bid based on items not
375 included in the specifications.

376 (ii) **Decision procedure for Certified Purchasing**
377 **Offices.** In addition to the decision procedure set forth in
378 paragraph (d)(i), Certified Purchasing Offices may also use the
379 following procedure: Purchases may be made from the bidder
380 offering the best value. In determining the best value bid,
381 freight and shipping charges shall be included. Life-cycle
382 costing, total cost bids, warranties, guaranteed buy-back
383 provisions, documented previous experience, training costs and
384 other relevant provisions may be included in the best value
385 calculation. This provision shall authorize Certified Purchasing
386 Offices to utilize a Request For Proposals (RFP) process when
387 purchasing commodities. All best value procedures for state
388 agencies must be in compliance with regulations established by the
389 Department of Finance and Administration. No agency or governing

390 authority shall accept a bid based on items or criteria not
391 included in the specifications.

392 (iii) **Construction project negotiations authority.**

393 If the lowest and best bid is not more than ten percent (10%)
394 above the amount of funds allocated for a public construction or
395 renovation project, then the agency or governing authority shall
396 be permitted to negotiate with the lowest bidder in order to enter
397 into a contract for an amount not to exceed the funds allocated.

398 (iv) **Cellular telephone service.** Governing
399 authorities that choose a cellular telephone service shall choose
400 the service on the basis of the lowest and best bid.

401 (e) **Lease-purchase authorization.** For the purposes of
402 this section, the term "equipment" shall mean equipment, furniture
403 and, if applicable, associated software and other applicable
404 direct costs associated with the acquisition. Any lease-purchase
405 of equipment which an agency is not required to lease-purchase
406 under the master lease-purchase program pursuant to Section
407 31-7-10 and any lease-purchase of equipment which a governing
408 authority elects to lease-purchase may be acquired by a
409 lease-purchase agreement under this paragraph (e). Lease-purchase
410 financing may also be obtained from the vendor or from a
411 third-party source after having solicited and obtained at least
412 two (2) written competitive bids, as defined in paragraph (b) of
413 this section, for such financing without advertising for such
414 bids. Solicitation for the bids for financing may occur before or
415 after acceptance of bids for the purchase of such equipment or,
416 where no such bids for purchase are required, at any time before
417 the purchase thereof. No such lease-purchase agreement shall be
418 for an annual rate of interest which is greater than the overall
419 maximum interest rate to maturity on general obligation
420 indebtedness permitted under Section 75-17-101, and the term of
421 such lease-purchase agreement shall not exceed the useful life of
422 equipment covered thereby as determined according to the upper

423 limit of the asset depreciation range (ADR) guidelines for the
424 Class Life Asset Depreciation Range System established by the
425 Internal Revenue Service pursuant to the United States Internal
426 Revenue Code and regulations thereunder as in effect on December
427 31, 1980, or comparable depreciation guidelines with respect to
428 any equipment not covered by ADR guidelines. Any lease-purchase
429 agreement entered into pursuant to this paragraph (e) may contain
430 any of the terms and conditions which a master lease-purchase
431 agreement may contain under the provisions of Section 31-7-10(5),
432 and shall contain an annual allocation dependency clause
433 substantially similar to that set forth in Section 31-7-10(8).
434 Each agency or governing authority entering into a lease-purchase
435 transaction pursuant to this paragraph (e) shall maintain with
436 respect to each such lease-purchase transaction the same
437 information as required to be maintained by the Department of
438 Finance and Administration pursuant to Section 31-7-10(13).
439 However, nothing contained in this section shall be construed to
440 permit agencies to acquire items of equipment with a total
441 acquisition cost in the aggregate of less than Ten Thousand
442 Dollars (\$10,000.00) by a single lease-purchase transaction. All
443 equipment, and the purchase thereof by any lessor, acquired by
444 lease-purchase under this paragraph and all lease-purchase
445 payments with respect thereto shall be exempt from all Mississippi
446 sales, use and ad valorem taxes. Interest paid on any
447 lease-purchase agreement under this section shall be exempt from
448 State of Mississippi income taxation.

