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Chief Examiner

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Alabama County Commissions

Alabama Municipalities

City and County Boards of Education

Other Entities subject to §§ 16-13B-1, et seq. and 41-16-50, et seq., *Ala. Code* 1975

To Whom It May Concern,

In accordance with Sections 16-13B-2(a)(13) and 41-16-51(a)(16), *Ala. Code* 1975, as amended by Act No. 2023-135, the Department has reviewed the competitive bidding process used by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (“H-GAC”), a national, governmental purchasing cooperative, for the contracts awarded as of the date of this letter. The Department did not identify any matters that were contrary to proper purchasing procedures or routine governmental procurement practices. Each contract was awarded by H-GAC pursuant to the competitive bid laws of the State of Texas.

Based on the Department’s review, the competitive bid process used by H-GAC is approved for use through **December 31, 2026**. This approval authorizes the purchase, lease, or lease/purchase of certain goods or services, other than voice or data wireless communication services, when certain statutory conditions are fulfilled. See Sections 16-13B-2(a)(13) and 41-16-51(a)(16), *Ala. Code* 1975, as amended by Act No. 2023-135.

Prior to utilizing H-GAC, each governmental entity must verify that the goods or services to be purchased, leased, or lease/purchased are either not at the time available on the state purchasing program or are available at a price equal to or less than that on the state purchase program. *Id.* Any such purchases, leases, or lease/purchases must be made through a participating Alabama vendor holding an Alabama business license if such a vendor exists. *Id.* Any such vendor shall also comply with Section 41-16-51(a)(16)d, *Ala. Code* 1975 when applicable. Further, all purchases must comply with the requirements of *Uniform Guidance*.

Should the Department receive notice that H-GAC, its awarding authorities, or its awarded vendors are allowing Alabama governmental entities to make unauthorized purchases or other unlawful business transactions, H-GAC’s competitive bid process approval will subject to immediate revocation by the Department.

Attention Counties and Municipalities:

Please be advised, this letter authorizes the purchase of materials or equipment that are otherwise part of a contract for “public works,” as defined in Section 39-2-1(6), *Ala. Code*

1975, as long as the remaining portion of the public works project is subject to the requirements of Title 39, even if the remaining portion of the project would involve an amount less than \$100,000 as a result of the exclusion of the purchase of the materials or equipment. See Section 39-2-2(m)(1) and (2), Ala. Code 1975, as amended by Act 2023-497.

If the Department can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Rachel Laurie Riddle
CHIEF EXAMINER

RLR/lbm