

AN ACT

relating to state agency contracting.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 321.013, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (k) and (l) to read as follows:

(k) In devising the audit plan under Subsection (c), the State Auditor shall consider the performance of audits on contracts entered into by the Health and Human Services Commission that exceed \$100 million in annual value, including a contract between the commission and a managed care organization. The State Auditor shall collaborate with the financial managers in the Medicaid/CHIP Division of the commission in performing an audit described by this subsection. An audit described by this subsection:

(1) may be limited in scope to target an area of the contract that the State Auditor determines poses the highest financial risk to this state; and

(2) must determine whether the entity contracting with the commission has spent state money in accordance with the purposes authorized in the contract.

(l) The State Auditor may contract with a private auditor to audit a contract under Subsection (k).

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 403, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 403.03057 to read as follows:

Sec. 403.03057. CENTRALIZED STATE PURCHASING STUDY.

1 (a) The comptroller, in cooperation with the governor's budget and  
2 policy staff, shall conduct a study examining the feasibility and  
3 practicality of consolidating state purchasing functions into  
4 fewer state agencies or one state agency. The study must examine  
5 the cost savings to this state that may be achieved through:

6 (1) abolishing offices or departments of state  
7 agencies that have a dedicated office or department for purchasing;  
8 and

9 (2) consolidating or reducing the number of vendors  
10 authorized to contract with this state to allow this state to better  
11 leverage its purchasing power.

12 (b) The comptroller shall prepare and deliver to the  
13 governor, the lieutenant governor, and each member of the  
14 legislature a report on the findings of the study conducted under  
15 Subsection (a), including:

16 (1) a detailed projection of expected savings or costs  
17 to this state in consolidating state purchasing;

18 (2) a report on the process for the legislature or the  
19 executive branch to implement the consolidation of state  
20 purchasing;

21 (3) a list of state agencies, including dedicated  
22 offices or departments in those agencies, with purchasing  
23 responsibilities; and

24 (4) the total cost to this state of the purchasing  
25 responsibilities for each state agency, including the dedicated  
26 office or department in the agency with purchasing responsibility.

27 (c) The comptroller shall prepare, deliver, and post on the

1 comptroller's Internet website the report required by this section  
2 not later than December 31, 2016.

3 (d) The comptroller may contract with a public or private  
4 entity to conduct the study required by this section.

5 (e) This section expires January 1, 2018.

6 SECTION 3. Subchapter L, Chapter 441, Government Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 441.1855 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 441.1855. RETENTION OF CONTRACT AND RELATED DOCUMENTS  
9 BY STATE AGENCIES. Notwithstanding Section 441.185 or 441.187, a  
10 state agency:

11 (1) shall retain in its records each contract entered  
12 into by the state agency and all contract solicitation documents  
13 related to the contract; and

14 (2) may destroy the contract and documents only after  
15 the seventh anniversary of the date:

16 (A) the contract is completed or expires; or

17 (B) all issues that arise from any litigation,  
18 claim, negotiation, audit, open records request, administrative  
19 review, or other action involving the contract or documents are  
20 resolved.

21 SECTION 4. Subchapter C, Chapter 572, Government Code, is  
22 amended by adding Section 572.069 to read as follows:

23 Sec. 572.069. CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT FOR FORMER STATE OFFICER  
24 OR EMPLOYEE RESTRICTED. A former state officer or employee of a  
25 state agency who during the period of state service or employment  
26 participated on behalf of a state agency in a procurement or  
27 contract negotiation involving a person may not accept employment

1 from that person before the second anniversary of the date the  
2 officer's or employee's service or employment with the state agency  
3 ceased.

4 SECTION 5. Subchapter C, Chapter 2054, Government Code, is  
5 amended by adding Section 2054.067 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 2054.067. POSTING OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS RELATING TO  
7 CONTRACT SOLICITATIONS. (a) The department shall post all  
8 solicitation documents related to a contract of the department,  
9 including contracts under Chapter 2157, to the centralized  
10 accounting and payroll system authorized under Sections 2101.035  
11 and 2101.036, or any successor system used to implement the  
12 enterprise resource planning component of the uniform statewide  
13 accounting project.

14 (b) The documents posted under Subsection (a) must include  
15 documents showing the criteria by which the department evaluated  
16 each vendor responding to the contract solicitation and, if  
17 applicable, an explanation of why the vendor was selected by the  
18 department under Section 2157.068(b).