449 (f) **Alternate bid authorization.** When necessary to
450 ensure ready availability of commodities for public works and the
451 timely completion of public projects, no more than two (2)
452 alternate bids may be accepted by a governing authority for
453 commodities. No purchases may be made through use of such
454 alternate bids procedure unless the lowest and best bidder cannot
455 deliver the commodities contained in his bid. In that event,

456 purchases of such commodities may be made from one (1) of the
457 bidders whose bid was accepted as an alternate.

458 (g) **Construction contract change authorization.** In the
459 event a determination is made by an agency or governing authority
460 after a construction contract is let that changes or modifications
461 to the original contract are necessary or would better serve the
462 purpose of the agency or the governing authority, such agency or
463 governing authority may, in its discretion, order such changes
464 pertaining to the construction that are necessary under the
465 circumstances without the necessity of further public bids;
466 provided that such change shall be made in a commercially
467 reasonable manner and shall not be made to circumvent the public
468 purchasing statutes. In addition to any other authorized person,
469 the architect or engineer hired by an agency or governing
470 authority with respect to any public construction contract shall
471 have the authority, when granted by an agency or governing
472 authority, to authorize changes or modifications to the original
473 contract without the necessity of prior approval of the agency or
474 governing authority when any such change or modification is less
475 than one percent (1%) of the total contract amount. The agency or
476 governing authority may limit the number, manner or frequency of
477 such emergency changes or modifications.

478 (h) **Petroleum purchase alternative.** In addition to
479 other methods of purchasing authorized in this chapter, when any
480 agency or governing authority shall have a need for gas, diesel
481 fuel, oils and/or other petroleum products in excess of the amount
482 set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, such agency or
483 governing authority may purchase the commodity after having
484 solicited and obtained at least two (2) competitive written bids,
485 as defined in paragraph (b) of this section. If two (2)
486 competitive written bids are not obtained, the entity shall comply
487 with the procedures set forth in paragraph (c) of this section.
488 In the event any agency or governing authority shall have

489 advertised for bids for the purchase of gas, diesel fuel, oils and
490 other petroleum products and coal and no acceptable bids can be
491 obtained, such agency or governing authority is authorized and
492 directed to enter into any negotiations necessary to secure the
493 lowest and best contract available for the purchase of such
494 commodities.

495 (i) **Road construction petroleum products price**
496 **adjustment clause authorization.** Any agency or governing
497 authority authorized to enter into contracts for the construction,
498 maintenance, surfacing or repair of highways, roads or streets,
499 may include in its bid proposal and contract documents a price
500 adjustment clause with relation to the cost to the contractor,
501 including taxes, based upon an industry-wide cost index, of
502 petroleum products including asphalt used in the performance or
503 execution of the contract or in the production or manufacture of
504 materials for use in such performance. Such industry-wide index
505 shall be established and published monthly by the Mississippi
506 Department of Transportation with a copy thereof to be mailed,
507 upon request, to the clerks of the governing authority of each
508 municipality and the clerks of each board of supervisors
509 throughout the state. The price adjustment clause shall be based
510 on the cost of such petroleum products only and shall not include
511 any additional profit or overhead as part of the adjustment. The
512 bid proposals or document contract shall contain the basis and
513 methods of adjusting unit prices for the change in the cost of
514 such petroleum products.

515 (j) **State agency emergency purchase procedure.** If the
516 governing board or the executive head, or his designee, of any
517 agency of the state shall determine that an emergency exists in
518 regard to the purchase of any commodities or repair contracts, so
519 that the delay incident to giving opportunity for competitive
520 bidding would be detrimental to the interests of the state, then
521 the provisions herein for competitive bidding shall not apply and

