

- SUBJECT:** Bulk purchase of hardware, software, technology services by DIR
- COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — Cook, Giddings, Craddick, Farrar, Geren, Guillen, K. King, Kuempel, Meyer, Oliveira, Paddie, E. Rodriguez
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Smithee
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 19 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** No public hearing
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code, sec. 2157.068 requires the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to negotiate with vendors to obtain the best value for the state for purchases of software, hardware, and technology services. DIR maintains a list from which agencies can purchase these items under its cooperative contract program.
- Sec. 2157.068(e-1) requires state agencies contracting for these items to use the list to make purchases and establishes thresholds that trigger the number of requests for pricing that agencies have to obtain from vendors on the list. Sec. 2157.068(e-2) prohibits state agencies from entering into contracts for these items if the value of the contract exceeds \$1 million.
- Questions have been raised over whether these requirements for contracting apply to bulk purchases of these items made by DIR for more than one agency.
- DIGEST:** SB 261 would specify that the procedures governing state agency purchases of software, hardware, and technology from the Department of Information Resources' cooperative contracts list and the limit on contracts for these items do not apply to a department contract for the bulk purchase of these items intended for use by more than one state agency.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.