

1-101(S) OF ARTICLE 21, shall purchase all [materials,] supplies [and equipment,] through or with the approval of the Secretary of General Services. [The Secretary shall prescribe rules and regulations under which estimates of the needs of using authorities shall be submitted, and requisition made, and under which contracts for purchases may be made. Except as may be otherwise permitted by other provisions of law regarding emergencies, all State purchase contracts in excess of \$5,000 shall be awarded on a competitive basis. However, the Secretary of General Services may negotiate and, subject to the approval of the Board of Public Works, award such contracts to other than the lowest bidder if the Secretary determines that to be in the best interests of the State. The Secretary may waive the requirement of awarding such contracts on a competitive basis if:

- (i) The public health, and safety is endangered after a natural disaster or act of God;
- (ii) A state of emergency is declared by the Governor; or
- (iii) A bona fide single source of supply or a proprietary product or process is required; or
- (iv) It is determined to be in the best interests of this State after approval of the Board of Public Works.

Each waiver and the reasons therefor shall be documented and recorded and immediately reported to the Maryland Register for printing in the next available issue.]

(b) The Secretary of General Services shall determine and formulate standards of all [materials,] supplies [and equipment] to be purchased for the using [authorities] AGENCIES of the State, CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE 21.

(c) [It] CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE 21, IT shall be the duty of the Secretary of General Services to contract for or purchase all materials, supplies, and equipment, except those which the Secretary may determine are of a strictly perishable character, or which the Secretary may determine it is impracticable for the using [authorities] AGENCIES to purchase through or with the approval of the Secretary, or which may be purchased by using [authorities] AGENCIES under the authority and with the approval of the Secretary.

(d) Estimates of the amount and quality of [materials,] supplies [and equipment] needed by the using [authorities] AGENCIES shall be submitted at such periods as may be prescribed by the Secretary of General Services. [When purchases are made through competitive bidding, the Secretary may require the successful bidder to furnish a bond to the State, with good and sufficient surety, conditioned that he will fully and faithfully perform the