19 SECTION 6. Section 2101.001(1), Government Code, is amended  
20 to read as follows:

21 (1) "Enterprise resource planning" includes the  
22 administration of a state agency's:

- 23 (A) general ledger;
- 24 (B) accounts payable;
- 25 (C) accounts receivable;
- 26 (D) budgeting;
- 27 (E) inventory;

- 1 (F) asset management;
- 2 (G) billing;
- 3 (H) payroll;
- 4 (I) projects;
- 5 (J) grants;
- 6 (K) human resources, including administration of
- 7 performance measures, time spent on tasks, and other personnel and
- 8 labor issues; and
- 9 (L) purchasing, including solicitations and
- 10 contracting.

11 SECTION 7. Section 2101.035, Government Code, is amended by  
12 adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:

13 (i) State agencies shall report contract and purchasing  
14 information in the uniform manner required by the comptroller.

15 SECTION 8. Section 2101.036, Government Code, is amended by  
16 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

17 (e) Notwithstanding Subsection (d), a state agency in the  
18 legislative branch may elect to participate in the enterprise  
19 resource planning system developed under this section.

20 SECTION 9. Subchapter C, Chapter 2101, Government Code, is  
21 amended by adding Section 2101.041 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 2101.041. STATE AGENCY REPORTING OF CONTRACTING  
23 INFORMATION. (a) The comptroller by rule shall determine the  
24 contracting information that state agencies must report or provide  
25 using the centralized accounting and payroll system, or any  
26 successor system used to implement the enterprise resource planning  
27 component of the uniform statewide accounting project, developed

1 under Sections 2101.035 and 2101.036.

2 (b) In making the determination required by this section,  
3 the comptroller shall consider requiring a state agency to report  
4 or provide:

5 (1) a brief summary of each contract that is quickly  
6 and easily searchable, including the contract's purpose, timeline,  
7 and deliverables;

8 (2) contract planning and solicitation documents;

9 (3) the criteria used to determine the vendor awarded  
10 the contract;

11 (4) if the contract was awarded based on best value to  
12 the state:

13 (A) a list of the factors considered in  
14 determining best value with the weight given each factor; and

15 (B) a statement regarding how the vendor awarded  
16 the contract provides the best value to the state in relation to  
17 other vendors who bid or otherwise responded to the contract  
18 solicitation;

19 (5) any statements of work and work orders prepared  
20 for or under the contract;

21 (6) the proposed budget for the contract;

22 (7) any conflict of interest documents signed by state  
23 agency purchasing personnel participating in the planning,  
24 soliciting, or monitoring of the contract;

25 (8) criteria used or to be used by the state agency in  
26 monitoring the contract and vendor performance under the contract;

27 (9) a justification for each change order, contract

1 amendment, contract renewal or extension, or other proposed action  
2 that would result in an increase in the monetary value of a contract  
3 with an initial value exceeding \$10 million; and

4 (10) additional supporting documentation and  
5 justification for a change order, contract amendment, contract  
6 renewal or extension, or other proposed action of a contract  
7 described by Subdivision (9) that would result in an increase in the  
8 contract's monetary value by more than 20 percent.

9 SECTION 10. Subchapter B, Chapter 2155, Government Code, is  
10 amended by adding Section 2155.0755 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 2155.0755. VERIFICATION OF USE OF BEST VALUE STANDARD.

12 (a) The contract manager or procurement director of each state  
13 agency shall:

14 (1) approve each state agency contract for which the  
15 agency is required to purchase goods or services using the best  
16 value standard;

17 (2) ensure that, for each contract, the agency  
18 documents the best value standard used for the contract; and

19 (3) acknowledge in writing that the agency complied  
20 with the agency's and comptroller's contract management guide in  
21 the purchase.

22 (b) For each purchase of goods or services for which a state  
23 agency is required to use the best value standard, the comptroller  
24 shall ensure that the agency includes in the vendor performance  
25 tracking system established under Section 2262.055 information on  
26 whether the vendor satisfied that standard.

