

1 HB378
2 156517-1
3 By Representative Williams (P)
4 RFD: State Government
5 First Read: 30-JAN-14

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SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, products made or manufactured by individuals with disabilities under the direction of the Department of Adult Blind and Deaf of the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind are afforded certain preference by purchasers who are state entities.

This bill would clarify that state entities are also required to apply the purchasing preference to services provided by the individuals with disabilities.

This bill would also require the board created in Section 21-2-3, Code of Alabama 1975, to ensure that approved services do not adversely impact services provided under the federal Randolph-Sheppard program, a program designed to enlarge employment opportunities for individuals who are blind through the operation of vending facilities on federal and state property.

A BILL

1 TO BE ENTITLED

2 AN ACT

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4 To amend Section 21-2-2, Code of Alabama 1975, to
5 clarify that state entities apply the purchasing preference
6 for services provided by certain individuals with disabilities
7 under the direction of the Department of Adult Blind and Deaf
8 of the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind; and to require
9 the board to ensure that approved services do not adversely
10 impact services provided under the federal Randolph-Sheppard
11 program.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

13 Section 1. Section 21-2-2, Code of Alabama 1975, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "§21-2-2.

16 "Whenever any of the products or services made,
17 provided, or manufactured by ~~the blind, visually handicapped,~~
18 ~~deaf or other severely handicapped persons~~ individuals with
19 disabilities under the direction or supervision of the
20 Department of Adult Blind and Deaf of the Alabama Institute
21 for Deaf and Blind meet the requirements of any department,
22 institution, or agency supported in whole or in part by the
23 state as to quality and quantity, such products or services
24 shall have preference, except over articles produced or
25 manufactured by convicts in Alabama employed in industries
26 operated or supervised by the Department of Corrections, and
27 all departments, institutions, and agencies supported in whole

1 or in part by the state are hereby directed to purchase such
2 ~~articles~~ the products or services from the Department of Adult
3 Blind and Deaf. All political subdivisions of the state are
4 authorized to purchase articles or services made, provided, or
5 manufactured by ~~the blind, visually handicapped, deaf or~~
6 ~~severely handicapped~~ individuals with disabilities through the
7 department in the same manner that the state and its agencies
8 and institutions purchase them. A fair market price for all
9 articles offered for sale pursuant to this chapter shall be
10 determined by the board created in Section 21-2-3. The board
11 shall also ensure services approved do not adversely impact
12 services provided under the Randolph-Sheppard Act of 1936, 20
13 U.S.C. 107 et seq., a vendor program for the hiring of
14 individuals who are blind for the operation of vending
15 facilities on state and federal property, as administered by
16 the State Department of Rehabilitation."

17 Section 2. This act shall become effective
18 immediately following its passage and approval by the
19 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.