

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 3623

By: Harris of the House

3 and

4 Weaver of the Senate

5  
6 An Act relating to state government; amending 74 O.S.  
7 2021, Section 85.5, which relates to the powers and  
8 duties of the State Purchasing Director; requiring  
9 submission of certain affidavit; providing for  
10 penalties; and providing an effective date.

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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2021, Section 85.5, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 85.5 A. Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
16 the State Purchasing Director, under the supervision of the Director  
17 of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, shall have sole  
18 and exclusive authority and responsibility for all acquisitions by  
19 state agencies. In order to carry out the powers and duties of the  
20 Chief Information Officer and the Information Services Division, the  
21 Chief Information Officer shall have sole and exclusive authority  
22 and responsibility for all acquisitions of information and  
23 telecommunications technology, equipment, software, products and  
24 related peripherals and services by state agencies. Public

1 construction contracts are awarded pursuant to Title 61 of the  
2 Oklahoma Statutes and are not subject to the Oklahoma Central  
3 Purchasing Act.

4 B. Every state agency shall determine its own quantitative  
5 needs for acquisitions and the general class or nature of the  
6 acquisitions. The State Purchasing Director, after consultation  
7 with the requisitioning state agency, shall have authority to  
8 determine the particular brand, model or other specific  
9 classification of each acquisition and to draft or invoke pursuant  
10 to the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act specifications establishing  
11 the requirements for all necessary contracts or purchase orders.

12 C. The Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise  
13 Services shall have authority and responsibility to promulgate rules  
14 in connection with provisions of the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act  
15 for:

16 1. The time, manner, authentication and form of making  
17 requisitions for acquisitions;

18 2. Inspection, analysis and testing of acquisitions or samples  
19 bidders submit prior to contract award;

20 3. The form and manner of submission for bids or proposals a  
21 bidder submits and the manner of accepting and opening bids or  
22 proposals;

23 4. The conditions under which the Office of Management and  
24 Enterprise Services shall require written contracts for

1 acquisitions, the conditions under which acquisitions may be made on  
2 an open account basis, and the conditions and manner of negotiating  
3 such contracts;

4 5. Obtaining acquisitions produced by state institutions;

5 6. Conditions under which any of the rules herein authorized  
6 may be waived;

7 7. The amounts of and deposits on any bond or other surety  
8 required to be submitted with a bid or contract for the furnishing  
9 of acquisitions and the conditions under which such bond or other  
10 surety shall be required;

11 8. The manner and conditions of delivery, which shall include  
12 the designation of the common carrier of property to be used to  
13 transport acquisitions whenever a common carrier is used, and the  
14 acceptance, or rejection, including check of quantities, of any  
15 acquisitions;

16 9. The form of any estimate, order or other information  
17 required in connection with an acquisition;

18 10. State agency acquisitions not exceeding the acquisition  
19 threshold amount requiring competitive bid to ensure  
20 competitiveness, fairness, compliance with the Oklahoma Central  
21 Purchasing Act and Section 3001 et seq. of this title, which relates  
22 to the State Use Committee. The rules shall include separate  
23 provisions based on acquisition amounts as follows:

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1 a. state agencies shall make acquisitions not exceeding  
2 Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), provided  
3 the acquisition process is fair and reasonable and is  
4 conducted pursuant to rules authorized pursuant to  
5 this section, and

6 b. state agencies with certified procurement officers and  
7 internal purchasing procedures found compliant by the  
8 State Purchasing Director may make acquisitions in  
9 excess of the fair and reasonable acquisition  
10 threshold amount provided for in this section and not  
11 exceeding Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars  
12 (\$250,000.00), pursuant to rules authorized by this  
13 section;

14 11. Training by the State Purchasing Director of state agency  
15 procurement officers;

16 12. Review and audit by the State Purchasing Director of state  
17 agency acquisitions;

18 13. The conditions for increasing acquisition limits for state  
19 agencies which have had a prior reduction in acquisition limit by  
20 the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services;

21 14. Use of a state purchase card to make acquisitions;

22 15. Any other matter or practice which relates to the  
23 responsibilities of the State Purchasing Director;

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1 16. Conditions for determination and authorization of  
2 acquisition threshold amounts of state agencies;

3 17. The form and manner of verification by suppliers that the  
4 supplier is eligible to do business in the State of Oklahoma and has  
5 obtained all necessary permits and licenses, pursuant to applicable  
6 provisions of law; and

7 18. Payment procedure rules for state agencies to adhere to  
8 regarding statewide contracts.

9 D. The State Purchasing Director shall provide training for  
10 state agency procurement officials, and other procurement staff, and  
11 is authorized to require retraining of such procurement personnel  
12 found not to be in compliance with provisions of the Oklahoma  
13 Central Purchasing Act or associated rules. The training may  
14 include any matters related to state procurement practices. State  
15 agency purchasing officials that demonstrate proficiency shall be  
16 certified as "certified procurement officers" by the State  
17 Purchasing Director and shall be authorized to make acquisitions  
18 pursuant to provisions of the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act and  
19 associated rules. The State Purchasing Director may assess a fee to  
20 state agencies for the training that does not exceed each state  
21 agency's pro rata share of the costs the State Purchasing Director  
22 incurs to provide the training.