27 SECTION 11. Section 2155.077, Government Code, is amended

1 by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (a-2) to  
2 read as follows:

3 (a) The commission may bar a vendor from participating in  
4 state contracts that are subject to this subtitle, including  
5 contracts for which purchasing authority is delegated to a state  
6 agency, for:

7 (1) substandard performance under a contract with the  
8 state or a state agency;

9 (2) material misrepresentations in a bid or proposal  
10 to the state or a state agency or during the course of performing a  
11 contract with the state or a state agency;

12 (3) fraud; ~~or~~

13 (4) breaching a contract with the state or a state  
14 agency; or

15 (5) repeated unfavorable performance reviews under  
16 Section 2155.089 or repeated unfavorable classifications received  
17 by the vendor under Section 2262.055 after considering the  
18 following factors:

19 (A) the severity of the substandard performance  
20 by the vendor;

21 (B) the impact to the state of the substandard  
22 performance;

23 (C) any recommendations by a contracting state  
24 agency that provides an unfavorable performance review;

25 (D) whether debarment of the vendor is in the  
26 best interest of the state; and

27 (E) any other factor that the comptroller

1 considers relevant, as specified by comptroller rule.

2 (a-2) The comptroller may bar a vendor from participating in  
3 state contracts that are subject to this subtitle, including  
4 contracts for which purchasing authority is delegated to a state  
5 agency, if more than two contracts between the vendor and the state  
6 have been terminated by the state for unsatisfactory vendor  
7 performance during the preceding three years.

8 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (d), the commission  
9 shall bar a vendor from participating in state contracts under  
10 Subsection (a) or (a-2) for a period that is commensurate with the  
11 seriousness of the vendor's action and the damage to the state's  
12 interests.

13 SECTION 12. Section 2155.078, Government Code, is amended  
14 by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (a-1) to  
15 read as follows:

16 (a) The commission shall establish and administer a system  
17 of training, continuing education, and certification for state  
18 agency purchasing personnel. The training and continuing education  
19 for state agency purchasing personnel must include ethics training.  
20 The commission may establish and offer appropriate training to  
21 vendors on a cost recovery basis. The commission may adopt rules to  
22 administer this section, including rules relating to monitoring a  
23 certified purchaser's compliance with the continuing education  
24 requirements of this section.

25 (a-1) The training, continuing education, and certification  
26 required under Subsection (a) must include:

27 (1) training on the selection of an appropriate

1 procurement method by project type; and

2 (2) training conducted by the Department of  
3 Information Resources on purchasing technologies.

4 (b) Notwithstanding [~~Except as provided by~~] Subsection (n),  
5 all state agency purchasing personnel, including agencies exempted  
6 from the purchasing authority of the commission, must receive the  
7 training and continuing education to the extent required by rule of  
8 the commission. The training and continuing education must include  
9 ethics training. A state agency employee who is required to receive  
10 the training may not participate in purchases by the employing  
11 agency unless the employee has received the required training or  
12 received equivalent training from a national association  
13 recognized by the commission. The equivalent training may count,  
14 as provided by Subsection (k), toward the continuing education  
15 requirements.

16 SECTION 13. Subchapter B, Chapter 2155, Government Code, is  
17 amended by adding Section 2155.089 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 2155.089. REPORTING VENDOR PERFORMANCE. (a) After a  
19 contract is completed or otherwise terminated, each state agency  
20 shall review the vendor's performance under the contract.

21 (b) The state agency shall report to the comptroller, using  
22 the tracking system established by Section 2262.055, on the results  
23 of the review regarding a vendor's performance under a contract.

24 (c) This section does not apply to:

25 (1) an enrollment contract described by 1 T.A.C.  
26 Section 391.183 as that section existed on September 1, 2015; or

27 (2) a contract of the Employees Retirement System of

1 Texas or the Teacher Retirement System of Texas except for a  
2 contract with a nongovernmental entity for claims administration of  
3 a group health benefit plan under Subtitle H, Title 8, Insurance  
4 Code.

5 SECTION 14. Section 2156.181(a), Government Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) The commission may enter into one or more compacts,  
8 interagency agreements, or cooperative purchasing agreements  
9 directly with one or more state governments, agencies of other  
10 states, or other governmental entities or may participate in,  
11 sponsor, or administer a cooperative purchasing agreement through  
12 an entity that facilitates those agreements for the purchase of  
13 goods or services if the commission determines that the [entering  
14 into an] agreement would be in the best interest of the state.

15 SECTION 15. Section 2157.068, Government Code, is amended  
16 by adding Subsections (e-1) and (e-2) to read as follows:

17 (e-1) A state agency contracting to purchase a commodity  
18 item shall use the list maintained as required by Subsection (e) as  
19 follows:

20 (1) for a contract with a value of \$50,000 or less, the  
21 agency may directly award the contract to a vendor included on the  
22 list without submission of a request for pricing to other vendors on  
23 the list;

24 (2) for a contract with a value of more than \$50,000  
25 but not more than \$150,000, the agency must submit a request for  
26 pricing to at least three vendors included on the list in the  
27 category to which the contract relates; and

1           (3) for a contract with a value of more than \$150,000  
2 but not more than \$1 million, the agency must submit a request for  
3 pricing to at least six vendors included on the list in the category  
4 to which the contract relates or all vendors on the schedule if the  
5 category has fewer than six vendors.

