P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 385, ***approved January 18, 2022***
Senate, No. 994

AN ACT concerning the purchase of goods and services by public entities from the Central Nonprofit Agency and amending and supplementing P.L.1981, c.488.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. (New section) a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, any State department, agency, authority and instrumentality that is authorized to procure goods and services shall make a good faith effort to purchase five percent of such goods and services from the Central Nonprofit Agency as defined in section 2 of P.L.1981, c.488 (C.30:6-24).

b. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, all political subdivisions of the State and local government entities, including counties, municipalities, school districts, quasi-State agencies, State and county colleges, volunteer fire departments, volunteer first aid and rescue squads, public authorities, commissions, and independent institutions of higher learning, that are authorized to make purchases as provided in the cooperative purchase program pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1969, c.104 (C.52:25-16.1) and section 12 of P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-12), as well as all agencies, commissions, boards, and other entities that are authorized to make joint purchases with the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property as provided in section 1 of P.L.1959, c.40 (C.52:27B-56.1), shall also make a good faith effort to purchase five percent of their goods and services from the Central Nonprofit Agency.

c. The State Treasurer shall take the necessary steps to coordinate the implementation of the terms of this section. The State Treasurer is authorized to call upon any department, office, or agency of State government to provide such information, resources, or other assistance deemed necessary to discharge the State Treasurer's responsibilities under this section. Each department, office, division, and agency of this State is required to cooperate with the State Treasurer and to furnish the State Treasurer with assistance necessary to accomplish the purposes of this section.

2. Section 8 of P.L.1981, c.488 (C.30:6-30) is amended to read as follows:

8. State agencies <u>and political subdivisions of the State</u> shall <u>make a good faith effort to</u> procure<u>, pursuant to section 1 of P.L. ,</u>

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined <u>thus</u> is new matter.

c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), five percent of their goods and services through the Central Nonprofit Agency from those commodities and services which have been set aside for purchase from approved rehabilitation facilities.
(cf: P.L.1991, c.147, s.7)

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill requires State agencies and political subdivisions of the State that are authorized to purchase goods and services to make a good faith effort to purchase five percent of such goods and services through the Central Nonprofit Agency, an agency established by the "Rehabilitation Facilities Set Aside Act."

The "Rehabilitation Facilities Set Aside Act" assist persons who are blind or have a severe disability to achieve maximum personal independence through productive employment by assuring a continuous market for their goods and services, which are produced at qualified rehabilitation facilities and distributed through the Central Nonprofit Agency. The Central Nonprofit Agency is designated by the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services to facilitate the distribution of orders received from various State agencies as provided in the "Rehabilitation Facilities Set Aside Act."

This bill furthers the goals of the "Rehabilitation Facilities Set Aside Act" and its implementing regulations to assist in the productive employment of individuals with special needs and codifies into law Executive Order No. 67 of 2005. The only difference between the executive order and the bill is that the bill increases the purchase percentage from three percent to five percent.

Requires State agencies and political subdivisions to make good faith effort to purchase five percent of goods and services from Central Nonprofit Agency.