522 the head of such agency shall be authorized to make the purchase
523 or repair. Total purchases so made shall only be for the purpose
524 of meeting needs created by the emergency situation. In the event
525 such executive head is responsible to an agency board, at the
526 meeting next following the emergency purchase, documentation of
527 the purchase, including a description of the commodity purchased,
528 the purchase price thereof and the nature of the emergency shall
529 be presented to the board and placed on the minutes of the board
530 of such agency. The head of such agency, or his designee, shall,
531 at the earliest possible date following such emergency purchase,
532 file with the Department of Finance and Administration (i) a
533 statement explaining the conditions and circumstances of the
534 emergency, which shall include a detailed description of the
535 events leading up to the situation and the negative impact to the
536 entity if the purchase is made following the statutory
537 requirements set forth in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of this
538 section, and (ii) a certified copy of the appropriate minutes of
539 the board of such agency, if applicable. On or before September 1
540 of each year, the State Auditor shall prepare and deliver to the
541 Senate Fees, Salaries and Administration Committee, the House Fees
542 and Salaries of Public Officers Committee and the Joint
543 Legislative Budget Committee a report containing a list of all
544 state agency emergency purchases and supporting documentation for
545 each emergency purchase.

546 (k) **Governing authority emergency purchase procedure.**

547 If the governing authority, or the governing authority acting
548 through its designee, shall determine that an emergency exists in
549 regard to the purchase of any commodities or repair contracts, so
550 that the delay incident to giving opportunity for competitive
551 bidding would be detrimental to the interest of the governing
552 authority, then the provisions herein for competitive bidding
553 shall not apply and any officer or agent of such governing
554 authority having general or special authority therefor in making

555 such purchase or repair shall approve the bill presented therefor,
556 and he shall certify in writing thereon from whom such purchase
557 was made, or with whom such a repair contract was made. At the
558 board meeting next following the emergency purchase or repair
559 contract, documentation of the purchase or repair contract,
560 including a description of the commodity purchased, the price
561 thereof and the nature of the emergency shall be presented to the
562 board and shall be placed on the minutes of the board of such
563 governing authority.

564 (1) **Hospital purchase, lease-purchase and lease**
565 **authorization.**

566 (i) The commissioners or board of trustees of any
567 public hospital may contract with such lowest and best bidder for
568 the purchase or lease-purchase of any commodity under a contract
569 of purchase or lease-purchase agreement whose obligatory payment
570 terms do not exceed five (5) years.

571 (ii) In addition to the authority granted in
572 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph (1), the commissioners or board
573 of trustees is authorized to enter into contracts for the lease of
574 equipment or services, or both, which it considers necessary for
575 the proper care of patients if, in its opinion, it is not
576 financially feasible to purchase the necessary equipment or
577 services. Any such contract for the lease of equipment or
578 services executed by the commissioners or board shall not exceed a
579 maximum of five (5) years' duration and shall include a
580 cancellation clause based on unavailability of funds. If such
581 cancellation clause is exercised, there shall be no further
582 liability on the part of the lessee. Any such contract for the
583 lease of equipment or services executed on behalf of the
584 commissioners or board that complies with the provisions of this
585 subparagraph (ii) shall be excepted from the bid requirements set
586 forth in this section.

587 (m) **Exceptions from bidding requirements.** Excepted
588 from bid requirements are:

589 (i) **Purchasing agreements approved by department.**
590 Purchasing agreements, contracts and maximum price regulations
591 executed or approved by the Department of Finance and
592 Administration.

593 (ii) **Outside equipment repairs.** Repairs to
594 equipment, when such repairs are made by repair facilities in the
595 private sector; however, engines, transmissions, rear axles and/or
596 other such components shall not be included in this exemption when
597 replaced as a complete unit instead of being repaired and the need
598 for such total component replacement is known before disassembly
599 of the component; however, invoices identifying the equipment,
600 specific repairs made, parts identified by number and name,
601 supplies used in such repairs, and the number of hours of labor
602 and costs therefor shall be required for the payment for such
603 repairs.

604 (iii) **In-house equipment repairs.** Purchases of
605 parts for repairs to equipment, when such repairs are made by
606 personnel of the agency or governing authority; however, entire
607 assemblies, such as engines or transmissions, shall not be
608 included in this exemption when the entire assembly is being
609 replaced instead of being repaired.

610 (iv) **Raw gravel or dirt.** Raw unprocessed deposits
611 of gravel or fill dirt which are to be removed and transported by
612 the purchaser.

