

[(p)] (Q) "State agency" means any agency, association, board, bureau, college, commission, committee, council, foundation, fund, department, institute, institution, public corporation, service, trust, university, or other unit of the executive branch of the State government and includes any subunit within any of these units.

[(q)] (R) "Supplemental agreement" means any contract modification which is accomplished by the mutual action of the parties.

[(r)] (S) "Supplies" means all property, including equipment, [leases on real property,] printing and insurance, except [land] REAL PROPERTY, a TEMPORARY OR permanent interest in [land] REAL PROPERTY, or a temporary construction easement.

[(s)] (T) "Using agency" means any State agency which uses any supplies, services, or construction procured under this Division II of this article.

13-201.

(a) Except as provided in Title 19 or as otherwise authorized by law, all State contracts shall be awarded by:

- (1) Competitive sealed bidding, under § 13-202;
- (2) Competitive negotiation, under § 13-203;
- (3) Revised bids after competitive sealed bidding where all bids are rejected, under § 13-204;
- (4) Noncompetitive negotiation, under § 13-205;
- (5) Small procurement procedure, under § 13-206; or
- (6) Noncompetitive negotiated procurement, under § 13-207.

(b) (1) Except as provided in [paragraph] PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) of this subsection, in selecting one of the methods authorized by subsection (a) for the awarding of contracts, it is the public policy of this State that competitive sealed bidding shall be the preferred method for awarding contracts.

(2) In awarding contracts for the procurement of human, social, cultural, or educational services, the preferred method of award is by competitive negotiation.

(3) IN AWARDING CONTRACTS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF REAL PROPERTY LEASES, COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATION UNDER § 13-203(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE THE PREFERRED METHOD.

13-203.