



State of Alabama
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Location:
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To: Alabama Municipalities
Alabama County Commissions
Alabama Community College System
Other Entities subject to the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-16-50

The Alabama Legislature passed Act No. 2011-530 (the “Act”) allowing governmental entities to purchase items through certain purchasing cooperatives. Portions of the Act applicable to purchasing cooperatives have been codified in the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-16-51. Among other things, the Act provides that the purchases may be made if the goods being purchased are available as a result of a competitive bid process conducted by a governmental entity and approved by the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts (“EPA”).

In order to receive this approval, the governmental entity wishing to purchase from one of the cooperative programs not already approved and posted on the EPA website should send a letter to EPA requesting approval. ***The letter should reference the cooperative program and the type of items to be purchased.*** The EPA will then review the cooperative program’s purchasing procedures and determine whether it is approved. It should be noted that there are other provisions with which the governmental entity wishing to make purchases utilizing a purchasing cooperative should also comply. These additional provisions are contained in the *Code of Alabama 1975* Section 41-16-51.

These provisions do not currently apply to State Public Four-Year Universities or City and County Boards of Education within the State of Alabama.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Jones
CHIEF EXAMINER

RLJ/SR