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## DIGEST

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HB 893 Original

2026 Regular Session

Knox

**Abstract:** Provides relative to the purchase of materials and supplies by the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

Present law provides that the public water system, public sewerage system, and public drainage system of the city of New Orleans shall be constructed, controlled, maintained, and operated by a sewerage and water board. Provides for the composition of the board and its powers and duties.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 38:2212(A)(1)(a)) relative to the advertisement and letting of contracts, provides that all purchases of any materials or supplies exceeding the sum of \$60,000 to be paid out of public funds shall be advertised and let by contract to the lowest responsible bidder who has bid according to the specifications as advertised, and no such purchase shall be made except as otherwise provided by present law (Part II of Chapter 10 of Title 38).

Proposed law (R.S. 38:2212(A)(1)(b)) provides however, that purchases of \$30,000 dollars or more, but less than \$60,000, shall be made by obtaining not less than three quotes by telephone, facsimile, email, or any other printable electronic form. Provides that if telephone quotes are received, a written confirmation of the accepted offers shall be obtained and made a part of the purchase file. Additionally provides that if quotations lower than the accepted quotation are received, the reasons for their rejection shall be recorded in the purchase file.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that all purchases of materials or supplies required by the sewerage and water board for the conduct, operation, maintenance, and repair of the public systems of sewerage, water, and drainage exceeding the sum of \$30,000 shall be advertised and let by contract to the lowest responsible bidder who has bid according to the contract plans and specifications as advertised.

Proposed law provides however, that purchases of \$10,000 or more, but not more than \$30,000, shall be made by obtaining not less than three quotes by telephone, facsimile, email, or any other electronic form. Provides that if the telephone quotes are received, a written confirmation of the accepted offers shall be obtained and made a part of the purchase file. Provides that if quotations lower than the accepted quotation are received, the reasons for their rejection shall be recorded in the purchase file. Additionally provides that no such purchases shall be made except as provided in present law (Part III of Chapter 9 of Title 33).

Proposed law removes present law and provides that all purchases of materials or supplies required by the sewerage and water board for the conduct, operation, maintenance, and repair of the public systems of sewerage, water, and drainage shall be made in accordance with the provisions of present law (R.S. 38:2212.1(A)(1)(a)).

Proposed law provides however, that purchases made within the threshold set by present law (R.S. 38:2212.1(A)(1)(b)) shall be made in accordance with the provisions of present law (R.S. 38:2212.1(A)(1)(b)).

Present law provides that in the event of an emergency the executive director or the general superintendent of the board may, with the written consent of the president pro tempore of the board or the mayor of the city, contract a bill for supplies and materials, not exceeding \$10,000 in amount. Provides however, that all bills so contracted shall be reported, with the reasons for the emergency, to the board at its next meeting.

Proposed law raises the maximum threshold amount from \$10,000 to \$30,000. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 33:4084(A)(1)(a) and (b) and (C); Repeals R.S. 33:4084(A)(1)(c))