

## CHAPTER 267

[House Bill No. 301]

## COUNTIES—PROCEDURE IN AWARDING CONTRACTS

AN ACT Relating to county commissioners; and amending section 36.32.250, chapter 4, Laws of 1963 as last amended by section 1, chapter 230, Laws of 1975 1st ex. sess. and RCW 36.32.250.

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

Section 1. Section 36.32.250, chapter 4, Laws of 1963 as last amended by section 1, chapter 230, Laws of 1975 1st ex. sess. and RCW 36.32.250 are each amended to read as follows:

No contract, lease or purchase shall be entered into by the county legislative authority or by any elected or appointed officer of such county until after bids have been submitted to the county legislative authority upon specifications therefor. Such specifications shall be in writing and shall be filed with the clerk of the county legislative authority 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 county legislative authority, shall be published in the county official newspaper (~~and~~): PROVIDED, That advertisements for public works contracts for construction, alteration, repair, or improvement of public facilities shall be additionally published in a legal newspaper of general circulation in or as near as possible to that part of the county in which such work is to be done: AND PROVIDED ((HOWEVER)) FURTHER, That if the county official newspaper is a newspaper of general circulation covering at least forty percent of the residences in that part of the county in which such ((work is)) public works are to be done publication of an advertisement of the applicable specifications in the county official newspaper only shall be sufficient. Such advertisements shall be published at least once in each week for two consecutive weeks prior to the last date upon which bids will be received and as many additional publications as shall be determined by the county legislative authority. The bids shall be in writing, shall be filed with the clerk, shall be opened and read in public at a meeting of the county legislative authority on the date named therefor in said advertisements, and after being opened, shall be filed for public inspection. No bid shall be considered for public work unless it is accompanied by a bid deposit in the form of a surety bond, postal money order, cash, cashier's check, or certified check in an amount equal to five percent of the amount of the bid proposed. The contract for the public work, lease or purchase shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder; taking into consideration the quality of the articles or equipment to be purchased or leased. Any or all bids may be rejected for good cause. The county legislative authority shall require from the successful bidder for such public work a contractor's bond in the amount and with the conditions imposed by law. Should the bidder to whom the contract is awarded fail to enter into the contract and furnish the contractor's bond as required within ten days after notice of the award, exclusive of the day of notice, the amount of the bid deposit shall be forfeited to the county and the contract awarded to the next lowest and best bidder. The bid deposit of all unsuccessful bidders shall be returned after the contract is awarded

and the required contractor's bond given by the successful bidder is accepted by the county legislative authority. In the letting of any contract, lease or purchase involving less than ~~((one))~~ three thousand five hundred dollars, advertisement and competitive bidding may be dispensed with on order of the county legislative authority. Notice of intention to let contracts~~(;)~~ or to enter into lease agreements ~~((or to make purchases))~~ involving amounts exceeding ~~((five hundred))~~ one thousand dollars ~~((and))~~ but less than ~~((one))~~ three thousand five hundred dollars, shall be posted by the county legislative authority on a bulletin board in its office not less than three days prior to making such ~~((purchase;))~~ lease or contract. For advertisement and competitive bidding to be dispensed with as to purchases between one thousand and three thousand five hundred dollars, the county legislative authority must authorize by resolution a county procedure for securing telephone and/or written quotations from enough vendors to assure establishment of a competitive price and for awarding such contracts for purchase of materials, equipment or services to the lowest responsible bidder. Immediately after the award is made, the bid quotations obtained shall be recorded and open to public inspection and shall be available by telephone inquiry. Wherever possible, supplies shall be purchased in quantities for a period of at least three months, and not to exceed one year. Supplies generally used throughout the various departments shall be standardized insofar as possible, and may be purchased and stored for general use by all of the various departments which shall be charged for the supplies when withdrawn from the purchasing department.

Passed the House June 7, 1977.

Passed the Senate June 4, 1977.

Approved by the Governor June 15, 1977.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State June 15, 1977.

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## CHAPTER 268

[House Bill No. 355]

### REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAXES—SENIOR CITIZENS—PHYSICAL DISABILITY RETIREES—RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION

AN ACT Relating to revenue and taxation; amending section 1, chapter 182, Laws of 1974 ex. sess. as amended by section 14, chapter 291, Laws of 1975 1st ex. sess. and RCW 84.36.381; amending section 3, chapter 182, Laws of 1974 ex. sess. and RCW 84.36.385; and declaring an emergency.

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

Section 1. Section 1, chapter 182, Laws of 1974 ex. sess. as amended by section 14, chapter 291, Laws of 1975 1st ex. sess. and RCW 84.36.381 are each amended to read as follows:

A person shall be exempt from any legal obligation to pay all or a portion of the amount of excess and regular real property taxes due and payable in the year following the year in which a claim is filed in accordance with the following conditions:

(1) The property taxes must have been imposed upon a residence which has been regularly occupied by the person claiming the exemption during the two calendar years preceding the year in which the exemption claim is filed; or the property taxes must have been imposed upon a residence which was occupied by the