6           (e-2) A state agency may not enter into a contract to  
7 purchase a commodity item if the value of the contract exceeds \$1  
8 million.

9           SECTION 16. Subchapter B, Chapter 2157, Government Code, is  
10 amended by adding Section 2157.0685 to read as follows:

11           Sec. 2157.0685. CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN  
12 SERVICES. (a) In this section, "statement of work" means a  
13 document that states the requirements for a contract, including  
14 deliverables, performance specifications, and other requirements,  
15 specific to the vendor under that contract that are not specified in  
16 a contract awarded by the department under Section [2157.068](#) for  
17 contracts more than \$50,000.

18           (b) For a contract awarded by the department under Section  
19 [2157.068](#) that requires a state agency to develop and execute a  
20 statement of work to initiate services under the contract, the  
21 state agency must:

22           (1) consult with the department before submission of  
23 the statement of work to a vendor; and

24           (2) post each statement of work entered into by the  
25 agency on the agency's Internet website in the manner required by  
26 department rule.

27           (c) A statement of work executed by a state agency under a

1 contract awarded by the department under Section 2157.068 is not  
2 valid and money may not be paid to the vendor under the terms of the  
3 statement of work unless the department first signs the statement  
4 of work.

5 SECTION 17. Section 2261.001(a), Government Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) This chapter, other than Subchapter F, applies only to  
8 each procurement of goods or services made by a state agency that is  
9 neither made by the comptroller nor made under purchasing authority  
10 delegated to the agency by or under Section 51.9335 or 73.115,  
11 Education Code, or Section 2155.131 or 2155.132.

12 SECTION 18. Chapter 2261, Government Code, is amended by  
13 adding Subchapter F to read as follows:

14 SUBCHAPTER F. ETHICS, REPORTING, AND APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS FOR  
15 CERTAIN CONTRACTS

16 Sec. 2261.251. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER.

17 (a) Notwithstanding Section 2261.001, this subchapter applies to  
18 the Texas Department of Transportation and to an institution of  
19 higher education acquiring goods or services under Section 51.9335  
20 or 73.115, Education Code.

21 (b) This subchapter does not apply to a contract of the  
22 Employees Retirement System of Texas or the Teacher Retirement  
23 System of Texas except for a contract with a nongovernmental entity  
24 for claims administration of a group health benefit plan under  
25 Subtitle H, Title 8, Insurance Code.

26 Sec. 2261.252. DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF  
27 INTEREST; CERTAIN CONTRACTS PROHIBITED. (a) Each state agency

1 employee or official who is involved in procurement or in contract  
2 management for a state agency shall disclose to the agency any  
3 potential conflict of interest specified by state law or agency  
4 policy that is known by the employee or official with respect to any  
5 contract with a private vendor or bid for the purchase of goods or  
6 services from a private vendor by the agency.

7 (b) A state agency may not enter into a contract for the  
8 purchase of goods or services with a private vendor with whom any of  
9 the following agency employees or officials have a financial  
10 interest:

11 (1) a member of the agency's governing body;

12 (2) the governing official, executive director,  
13 general counsel, chief procurement officer, or procurement  
14 director of the agency; or

15 (3) a family member related to an employee or official  
16 described by Subdivision (1) or (2) within the second degree by  
17 affinity or consanguinity.

18 (c) A state agency employee or official has a financial  
19 interest in a person if the employee or official:

20 (1) owns or controls, directly or indirectly, an  
21 ownership interest of at least one percent in the person, including  
22 the right to share in profits, proceeds, or capital gains; or

23 (2) could reasonably foresee that a contract with the  
24 person could result in a financial benefit to the employee or  
25 official.

26 (d) A financial interest prohibited by this section does not  
27 include a retirement plan, a blind trust, insurance coverage, or an

1 ownership interest of less than one percent in a corporation.

