

CHAPTER 61.

[H. B. 381.]

CLASS A COUNTIES---PURCHASING AGENTS.

AN ACT authorizing County Commissioners of Class A counties to purchase supplies and equipment and contract for public works for all county departments, requiring said purchases and contracts to be let after calling for bids and publishing of specifications, authorizing the appointment of a county purchasing agent and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

County purchases.

SECTION 1. In any Class A county, the Board of County Commissioners shall contract on a competitive basis for all public works and purchase on a competitive basis all supplies, materials, and equipment, for all departments of the county, exclusive of the county hospital, pursuant to the provisions hereof and under such rules as the Board shall by resolution adopt, except for such contracts and purchases as shall be made pursuant to the provisions of section 47, chapter 187, Laws of 1937 (section 6450-47, Remington's Revised Statutes, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 610-21), or section 4, chapter 82, Laws of 1943 (section 6450-34, Rem. Supp. 1943, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 605-5).

Procedure.

SEC. 2. No contract or purchase shall be entered into or made by any Board of County Commissioners or by any elected or appointed officer of such county until after bids have been submitted to the Board of County Commissioners upon specifications therefor. Such specifications shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Clerk of the Board for public inspection, and an advertisement thereof stating the date after which bids will not be received, the character of the work to be done or material, equipment or service to be purchased, and that specifications therefor may be seen at the office of the Clerk of the Board, shall be published in the county official news-

paper. Such advertisement shall be published not less than one time and as many additional publications as shall be determined by the Board, and the time within which bids shall be received, shall be not less than five (5) days after the last publication. Such bids shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Clerk and shall be opened and read in public at a meeting of the Board on the date named therefor in said advertisement, and after being opened, shall be filed for public inspection. The contract for said public work or purchase shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder; taking into consideration the quality of the articles or equipment to be purchased. Any or all bids may be rejected for good cause. In the letting of any contract or purchase involving less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), advertisement and competitive bidding may be dispensed with on order of the Board of County Commissioners: *And provided further*, That notice of intention to let contracts or to make purchases involving amounts exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100) and less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), shall be posted by the Board of County Commissioners on a bulletin board in its office not less than three (3) days prior to making such purchase or contract. Wherever possible, supplies shall be purchased in quantities for a period of at least three (3) months, and not to exceed one year. Supplies generally used throughout the various departments shall be standardized in so far as possible.

SEC. 3. The Board of County Commissioners shall appoint a county purchasing agent who shall have had previous purchasing experience as purchasing agent of a commercial, industrial, institutional or governmental plant or agency, and who shall be placed under such bond as the Board may require. The Board may establish a central storeroom or storerooms in charge of the County Purchasing Agent in

which supplies and equipment may be stored and issued upon proper requisition by department heads. The Purchasing Agent shall be responsible for maintaining perpetual inventories of supplies and equipment and shall at least yearly, or oftener when so required by the Board, report to the County Commissioners a balancing of the inventory record with the actual amount of supplies or equipment on hand.

Inventories.

Report.

Effective immediately.

SEC. 4. In the event of an emergency when the public interest or property of the county would suffer material injury or damage by delay, upon resolution of the Board of County Commissioners declaring the existence of such emergency and reciting the facts constituting the same, the Board may waive the requirements of this act with reference to any purchase or contract.

Passed the House March 1, 1945.

Passed the Senate March 6, 1945.

Approved by the Governor March 14, 1945.

CHAPTER 62.

[S. B. 62.]

COUNTY HOSPITALS.

AN ACT relating to and regulating the operation of county hospitals and amending section 8, chapter 174, Laws Extraordinary Session, 1925.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Amendments.

SECTION 1. That section 8, chapter 174, Laws Extraordinary Session, 1925, be amended to read as follows:

Section 8. Patients shall be admitted to such hospitals in accordance with the rules to be established by the Board of County Commisisoners, but such rules shall provide that preference in the admission