613 (v) **Governmental equipment auctions.** Motor
614 vehicles or other equipment purchased from a federal agency or
615 authority, another governing authority or state agency of the
616 State of Mississippi, or any governing authority or state agency
617 of another state at a public auction held for the purpose of
618 disposing of such vehicles or other equipment. Any purchase by a
619 governing authority under the exemption authorized by this

620 subparagraph (v) shall require advance authorization spread upon
621 the minutes of the governing authority to include the listing of
622 the item or items authorized to be purchased and the maximum bid
623 authorized to be paid for each item or items.

624 (vi) **Intergovernmental sales and transfers.**

625 Purchases, sales, transfers or trades by governing authorities or
626 state agencies when such purchases, sales, transfers or trades are
627 made by a private treaty agreement or through means of
628 negotiation, from any federal agency or authority, another
629 governing authority or state agency of the State of Mississippi,
630 or any state agency or governing authority of another state.
631 Nothing in this section shall permit such purchases through public
632 auction except as provided for in subparagraph (v) of this
633 section. It is the intent of this section to allow governmental
634 entities to dispose of and/or purchase commodities from other
635 governmental entities at a price that is agreed to by both
636 parties. This shall allow for purchases and/or sales at prices
637 which may be determined to be below the market value if the
638 selling entity determines that the sale at below market value is
639 in the best interest of the taxpayers of the state. Governing
640 authorities shall place the terms of the agreement and any
641 justification on the minutes, and state agencies shall obtain
642 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration, prior
643 to releasing or taking possession of the commodities.

644 (vii) **Perishable supplies or food.** Perishable
645 supplies or food purchased for use in connection with hospitals,
646 the school lunch programs, homemaking programs and for the feeding
647 of county or municipal prisoners.

648 (viii) **Single source items.** Noncompetitive items
649 available from one (1) source only. In connection with the
650 purchase of noncompetitive items only available from one (1)
651 source, a certification of the conditions and circumstances
652 requiring the purchase shall be filed by the agency with the

653 Department of Finance and Administration and by the governing
654 authority with the board of the governing authority. Upon receipt
655 of that certification the Department of Finance and Administration
656 or the board of the governing authority, as the case may be, may,
657 in writing, authorize the purchase, which authority shall be noted
658 on the minutes of the body at the next regular meeting thereafter.
659 In those situations, a governing authority is not required to
660 obtain the approval of the Department of Finance and
661 Administration.

662 (ix) **Waste disposal facility construction**
663 **contracts.** Construction of incinerators and other facilities for
664 disposal of solid wastes in which products either generated
665 therein, such as steam, or recovered therefrom, such as materials
666 for recycling, are to be sold or otherwise disposed of; however,
667 in constructing such facilities, a governing authority or agency
668 shall publicly issue requests for proposals, advertised for in the
669 same manner as provided herein for seeking bids for public
670 construction projects, concerning the design, construction,
671 ownership, operation and/or maintenance of such facilities,
672 wherein such requests for proposals when issued shall contain
673 terms and conditions relating to price, financial responsibility,
674 technology, environmental compatibility, legal responsibilities
675 and such other matters as are determined by the governing
676 authority or agency to be appropriate for inclusion; and after
677 responses to the request for proposals have been duly received,
678 the governing authority or agency may select the most qualified
679 proposal or proposals on the basis of price, technology and other
680 relevant factors and from such proposals, but not limited to the
681 terms thereof, negotiate and enter contracts with one or more of
682 the persons or firms submitting proposals.

683 (x) **Hospital group purchase contracts.** Supplies,
684 commodities and equipment purchased by hospitals through group
685 purchase programs pursuant to Section 31-7-38.

686 (xi) **Information technology products.** Purchases
687 of information technology products made by governing authorities
688 under the provisions of purchase schedules, or contracts executed
689 or approved by the Mississippi Department of Information
690 Technology Services and designated for use by governing
691 authorities.

692 (xii) **Energy efficiency services and equipment.**
693 Energy efficiency services and equipment acquired by school
694 districts, community and junior colleges, institutions of higher
695 learning and state agencies or other applicable governmental
696 entities on a shared-savings, lease or lease-purchase basis
697 pursuant to Section 31-7-14.