2 Sec. 2261.253. REQUIRED POSTING OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS;  
3 ENHANCED CONTRACT AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING. (a) For each  
4 contract for the purchase of goods or services from a private  
5 vendor, each state agency shall post on its Internet website:

6 (1) each contract the agency enters into, including  
7 contracts entered into without inviting, advertising for, or  
8 otherwise requiring competitive bidding before selection of the  
9 contractor, until the contract expires or is completed;

10 (2) the statutory or other authority under which a  
11 contract that is not competitively bid under Subdivision (1) is  
12 entered into without compliance with competitive bidding  
13 procedures; and

14 (3) the request for proposals related to a  
15 competitively bid contract included under Subdivision (1) until the  
16 contract expires or is completed.

17 (b) A state agency monthly may post contracts described by  
18 Subsection (a) that are valued at less than \$15,000.

19 (c) Each state agency by rule shall establish a procedure to  
20 identify each contract that requires enhanced contract or  
21 performance monitoring and submit information on the contract to  
22 the agency's governing body or, if the agency is not governed by a  
23 multimember governing body, the officer who governs the agency.  
24 The agency's contract management office or procurement director  
25 shall immediately notify the agency's governing body or governing  
26 official, as appropriate, of any serious issue or risk that is  
27 identified with respect to a contract monitored under this

1 subsection.

2 (d) This section does not apply to a memorandum of  
3 understanding, interagency contract, interlocal agreement, or  
4 contract for which there is not a cost.

5 Sec. 2261.254. CONTRACTS WITH VALUE EXCEEDING \$1 MILLION.

6 (a) For each contract for the purchase of goods or services that  
7 has a value exceeding \$1 million, a state agency shall develop and  
8 implement contract reporting requirements that provide information  
9 on:

10 (1) compliance with financial provisions and delivery  
11 schedules under the contract;

12 (2) corrective action plans required under the  
13 contract and the status of any active corrective action plan; and

14 (3) any liquidated damages assessed or collected under  
15 the contract.

16 (b) Each state agency shall verify:

17 (1) the accuracy of any information reported under  
18 Subsection (a) that is based on information provided by a  
19 contractor; and

20 (2) the delivery time of goods or services scheduled  
21 for delivery under the contract.

22 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), a state agency may  
23 enter into a contract for the purchase of goods or services that has  
24 a value exceeding \$1 million only if:

25 (1) the governing body of the state agency approves  
26 the contract and the approved contract is signed by the presiding  
27 officer of the governing body; or

1           (2) for a state agency that is not governed by a  
2 multimember governing body, the officer who governs the agency  
3 approves and signs the contract.

4           (d) The governing body or governing official of a state  
5 agency, as appropriate, may delegate to the executive director of  
6 the agency the approval and signature authority under Subsection  
7 (c).

8           (e) A highway construction, engineering services, or  
9 maintenance contract that is in compliance with all applicable laws  
10 related to procuring engineering services or construction bidding  
11 and that is awarded by the Texas Department of Transportation under  
12 Subchapter A, Chapter 223, Transportation Code, is not required to  
13 be signed by a member of the Texas Transportation Commission or the  
14 executive director of the department. This exception does not  
15 apply to expedited highway improvement contracts under Subchapter  
16 C, Chapter 223, Transportation Code, a comprehensive development  
17 agreement entered into under Subchapter E, Chapter 223,  
18 Transportation Code, a design-build contract entered into under  
19 Subchapter F, Chapter 223, Transportation Code, or any other  
20 contract entered into by the Texas Department of Transportation.

21           Sec. 2261.255. CONTRACTS WITH VALUE EXCEEDING \$5 MILLION.  
22 For each state agency contract for the purchase of goods or services  
23 that has a value exceeding \$5 million, the contract management  
24 office or procurement director of the agency must:

25           (1) verify in writing that the solicitation and  
26 purchasing methods and contractor selection process comply with  
27 state law and agency policy; and

1           (2) submit to the governing body of the agency, or  
2 governing official of the agency if the agency is not governed by a  
3 multimember governing body, information on any potential issue that  
4 may arise in the solicitation, purchasing, or contractor selection  
5 process.

6           Sec. 2261.256. ACCOUNTABILITY AND RISK ANALYSIS PROCEDURE;  
7 CONTRACT MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK. (a) Each state agency shall develop  
8 and comply with a purchasing accountability and risk analysis  
9 procedure. The procedure must provide for:

10           (1) assessing the risk of fraud, abuse, or waste in the  
11 contractor selection process, contract provisions, and payment and  
12 reimbursement rates and methods for the different types of goods  
13 and services for which the agency contracts;

14           (2) identifying contracts that require enhanced  
15 contract monitoring or the immediate attention of contract  
16 management staff; and

17           (3) establishing clear levels of purchasing  
18 accountability and staff responsibilities related to purchasing.

