

Sec. 3. This act shall become effective after it has been approved by a majority vote of the St. Louis county board of commissioners and upon compliance with the provisions of Laws 1959, Chapter 368.

Approved April 11, 1961.

CHAPTER 304—H. F. No. 1010

[Not Coded]

An act relating to St. Louis county; regulating purchasing therefor; amending Laws 1943, Chapter 237, Sections 2 and 5.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Laws 1943, Chapter 237, Section 2, is amended to read:

Sec. 2. **Duties and authority of purchasing agent.** The county purchasing agent of any such county shall have authority, and it shall be his duty:

(a) To purchase or contract for all supplies, materials, equipment and contractual services required by any department, board, commission, or agency of the county government ~~except the county tuberculosis sanatorium~~, subject to the provisions set forth in this act;

(b) To enforce standard specifications established in accordance with section 10 of this act and which shall apply to all supplies, materials and equipment purchased for the use of the county government.;

(c) To negotiate leases for all grounds, buildings, office or other space required by all county departments, boards, commissions, or agencies;

(d) To have charge of all central storerooms now operated by, or hereafter established by the county government or any department, board, commission, or agency thereof.;

(e) To transfer to or between county departments, boards, commissions, and agencies, or to sell supplies, materials, and equipment which are surplus, obsolete, or unused; and

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(f) To establish and operate a central duplicating and mailing room for the county departments, boards, commissions, and agencies at the county seat.

Sec. 2. Laws 1943, Chapter 237, Section 5, is amended to read:

Sec. 5. **Contracts; limitations.** All purchases of, and contracts for, supplies, materials equipment or contractual services, and all sales of personal property which has become obsolete and unusable, shall be based wherever possible on competitive bids. If the amount of the expenditure or sale is estimated to exceed ~~\$500.00~~ \$1000, sealed bids shall be solicited by public notice inserted at least once in a newspaper of general circulation and at least five calendar days before the final date of submitting bids. Such notice shall include a general description of the commodities or contractual services to be purchased, or personal property to be sold, and shall state where bid blanks and specifications may be obtained and the time and place for the opening of bids. The county purchasing agent shall also solicit sealed bids by sending requests by mail to prospective suppliers and by posting notice on a public bulletin board in his office.

All purchases or sales of less than ~~\$500.00~~ \$1000 in amount shall be made in the open market without newspaper notice, but shall wherever possible be based on at least three competitive bids.

Sales shall be made to the highest responsible bidder.

Bids on purchases shall in all cases be based on such standard specifications as may be adopted by the board of standardization in accordance with the provisions of section 10 of this act. All contracts or open market purchase orders made by the county purchasing agent or by any county department, board, commission, or agency shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. All bids may be rejected and new bids solicited if the public interest shall be served thereby. If all bids received on a pending contract are for the same unit price or total amount, the county purchasing agent shall have authority to award the contract to one of the tie bidders by drawing lots in public, or to reject all bids and to purchase the required supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services in the open market, provided the price paid in the open market shall not exceed the lowest responsible bid. It shall be the duty of the purchasing agent to discourage uniform bidding and to endeavor to obtain as full

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and open competition as possible on all purchases and sales. Each bid, with the name of the bidder, shall be entered on a record, and each record with the successful bid indicated thereon, shall, after the award of the order or contract, be open to public inspection.

All contracts shall be approved as to form by the county attorney and a copy of each contract shall be filed with the county auditor of any such county.

Sec. 3. This act shall become effective upon its approval by a majority vote of the board of county commissioners of St. Louis county, and upon compliance with the provisions of Laws 1959, Chapter 368.

Approved April 11, 1961.

CHAPTER 305—H. F. No. 1031

[Not Coded]

An act relating to levy of taxes in St. Louis county for general revenue fund; amending Laws 1947, Chapter 322, as amended.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Laws 1947, Chapter 322, as amended by Laws 1953, Chapter 501, and Laws 1957, Chapter 702, is amended to read:

Section 1. **St. Louis county; levy for general purposes, maintenance of court houses.** ~~In any county in this state having an area in excess of 5,000 square miles, a population in excess of 150,000, and an assessed valuation of more than \$125,000,000~~ *St. Louis county* there may be levied for general purposes an amount not in excess of eight mills when the valuation exceeds \$200,000,000 and eight and one half mills when the valuation is less than \$200,000,000 and *nine mills when the assessed valuation is less than \$170,000,000, and nine and one half mills when the assessed valuation is less than \$160,000,000,* and the levy for maintenance purposes of the several court houses shall be levied within this limitation.

Sec. 2. *This act shall become effective upon its approval by a majority vote of the board of county commis-*

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