698 (xiii) **Municipal electrical utility system fuel.**
699 Purchases of coal and/or natural gas by municipally-owned electric
700 power generating systems that have the capacity to use both coal
701 and natural gas for the generation of electric power.

702 (xiv) **Library books and other reference materials.**
703 Purchases by libraries or for libraries of books and periodicals;
704 processed film, video cassette tapes, filmstrips and slides;
705 recorded audio tapes, cassettes and diskettes; and any such items
706 as would be used for teaching, research or other information
707 distribution; however, equipment such as projectors, recorders,
708 audio or video equipment, and monitor televisions are not exempt
709 under this subparagraph.

710 (xv) **Unmarked vehicles.** Purchases of unmarked
711 vehicles when such purchases are made in accordance with
712 purchasing regulations adopted by the Department of Finance and
713 Administration pursuant to Section 31-7-9(2).

714 (xvi) **Election ballots.** Purchases of ballots
715 printed pursuant to Section 23-15-351.

716 (xvii) **Multichannel interactive video systems.**
717 From and after July 1, 1990, contracts by Mississippi Authority
718 for Educational Television with any private educational

719 institution or private nonprofit organization whose purposes are
720 educational in regard to the construction, purchase, lease or
721 lease-purchase of facilities and equipment and the employment of
722 personnel for providing multichannel interactive video systems
723 (ITSF) in the school districts of this state.

724 (xviii) **Purchases of prison industry products.**

725 From and after January 1, 1991, purchases made by state agencies
726 or governing authorities involving any item that is manufactured,
727 processed, grown or produced from the state's prison industries.

728 (xix) **Undercover operations equipment.** Purchases
729 of surveillance equipment or any other high-tech equipment to be
730 used by law enforcement agents in undercover operations, provided
731 that any such purchase shall be in compliance with regulations
732 established by the Department of Finance and Administration.

733 (xx) **Junior college books for rent.** Purchases by
734 community or junior colleges of textbooks which are obtained for
735 the purpose of renting such books to students as part of a book
736 service system.

737 (xxi) **Certain school district purchases.**

738 Purchases of commodities made by school districts from vendors
739 with which any levying authority of the school district, as
740 defined in Section 37-57-1, has contracted through competitive
741 bidding procedures for purchases of the same commodities.

742 (xxii) **Garbage, solid waste and sewage contracts.**

743 Contracts for garbage collection or disposal, contracts for solid
744 waste collection or disposal and contracts for sewage collection
745 or disposal.

746 (xxiii) **Municipal water tank maintenance**

747 **contracts.** Professional maintenance program contracts for the
748 repair or maintenance of municipal water tanks, which provide
749 professional services needed to maintain municipal water storage
750 tanks for a fixed annual fee for a duration of two (2) or more
751 years.

752 (xxiv) **Purchases of Mississippi Industries for the**
753 **Blind products.** Purchases made by state agencies or governing
754 authorities involving any item that is manufactured, processed or
755 produced by the Mississippi Industries for the Blind.

756 (xxv) **Purchases of state-adopted textbooks.**
757 Purchases of state-adopted textbooks by public school districts.

758 (xxvi) **Certain purchases under the Mississippi**
759 **Major Economic Impact Act.** Contracts entered into pursuant to the
760 provisions of Section 57-75-9(2) and (3).

761 (xxvii) **Used heavy or specialized machinery or**
762 **equipment for installation of soil and water conservation**
763 **practices purchased at auction.** Used heavy or specialized
764 machinery or equipment used for the installation and
765 implementation of soil and water conservation practices or
766 measures purchased subject to the restrictions provided in
767 Sections 69-27-331 through 69-27-341. Any purchase by the State
768 Soil and Water Conservation Commission under the exemption
769 authorized by this subparagraph shall require advance
770 authorization spread upon the minutes of the commission to include
771 the listing of the item or items authorized to be purchased and
772 the maximum bid authorized to be paid for each item or items.