19           (b) Each state agency shall publish a contract management  
20 handbook that establishes consistent contracting policies and  
21 practices to be followed by the agency and that is consistent with  
22 the comptroller's contract management guide. The agency's handbook  
23 may include standard contract provisions and formats for the agency  
24 to incorporate in contracts.

25           (c) Each state agency shall post on the agency's Internet  
26 website the procedures described by Subsections (a)(2) and (3) and  
27 submit to the comptroller a link to the web page that includes the

1 procedures. The comptroller shall post on the comptroller's  
2 Internet website the web page link submitted by each state agency.

3 Sec. 2261.257. CONTRACT DATABASE. (a) Each state agency  
4 that becomes a participant in the centralized accounting and  
5 payroll systems as authorized by Sections 2101.035 and 2101.036  
6 shall use the system to identify and record each contract entered  
7 into by the agency as specified by the rules, policies, or  
8 procedures developed by the comptroller.

9 (b) The comptroller shall provide as necessary information  
10 and state agency contract data contained in the centralized  
11 accounting and payroll systems to other state agencies with  
12 oversight duties, including the Legislative Budget Board, the state  
13 auditor's office, and the Department of Information Resources.

14 SECTION 19. Section 2262.053(d), Government Code, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 (d) The comptroller shall administer training under this  
17 section and may assess a fee for the training in an amount  
18 sufficient to recover the comptroller's costs under this section.

19 SECTION 20. Section 2262.0535, Government Code, is amended  
20 by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

21 (c) The comptroller may assess a fee for the training  
22 provided under this section in an amount sufficient to recover the  
23 comptroller's costs under this section.

24 SECTION 21. Section 2262.055, Government Code, is amended  
25 by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsections (d) and  
26 (e) to read as follows:

27 (a) The comptroller shall evaluate the vendor's performance

1 based on information reported by state agencies under Section  
2 2155.089 and criteria established by the comptroller.

3 (b) The comptroller by rule shall establish an evaluation  
4 process that:

5 (1) rates vendors on an A through F scale, with A being  
6 the highest grade; and

7 (2) allows vendors who receive a grade lower than a C  
8 [an unfavorable performance review] to protest any classification  
9 given by the comptroller.

10 (d) A state agency shall use the vendor performance tracking  
11 system to determine whether to award a contract to a vendor reviewed  
12 in the tracking system. The comptroller by rule shall establish the  
13 manner in which the rating scale established under Subsection (b)  
14 affects a vendor's eligibility for state contracts and the grades  
15 on the scale that disqualify a vendor from state contracting.

16 (e) The comptroller shall make the vendor performance  
17 tracking system accessible to the public on the comptroller's  
18 Internet website.

19 SECTION 22. Section 51.9335(d), Education Code, is amended  
20 to read as follows:

21 (d) Subject to Section 51.9337, Subtitle D, Title 10,  
22 Government Code, and Subchapter B, Chapter 2254, Government Code,  
23 do not apply to the acquisition of goods and services under this  
24 section, except that an institution of higher education must comply  
25 with any provision of those laws, or a rule adopted under a  
26 provision of those laws, relating to contracting with historically  
27 underutilized businesses or relating to the procurement of goods

1 and services from persons with disabilities. An institution of  
2 higher education may, but is not required to, acquire goods or  
3 services as provided by Subtitle D, Title 10, Government Code.

4 SECTION 23. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
5 amended by adding Section 51.9337 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 51.9337. PURCHASING AUTHORITY CONDITIONAL; REQUIRED  
7 STANDARDS. (a) An institution of higher education may not  
8 exercise the acquisition authority granted by Section 51.9335 or  
9 73.115 unless the institution complies with this section. An  
10 institution that is determined under Subsection (j) to not be in  
11 compliance with this section is subject to the laws governing  
12 acquisition of goods and services by state agencies, including  
13 Subtitle D, Title 10, Government Code, and Chapter 2254, Government  
14 Code.

