



North Carolina Department of Administration

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Gwynn T. Swinson, Secretary

Division of Purchase and Contract
Mike Mangum, State Purchasing Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: LEA Purchasing Officers
FROM: Mike Mangum *MM*
DATE: March 23, 2004
RE: Senate Bill 620

There have been many questions directed to Purchase and Contract recently about how Senate Bill 620 will affect the purchasing processes for LEAs. Effective April 1, 2004, all LEAs will begin handling their purchases of equipment, materials and supplies in accordance with a different set of statutes (Article 8 in lieu of Article 3 of Chapter 143 of the NC General Statutes).

The law will no longer permit P&C to start the procurement process on requisitions received after April 1, 2004, for LEA "open market" type purchases. Also, this applies immediately for LEAs certified to be E-Procurement compliant by the Department of Public Instruction. All requisitions we receive prior to April 1, 2004 will be processed in the same manner as they have been in the past, unless you instruct us otherwise. We will continue to assist you in any way we can, but will not be able to do the actual advertisements, bidding, award of contracts, or the inspection of equipment you purchase from these contracts.

In regard to Statewide Term Contracts handled by this office, the law still allows LEAs to purchase from those contracts, if they so choose. Where an inspection of equipment is needed for an item purchased from a Statewide Term Contract, we will still be able to provide this service. In addition, we will continue to utilize our LEA user purchasing group to enhance current and develop new contracts to better serve you.

We highly value the relationships developed over the years and will continue to assist in any manner possible to effect a smooth transition as you take on new responsibilities.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, the following people may be contacted:

Frayda Bluestein, Professor of Public Law and Government, (919) 966-4203, E-mail: bluestein@iogmail.iog.unc.edu

Or

Bob Rhinehardt, Chief of Purchasing (P&C), (919) 733-3581, E-mail: bob.Rhinehardt@ncmail.net

cc: Frayda Bluestein

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