773 (xxviii) **Hospital lease of equipment or services.**
774 Leases by hospitals of equipment or services if the leases are in
775 compliance with paragraph (1)(ii).

776 (xxix) **Purchases made pursuant to qualified**
777 **cooperative purchasing agreements.** Purchases made by certified
778 purchasing offices of state agencies or governing authorities
779 under cooperative purchasing agreements previously approved by the
780 Office of Purchasing and Travel and established by or for any
781 municipality, county, parish or state government or the federal
782 government, provided that the notification to potential
783 contractors includes a clause that sets forth the availability of
784 the cooperative purchasing agreement to other governmental

785 entities. Such purchases shall only be made if the use of the
786 cooperative purchasing agreements is determined to be in the best
787 interest of the governmental entity.

788 (xxx) **School yearbooks.** Purchases of school
789 yearbooks by state agencies or governing authorities; provided,
790 however, that state agencies and governing authorities shall use
791 for these purchases the RFP process as set forth in the
792 Mississippi Procurement Manual adopted by the Office of Purchasing
793 and Travel.

794 (xxxii) **Design-build method or the design-build**
795 **bridging method of contracting.** Contracts entered into the
796 provisions of Section 31-11-3(9).

797 (n) **Term contract authorization.** All contracts for the
798 purchase of:

799 (i) All contracts for the purchase of commodities,
800 equipment and public construction (including, but not limited to,
801 repair and maintenance), may be let for periods of not more than
802 sixty (60) months in advance, subject to applicable statutory
803 provisions prohibiting the letting of contracts during specified
804 periods near the end of terms of office. Term contracts for a
805 period exceeding twenty-four (24) months shall also be subject to
806 ratification or cancellation by governing authority boards taking
807 office subsequent to the governing authority board entering the
808 contract.

809 (ii) Bid proposals and contracts may include price
810 adjustment clauses with relation to the cost to the contractor
811 based upon a nationally published industry-wide or nationally
812 published and recognized cost index. The cost index used in a
813 price adjustment clause shall be determined by the Department of
814 Finance and Administration for the state agencies and by the
815 governing board for governing authorities. The bid proposal and
816 contract documents utilizing a price adjustment clause shall
817 contain the basis and method of adjusting unit prices for the

818 change in the cost of such commodities, equipment and public
819 construction.

820 (o) **Purchase law violation prohibition and vendor**
821 **penalty.** No contract or purchase as herein authorized shall be
822 made for the purpose of circumventing the provisions of this
823 section requiring competitive bids, nor shall it be lawful for any
824 person or concern to submit individual invoices for amounts within
825 those authorized for a contract or purchase where the actual value
826 of the contract or commodity purchased exceeds the authorized
827 amount and the invoices therefor are split so as to appear to be
828 authorized as purchases for which competitive bids are not
829 required. Submission of such invoices shall constitute a
830 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than Five Hundred
831 Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00),
832 or by imprisonment for thirty (30) days in the county jail, or
833 both such fine and imprisonment. In addition, the claim or claims
834 submitted shall be forfeited.

835 (p) **Electrical utility petroleum-based equipment**
836 **purchase procedure.** When in response to a proper advertisement
837 therefor, no bid firm as to price is submitted to an electric
838 utility for power transformers, distribution transformers, power
839 breakers, reclosers or other articles containing a petroleum
840 product, the electric utility may accept the lowest and best bid
841 therefor although the price is not firm.

842 (q) **Fuel management system bidding procedure.** Any
843 governing authority or agency of the state shall, before
844 contracting for the services and products of a fuel management or
845 fuel access system, enter into negotiations with not fewer than
846 two (2) sellers of fuel management or fuel access systems for
847 competitive written bids to provide the services and products for
848 the systems. In the event that the governing authority or agency
849 cannot locate two (2) sellers of such systems or cannot obtain
850 bids from two (2) sellers of such systems, it shall show proof

851 that it made a diligent, good-faith effort to locate and negotiate
852 with two (2) sellers of such systems. Such proof shall include,
853 but not be limited to, publications of a request for proposals and
854 letters soliciting negotiations and bids. For purposes of this
855 paragraph (q), a fuel management or fuel access system is an
856 automated system of acquiring fuel for vehicles as well as
857 management reports detailing fuel use by vehicles and drivers, and
858 the term "competitive written bid" shall have the meaning as
859 defined in paragraph (b) of this section. Governing authorities
860 and agencies shall be exempt from this process when contracting
861 for the services and products of a fuel management or fuel access
862 systems under the terms of a state contract established by the
863 Office of Purchasing and Travel.