15 (b) The board of regents of an institution of higher  
16 education by rule shall establish for each institution under the  
17 management and control of the board:

18 (1) a code of ethics for the institution's officers and  
19 employees, including provisions governing officers and employees  
20 authorized to execute contracts for the institution or to exercise  
21 discretion in awarding contracts, subject to Subsection (c);

22 (2) policies for the internal investigation of  
23 suspected defalcation, misappropriation, and other fiscal  
24 irregularities and an institutional or systemwide compliance  
25 program designed to promote ethical behavior and ensure compliance  
26 with all applicable policies, laws, and rules governing higher  
27 education, including research and health care to the extent

1 applicable;

2 (3) a contract management handbook that provides  
3 consistent contracting policies and practices and contract review  
4 procedures, including a risk analysis procedure, subject to  
5 Subsection (d);

6 (4) contracting delegation guidelines, subject to  
7 Subsections (e) and (f);

8 (5) training for officers and employees authorized to  
9 execute contracts for the institution or to exercise discretion in  
10 awarding contracts, including training in ethics, selection of  
11 appropriate procurement methods, and information resources  
12 purchasing technologies; and

13 (6) internal audit protocols, subject to Subsection  
14 (g).

15 (c) The code of ethics governing an institution of higher  
16 education must include:

17 (1) general standards of conduct and a statement that  
18 each officer or employee is expected to obey all federal, state, and  
19 local laws and is subject to disciplinary action for a violation of  
20 those laws;

21 (2) policies governing conflicts of interest,  
22 conflicts of commitment, and outside activities, ensuring that the  
23 primary responsibility of officers and employees is to accomplish  
24 the duties and responsibilities assigned to that position;

25 (3) a conflict of interest policy that prohibits  
26 employees from having a direct or indirect financial or other  
27 interest, engaging in a business transaction or professional

1 activity, or incurring any obligation that is in substantial  
2 conflict with the proper discharge of the employee's duties related  
3 to the public interest;

4 (4) a conflict of commitment policy that prohibits an  
5 employee's activities outside the institution from interfering  
6 with the employee's duties and responsibilities to the institution;

7 (5) a policy governing an officer's or employee's  
8 outside activities, including compensated employment and board  
9 service, that clearly delineates the nature and amount of  
10 permissible outside activities and that includes processes for  
11 disclosing the outside activities and for obtaining and documenting  
12 institutional approval to perform the activities;

13 (6) a policy that prohibits an officer or employee  
14 from acting as an agent for another person in the negotiation of the  
15 terms of an agreement relating to the provision of money, services,  
16 or property to the institution;

17 (7) a policy governing the use of institutional  
18 resources; and

19 (8) a policy providing for the regular training of  
20 officers and employees on the policies described by this  
21 subsection.

22 (d) An institution of higher education shall establish  
23 contract review procedures and a contract review checklist that  
24 must be reviewed and approved by the institution's legal counsel  
25 before implementation. The review procedures and checklist must  
26 include:

27 (1) a description of each step of the procedure that an

1 institution must use to evaluate and process contracts;

2 (2) a checklist that describes each process that must  
3 be completed before contract execution; and

4 (3) a value threshold that initiates the required  
5 review by the institution's legal counsel unless the contract is a  
6 standard contract previously approved by the counsel.

7 (e) An institution of higher education's policies governing  
8 contracting authority must clearly specify the types and values of  
9 contracts that must be approved by the board of regents and the  
10 types and values of contracts for which contracting authority is  
11 delegated by the board to the chief executive officer and by the  
12 chief executive officer to other officers and employees of the  
13 institution. An officer or employee may not execute a document for  
14 the board unless the officer or employee has authority to act for  
15 the board and the authority is exercised in compliance with  
16 applicable conditions and restrictions.

17 (f) An institution of higher education may not enter into a  
18 contract with a value of more than \$1 million, including any  
19 amendment, extension, or renewal of the contract that increases the  
20 value of the original contract to more than \$1 million, unless the  
21 institution's board of regents approves the contract, expressly  
22 delegates authority to exceed that amount, or expressly adopts an  
23 exception for that contract. The board must approve any amendment,  
24 extension, or renewal of a contract with a value that exceeds 25  
25 percent of the value of the original contract approved by the board  
26 unless the authority to exceed the approved amount is expressly  
27 delegated by the board or an exception is expressly adopted by the

1 board for that contract.

2 (g) The board of regents of an institution of higher  
3 education shall adopt standards for internal audits conducted by  
4 the institution to provide a systematic, disciplined approach to  
5 evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the institution's risk  
6 management, control, and governance processes related to contracts  
7 and to require risk-based testing of contract administration. The  
8 internal auditor must have full and unrestricted access to all  
9 institutional property, personnel, and records. An internal  
10 auditor must report directly to the board of regents in accordance  
11 with Chapter 2102, Government Code.