23 E. The State Purchasing Director shall review state agency  
24 acquisitions for the purposes of:

- 1        1. Ensuring state agency compliance with provisions of the  
2 Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act;
  - 3        2. Ensuring state agency compliance with rules promulgated by  
4 the Office of Management and Enterprise Services pursuant to the  
5 Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act;
  - 6        3. Ensuring state agency compliance with provisions of Section  
7 3001 et seq. of this title pertaining to the State Use Committee;
  - 8        4. Reporting any acquisition by any state agency found not to  
9 be in compliance with those sections or rules to the Director of the  
10 Office of Management and Enterprise Services;
  - 11       5. A determination by the State Purchasing Director to reduce a  
12 state agency's acquisition authority amount when the state agency is  
13 found not to be in compliance with the Oklahoma Central Purchasing  
14 Act or associated rules or requirements of the State Purchasing  
15 Director pursuant to this section; and
  - 16       6. A determination by the State Purchasing Director to increase  
17 a state agency's acquisition authority amount after the agency cures  
18 deficiencies in connection with a prior reduction in the authority  
19 amount by the State Purchasing Director.
- 20       F. Based on written findings and when recommended by the State  
21 Purchasing Director, the Director of the Office of Management and  
22 Enterprise Services may:
- 23       1. Transmit written findings by the State Purchasing Director  
24 to the State Auditor and Inspector for further investigation,

1 indicating purchasing procedures that do not conform to the Oklahoma  
2 Central Purchasing Act or associated rules; or

3 2. Transmit to the Attorney General or the State Auditor and  
4 Inspector for further investigation a report made by the State  
5 Purchasing Director that the Director of the Office of Management  
6 and Enterprise Services reasonably believes indicates that an action  
7 that constitutes a criminal violation pursuant to the Oklahoma  
8 Central Purchasing Act or other laws has been taken by any state  
9 agency, state agency official, bidder or supplier.

10 G. 1. Pursuant to the requirements of the Oklahoma Central  
11 Purchasing Act, the State Purchasing Director shall have authority  
12 to enter into any statewide, multistate or multigovernmental  
13 contract. The state entity designated by law, as specified in  
14 Section 1010.3 of Title 56 of the Oklahoma Statutes, shall  
15 participate in the purchase of pharmaceuticals available through  
16 such multistate or multigovernmental contracts entered into by the  
17 State Purchasing Director.

18 2. Whenever it appears advantageous to the state or to any  
19 state agency to purchase or otherwise acquire any acquisition which  
20 may be offered for sale by the United States government or any  
21 agency thereof, the State Purchasing Director may execute a contract  
22 for the acquisition with the federal government or federal agency  
23 and may also utilize contracts awarded by other governmental  
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1 agencies including, but not limited to, agencies of the United  
2 States of America.

3 3. The State Purchasing Director may designate, for use by  
4 state agencies, contracts described in this subsection and contracts  
5 awarded on behalf of one or more state agencies.

6 4. Prior to exercising the authority to cancel a contract, the  
7 State Purchasing Director may authorize renegotiation of an existing  
8 contract with an incumbent supplier for the purposes of obtaining  
9 more favorable terms for the state.

10 5. The State Purchasing Director shall have the authority to  
11 designate certain contracts for state agencies as statewide  
12 contracts and mandatory statewide contracts. In order to carry out  
13 the powers and duties of the Chief Information Officer and  
14 Information Services Division, the Chief Information Officer shall  
15 have the authority to designate certain information technology and  
16 telecommunication contracts as statewide contracts and mandatory  
17 statewide contracts and may negotiate consolidation contracts,  
18 enterprise agreements and high technology system contracts in lieu  
19 of or in conjunction with competitive bidding procedures to reduce  
20 acquisition cost.

21 6. The State Purchasing Director may publish such  
22 specifications relating to materials, supplies, equipment and  
23 services to be acquired for the state as may best promote  
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1 competition and apprise potential suppliers of the type of product  
2 desired.

3 H. 1. The State Purchasing Director may develop and test new  
4 contracting policies, procedures and innovations that hold potential  
5 for making state procurement more effective and efficient and  
6 identify, and make recommendations to the Legislature of, any  
7 appropriate changes in law. Such development and testing, proof of  
8 concept, pilot project or other similar test shall not be considered  
9 an acquisition subject to the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act.

10 2. The State Purchasing Director is authorized to explore and  
11 investigate cost savings in energy, resource usage and maintenance  
12 contracts and to identify and negotiate contract solutions  
13 including, but not limited to, pilot projects to achieve cost  
14 savings for this state.

15 I. The State Purchasing Director shall endeavor to satisfy  
16 state agencies in terms of cost, quality and timeliness of the  
17 delivery of acquisitions by using bidders who have a record of  
18 successful past performance, promoting competition, minimizing  
19 administrative operating costs and conducting business with  
20 integrity, fairness and openness.

