

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2026, Legislative Day No. 17

Bill No. 95-26

Mr. Michael Ertel, Chair
By Request of County Executive

By the County Council, September 22, 2026

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Council Action Modernization and Procedural Efficiency Act

FOR the purpose of increasing the contract expenditure amount, in accordance with Section 715 of the County Charter, that requires approval by the County Council; increasing the value of certain personal property that is required to be sold in an open market or by contract; providing for certain personal property to be conveyed to other governmental or nonprofit entities; and generally relating to the approval of contracts.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Sections 10-2-102, 10-2-302(a), 10-2-303, 10-2-314, 10-2-315(a), and 10-2-401
Article 10 – Finance
Title 2 – Purchasing
Baltimore County Code, 2015

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

WHEREAS, Section 715 of the Baltimore County Charter has for decades required Council approval for service contracts exceeding \$25,000 in value or for two or more years or such amount as may be set by legislative act of the County Council; and

WHEREAS, even as the cost of services have increased, the Charter-imposed threshold has not been increased to keep pace with modern prices; and

WHEREAS, a majority of service contracts currently executed by the County have terms in excess of two years; and

WHEREAS, due to the volume of routine contracts that exceed the thresholds stated in Section 715, significant time is required of both the Baltimore County Administration and Council to prepare and approve contracts through the approval process;

WHEREAS, the execution of essential and time sensitive contracts may be delayed due to approval requirements; and

WHEREAS, this legislation aims to increase the threshold, modernize operations, and find efficiencies in the County's procurement process; now, therefore

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Baltimore County shall read as follows:

ARTICLE 10 – FINANCE

Title 2 – Purchasing

Subtitle 1 – Definitions and General Provisions

§ 10-2-102. Purpose.

1 The purpose of this title is to:

2 (1) fulfill the requirements of Article IX of the Charter;

3 (2) UPDATE THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 715 OF THE CHARTER; and

4 (3) [to] achieve the advantages and economies resulting from centralized control
5 over all purchases made by the county.

6
7 Subtitle 3 – Contracts, Purchases, and Sales – In General

8 Part I – In General

9
10 § 10-2-302. Auction bids.

11 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, auction bids may be used as a method
12 for:

13 (1) Procurement of commodities with an estimated contract value of [\$25,000]
14 \$150,000 or less; or

15 (2) Sale of personal property that has become obsolete and unusable with an
16 estimated value of \$5,000 or more.

17
18 Part II – Purchases

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20 § 10-2-303. Council approval of certain contracts.

21 (a) This section applies to [a contract the value of which exceeds \$50,000 in the
22 aggregate.] CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES.

(b) [A contract for the purchase of commodities in which the total purchase price is deferred or financed for a term of years and a contract for the lease or lease/purchase of commodities shall be approved by the County Council before it is executed.] A CONTRACT FOR SERVICES FOR A TERM IN EXCESS OF 3 YEARS OR INVOLVING THE EXPENDITURE OF MORE THAN \$150,000 PER YEAR SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL BEFORE IT IS EXECUTED.

Part III – Sales

§ 10-2-314. Open market sales.

(a) The Purchasing Agent may sell personal property which is obsolete, unusable, and estimated to be [\$25,000] \$100,000 or less in value in an open market sale.

(b) If practicable and if the amount of the sale is estimated to be between [\$5,001 and \$25,000,] \$25,000 AND \$100,000 both inclusive, the Purchasing Agent shall solicit at least three informal bids on all open market sales.

§ 10-2-315. Sale by contract.

(a) All sales of personal property which has become obsolete and unusable, when the estimated value exceeds [\$25,000,] \$100,000 shall be sold by formal written contract to the highest responsive and responsible bidder after due notice, as determined by the Purchasing Agent, inviting proposals.

Subtitle 4 – Contract Procedure

1
2 § 10-2-401. General provisions.

3 (a) This subtitle does not apply to contracts for professional capital improvement
4 services.

5 (b) When the estimated cost of commodities and services to be purchased by the county
6 is more than \$25,000, the county shall purchase the commodities and services by formal, written
7 contract from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder OR BY SUCH OTHER METHOD
8 IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE IX OF THE CHARTER, as determined by the Purchasing
9 Agent, after public notice inviting proposals.

10 (c) A contract or purchase may not be divided into smaller parts to avoid the
11 requirements of this subtitle.

12
13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed by
14 the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect December 7, 2026.