12 (h) The chief auditor of an institution of higher education  
13 shall annually assess whether the institution has adopted the rules  
14 and policies required by this section and shall submit a report of  
15 findings to the state auditor. In auditing the purchase of goods  
16 and services by the institution, the state auditor shall determine  
17 whether an institution has adopted the required rules and policies.

18 (i) If the state auditor determines that an institution of  
19 higher education has failed to adopt the required rules and  
20 policies, the auditor shall report that failure to the legislature  
21 and to the institution's board of regents and shall, in  
22 consultation with the institution, adopt a remediation plan to  
23 bring the institution into compliance. If the institution fails to  
24 comply within the time established by the state auditor, the  
25 auditor shall find the institution to be in noncompliance and  
26 report that finding to the legislature and comptroller.

27 (j) In accordance with a schedule adopted by the state

1 auditor in consultation with the comptroller, the authority of an  
2 institution of higher education to acquire goods and services as  
3 provided by Section 51.9335 or 73.115 is suspended if the  
4 institution fails to comply with the remediation plan under  
5 Subsection (i) within the time established by the state auditor. As  
6 a result of the suspension, the laws, including Subtitle D, Title  
7 10, Government Code, and Chapter 2254, Government Code, governing  
8 acquisition of goods and services by state agencies from which the  
9 institution is otherwise exempt, shall apply to the institution's  
10 acquisition of goods and services.

11 SECTION 24. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
12 amended by adding Section 51.954 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 51.954. DISCLOSURE OF SPONSORS OF CONTRACTED RESEARCH  
14 IN PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS. (a) In any public communication the  
15 content of which is based on the results of sponsored research, a  
16 faculty member or other employee or appointee of an institution of  
17 higher education who conducted or participated in conducting the  
18 research shall conspicuously disclose the identity of each sponsor  
19 of the research.

20 (b) In this section:

21 (1) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning  
22 assigned by Section 61.003.

23 (2) "Public communication" means oral or written  
24 communication intended for public consumption or distribution,  
25 including:

26 (A) testimony in a public administrative,  
27 legislative, regulatory, or judicial proceeding;

1           (B) printed matter including a magazine,  
2 journal, newsletter, newspaper, pamphlet, or report; or

3           (C) posting of information on a website or  
4 similar Internet host for information.

5           (3) "Sponsor" means an entity that contracts for or  
6 provides money or materials for research.

7           (4) "Sponsored research" means research:

8           (A) that is conducted under a contract with, or  
9 that is conducted under a grant awarded by and pursuant to a written  
10 agreement with, an individual or entity other than the institution  
11 conducting the research; and

12           (B) in which payments received or the value of  
13 materials received under that contract or grant, or under a  
14 combination of more than one such contract or grant, constitutes at  
15 least 50 percent of the cost of conducting the research.

16           SECTION 25. Sections 73.115(e) and (f), Education Code, are  
17 amended to read as follows:

18           (e) To the extent of any conflict, this section prevails  
19 over any other law relating to the purchasing of goods and services  
20 other than Section 51.9337 and ~~[except]~~ a law relating to  
21 contracting with historically underutilized businesses.

22           (f) Except as otherwise provided by this section and Section  
23 51.9337, Subtitle D, Title 10, Government Code, and Chapter 2254,  
24 Government Code, do not apply to purchases of goods and services  
25 made under this section.

26           SECTION 26. Section 2155.502(d), Government Code, is  
27 repealed.

1           SECTION 27. Section 572.069, Government Code, as added by  
2 this Act, applies only to a state officer or employee whose service  
3 or employment with a state agency ceases on or after the effective  
4 date of this Act.

5           SECTION 28. As soon as is practicable after the effective  
6 date of this Act, the comptroller of public accounts, and each  
7 affected state agency as necessary, shall adopt the rules,  
8 processes, and procedures and take the actions necessary to  
9 implement the changes in law made by this Act.

10          SECTION 29. Section 2262.055(d), Government Code, as added  
11 by this Act, applies only in relation to a contract for which the  
12 request for bids or proposals or other applicable expression of  
13 interest is made public on or after October 1, 2015.

14          SECTION 30. The changes in law made by this Act apply only  
15 to a contract entered into on or after the effective date of this  
16 Act. A contract entered into before that date is governed by the  
17 law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and  
18 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

19          SECTION 31. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 20 passed the Senate on March 31, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0; May 20, 2015, Senate refused to concur in House amendments and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 24, 2015, House granted request of the Senate; May 30, 2015, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 20 passed the House, with amendments, on May 19, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, one present not voting; May 24, 2015, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 31, 2015, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 2, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor