

SUBJECT: Competitive-bid notice requirements for city purchasing

COMMITTEE: Urban Affairs: favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Pierce, Conley, Bailey, de la Garza, Gallegos, Park, Puente, Yarbrough
0 nays
2 absent — Carona, Shea

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: The Local Government Code sets various requirements for posting public notice of and holding referenda on government purchases. Sec. 252.023 of the Code exempts certain purchases from these requirements — those payable from current funds, bond funds and certain time warrants.

Notice for the purchase of road construction or maintenance machinery must include a full specification of the desired machinery.

DIGEST: HB 571 would eliminate the current exemptions from notice requirements for competitive-bid purchases.

The notice for bids for purchase of road construction and maintenance machinery would have to include a *general*, rather than *full*, specification of the machinery desired.

The bill would apply only to contracts for which bids or proposals are first solicited as of the bill's effective date.

SUPPORTERS SAY: This bill would make purchase and bid specifications by local government more readily accessible to the public by expanding the public notice requirement for government purchases.

HB 571
House Research Organization
page 2

Many bid specifications are very long and detailed. By requiring a general, rather than a full, specification to be published in the case of road machinery, advertising costs to local government as well as newsprint would be saved.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition