

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 2493 as passed by the Seventy-Eighth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

In 1999, the Legislature allowed certain local governments to avoid purchasing goods from the lowest bidder and instead to buy from a local business which came within three percent of the best bid. Current law applies to municipalities with populations of 200,000 or less that wish to buy real property or goods from a seller whose principal place of business is in the municipality.

Now, just two sessions later, House Bill No. 2493 would greatly expand the formerly limited exception. This bill would allow the local government to use the exception for services rather than just goods, increase the size of governments which could circumvent the lowest bid, further erode taxpayer protection by allowing local governments to purchase from a local bidder whose bid is five percent higher than the best bid and would extend the exception to school districts at a time when expenditures for schools are already straining local property taxpayers' ability to pay.

With this veto message, I hope to discourage legislators from further attempts to bypass competitive bid requirements.

Since the Legislature by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 20th day of June, 2003.

Rick Perry
RICK PERRY
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:

Gwyn Shea
GWYN SHEA
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
7:30 PM O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2003