864 (r) **Solid waste contract proposal procedure.** Before
865 entering into any contract for garbage collection or disposal,
866 contract for solid waste collection or disposal or contract for
867 sewage collection or disposal, which involves an expenditure of
868 more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), a governing
869 authority or agency shall issue publicly a request for proposals
870 concerning the specifications for such services which shall be
871 advertised for in the same manner as provided in this section for
872 seeking bids for purchases which involve an expenditure of more
873 than the amount provided in paragraph (c) of this section. Any
874 request for proposals when issued shall contain terms and
875 conditions relating to price, financial responsibility,
876 technology, legal responsibilities and other relevant factors as
877 are determined by the governing authority or agency to be
878 appropriate for inclusion; all factors determined relevant by the
879 governing authority or agency or required by this paragraph (r)
880 shall be duly included in the advertisement to elicit proposals.
881 After responses to the request for proposals have been duly
882 received, the governing authority or agency shall select the most
883 qualified proposal or proposals on the basis of price, technology

884 and other relevant factors and from such proposals, but not
885 limited to the terms thereof, negotiate and enter contracts with
886 one or more of the persons or firms submitting proposals. If the
887 governing authority or agency deems none of the proposals to be
888 qualified or otherwise acceptable, the request for proposals
889 process may be reinitiated. Notwithstanding any other provisions
890 of this paragraph, where a county with at least thirty-five
891 thousand (35,000) nor more than forty thousand (40,000)
892 population, according to the 1990 federal decennial census, owns
893 or operates a solid waste landfill, the governing authorities of
894 any other county or municipality may contract with the governing
895 authorities of the county owning or operating the landfill,
896 pursuant to a resolution duly adopted and spread upon the minutes
897 of each governing authority involved, for garbage or solid waste
898 collection or disposal services through contract negotiations.

899 (s) **Minority set-aside authorization.** Notwithstanding
900 any provision of this section to the contrary, any agency or
901 governing authority, by order placed on its minutes, may, in its
902 discretion, set aside not more than twenty percent (20%) of its
903 anticipated annual expenditures for the purchase of commodities
904 from minority businesses; however, all such set-aside purchases
905 shall comply with all purchasing regulations promulgated by the
906 Department of Finance and Administration and shall be subject to
907 bid requirements under this section. Set-aside purchases for
908 which competitive bids are required shall be made from the lowest
909 and best minority business bidder. For the purposes of this
910 paragraph, the term "minority business" means a business which is
911 owned by a majority of persons who are United States citizens or
912 permanent resident aliens (as defined by the Immigration and
913 Naturalization Service) of the United States, and who are Asian,
914 Black, Hispanic or Native American, according to the following
915 definitions:

916 (i) "Asian" means persons having origins in any of
917 the original people of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian
918 subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands.

919 (ii) "Black" means persons having origins in any
920 black racial group of Africa.

921 (iii) "Hispanic" means persons of Spanish or
922 Portuguese culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central
923 America, or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race.

924 (iv) "Native American" means persons having
925 origins in any of the original people of North America, including
926 American Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts.

927 (t) **Construction punch list restriction.** The
928 architect, engineer or other representative designated by the
929 agency or governing authority that is contracting for public
930 construction or renovation may prepare and submit to the
931 contractor only one (1) preliminary punch list of items that do
932 not meet the contract requirements at the time of substantial
933 completion and one (1) final list immediately before final
934 completion and final payment.

935 (u) **Purchase authorization clarification.** Nothing in
936 this section shall be construed as authorizing any purchase not
937 authorized by law.

938 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
939 and after July 1, 2006.