**State of Alabama**
Department of
# Examiners of Public Accounts

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This has been revised by a memorandum dated June 13, 2016

October 19, 2015

Alabama Municipalities
Alabama County Commissions
Alabama City and County Boards of Education
Alabama Community College System
Other Entities subject to the ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 41-16-50

To whom it may concern,

In accordance with the ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 41-16-51 and the ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Section 16-13B-2, we have reviewed the competitive bidding process used by the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance ("NCPA"), a national governmental purchasing cooperative for the contracts awarded by the Texas Region XIV Education Service Center as of the date of this letter. We noted no matters we felt were contrary to proper purchasing procedures or routine governmental procurement practices. These contracts were awarded by the Texas Regions XIV Education Service Center, which is a governmental entity, based on competitive bid requirements of the State of Texas.

Based on our review, we approve the competitive bidding process used by NCPA through November 30, 2017, for the purchase of goods.

The ***Code of Alabama 1975***, Sections 41-16-51 and 16-13B-2 only authorizes the purchases of goods utilizing purchasing cooperatives when certain conditions are met. However, it **does not** authorize purchases of services. Therefore, you are not authorized to use this purchasing cooperative for the purchase of services.

Prior to utilizing this purchasing cooperative, you must ensure your entity's compliance with the Alabama Competitive Bid Law. The ***Code of Alabama 1975,*** Sections 41-16-51 and 16-13B-2, requires that you verify that the goods are not at the time available on the state purchasing program, or that they are available at a price equal to or less than that on the state purchasing program. Additionally, you must verify that the purchase is made through a participating Alabama vendor holding an Alabama business license if such a vendor exists.

**Note – This approval does not apply to State Public Four-Year Universities within the State of Alabama.**

Sincerely,

RONALD L. JONES
Chief Examiner

RLJ/jh