21 J. The State Purchasing Director shall undertake the following:

22 1. The use of electronic commerce pursuant to the Oklahoma  
23 Online Bidding Act for solicitation, notification and other  
24 purchasing processes;

1           2. Monitoring rules promulgated pursuant to the Oklahoma  
2 Central Purchasing Act to ensure that the rules satisfy the  
3 interests of the state, are clear and succinct and encourage  
4 efficiency in purchasing processes;

5           3. A program to identify suppliers' performance records;

6           4. Development of criteria for the use of sealed bid  
7 contracting procedures, negotiated contracting procedures, selection  
8 of types of contracts, postaward administration of purchase orders  
9 and contracts, addendums, termination of contracts and contract  
10 pricing;

11          5. Continual improvement in the quality of the performance of  
12 the Purchasing Division through training programs, management  
13 seminars, development of benchmarks and key management indicators,  
14 and development of standard provisions, clauses and forms;

15          6. The State Purchasing Director shall prescribe standardized  
16 contract forms and all other forms or certifications requisite or  
17 deemed necessary by the State Purchasing Director to effectuate the  
18 provisions of the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act and associated  
19 rules;

20          7. Development of programs to improve customer relations  
21 through training, improved communications and appointment of  
22 technical representatives;

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1 8. Provide for public two-way communication between procurement  
2 officers and potential bidders who have questions regarding a  
3 request for proposal or invitation to bid; and

4 9. Determine whether and to what extent information included in  
5 a bid or similar offer is confidential and reject all requests to  
6 disclose the information so designated.

7 K. The State Purchasing Director may utilize and authorize  
8 state agencies to utilize reverse auctions to obtain acquisitions.

9 L. Prior to the award of a contract to a supplier, the State  
10 Purchasing Director shall verify, pursuant to applicable provisions  
11 of law, that the supplier is eligible to do business in this state  
12 by confirming registration with the Secretary of State and franchise  
13 tax payment status pursuant to Sections 1203 and 1204 of Title 68 of  
14 the Oklahoma Statutes. The provisions of this subsection shall be  
15 applicable only if the contract amount is Two Hundred Fifty Thousand  
16 Dollars (\$250,000.00) or greater.

17 M. On an annual basis, the State Purchasing Director shall  
18 transmit to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
19 and President Pro Tempore of the Senate a report documenting the  
20 savings realized by each agency through the application of best  
21 spend practices including the collection and tracking of spend data,  
22 strategic sourcing programs and implementation of managed and  
23 mandatory statewide contracts and include in the report information  
24 regarding emergency acquisitions.

1 N. The acquisition threshold amount applicable to an  
2 acquisition made pursuant to this act or associated rules shall not  
3 apply to state agency purchases; provided, the State Purchasing  
4 Director determines the agency has subject matter experts on staff  
5 having the specialized expertise to purchase goods or services, the  
6 agency possesses the necessary legal and procurement staff to  
7 procure and monitor the contracts and provided the Director of the  
8 Office of Management and Enterprise Services shall certify that the  
9 proposed purchase does not conflict with consolidated statewide  
10 spend initiatives.

11 1. Nothing in this subsection shall give an agency authority to  
12 issue statewide, multistate or multigovernmental contracts.

13 2. Agencies making purchases pursuant to this subsection shall:

14 a. be responsible for contracts awarded pursuant to this  
15 subsection, which includes, but may not be limited to,  
16 contract management, protest costs, all costs  
17 connected with or incurred as a result of the  
18 contract, including legal representation,

19 b. comply with rules and policies of the Office of  
20 Management and Enterprise Services, and

21 c. report contracts issued pursuant to this subsection to  
22 the Office of Management and Enterprise Services,  
23 Central Purchasing Division, on a quarterly basis.

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1       3. Purchases made in accordance with this subsection shall be  
2 made pursuant to rules authorized by this section.

3       O. The State Purchasing Director, with approval by the Director  
4 of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, is authorized  
5 to make use of any state laboratories for the tests and analyses  
6 authorized in this section wherever practicable and to use private  
7 laboratories or the laboratories of another government agency if it  
8 is impracticable to use state laboratories. The State Purchasing  
9 Director is further authorized to cooperate in test and analysis  
10 programs or agreements with other states or the United States  
11 government and to accept federal funds and funds donated by private  
12 endowments or foundations for the purpose of participation in such  
13 testing programs.

14       P. The State Purchasing Director shall require all contractors  
15 or subcontractors who have entered into a contract with a public  
16 employer to submit an affidavit that the contractor or subcontractor  
17 is in compliance with the provisions of Section 1313 of Title 25 of  
18 the Oklahoma Statutes. If the State Purchasing Director determines  
19 that a contractor or subcontractor has knowingly submitted a false  
20 affidavit:

21       1. The contractor or subcontractor shall be liable for an  
22 administrative penalty of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the  
23 first offense, which shall increase by Two Thousand Dollars  
24 (\$2,000.00) for each subsequent offense; and

1        2. The public employer or the Office of Management and  
2 Enterprise Services may terminate the contract with the contractor  
3 or subcontractor.

4        SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

5        Passed the House of Representatives the 12th day of March, 2024.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

10       Passed the Senate the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate