



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

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Location:  
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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 Interlocal Purchasing System ("TIPS"), a national governmental purchasing cooperative for the contracts awarded by the Texas Region VIII 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 Region VIII 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 TIPS through November 30, 2019, for the purchase of goods or services.

The *Code of Alabama 1975*, Sections 41-16-51 and 16-13B-2 authorizes the purchases of goods or services, other than voice or data wireless communication services utilizing purchasing cooperatives when certain conditions are met. Therefore, you **are not authorized** to use this purchasing cooperative for the purchase of voice or data wireless communication 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 or services 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