

## Legislative Update: Uniform Procurement Act and Municipal Finance Laws for School Districts

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### MMA Annual Business Meeting and Trade Show

On August 26, 2022, the Governor signed into law Chapter 198 of the Acts of 2022 (“An Act Relative to School Operational Efficiency”). The Act amends G.L. c. 30B, the Uniform Procurement Act, to give greater flexibility to municipal and regional schools districts when contracting for supplies and services. The amendments contained in this Act do not apply to procurements made by other municipal procurement officials.

Chapter 30B establishes three procurement procedures to be followed before a procurement official may award a contract for supplies or services. The specific procedure to be utilized is determined by the estimated dollar value of the goods and/or services sought. For example, procurement officials must:

- Use “sound business practices” for purchases of supplies and/or services estimated to cost under \$10,000;
- Seek three written price quotes for purchases of supplies and/or services estimated to cost at least \$10,000, but not more than \$50,000; or
- Conduct a formal, advertised procurement process by issuing an invitation for bids or request for proposal for purchases of supplies and/or services estimated to cost more than \$50,000.

Pursuant to the recently adopted Act, the monetary thresholds that determine the applicable procurement procedure were adjusted for municipal and regional school districts only. Now, municipal and regional school districts are only required to obtain three written price quotes for supplies and services estimated to cost at least \$10,000, but not more than \$100,000.

The Act further amended municipal finance laws to permit the creation of a school transportation service enterprise fund (G.L. c. 44, § 53F ½), and a school transportation reimbursement fund (G.L. c. 71, § 98). Lastly, the Act creates a fast track for the licensing of school bus operators.

Please contact Attorneys [Lauren Goldberg](#) or [Mark Reich](#) at 617.556.0007 with any further questions.

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