



Cooperative purchasing in Alabama is authorized by Section 41-16-21.1 of the Alabama State Code (1975):

Title 41: State Government

Article 2 Competitive Bidding on Public Contracts Generally.

Section 41-16-21.1 Joint Purchasing Agreements

(b) The Division of Purchasing, Department of Finance, is hereby authorized to enter into joint purchasing agreements to purchase, lease, or lease-purchase child support services, materials, equipment, supplies, or other personal property which have been let by competitive bid or competitive solicitation process by any group or consortium of governmental entities within or without the State of Alabama upon a finding by the Purchasing Agent that such joint purchasing agreements are in the best interests of the State of Alabama. **Joint purchasing agreements entered into by the Division of Purchasing [authorized by the state's purchasing division] may be utilized by any governmental entity [city, county, school district, etc.] subject to the requirements of Title 41, Chapter 16, Articles 2 or 3A.** This subsection shall not apply to the purchase, lease, or lease-purchase of materials, equipment, supplies, or other personal property which can only be utilized in conjunction with a service or service contract, whether subject to competitive bidding under this article or not, for the materials, equipment, supplies, or other personal property that must remain in effect to utilize the materials, equipment, supplies, or other personal property. **[Seek clarification from NJPA if you are concerned that your company's products or services fall under this exception.]**

Nothing in this subsection prohibits or limits public four-year institutions **[e.g. recognized institutions of higher education, including but not limited to: the University of Alabama in Huntsville, the University of Alabama in Birmingham, the University of Alabama, Auburn University, Auburn University at Montgomery, Jacksonville State University, Troy State University, Troy State University in Montgomery, Troy State University in Dothan, the University of North Alabama, the University of South Alabama, Livingston University, the University of Montevallo, Alabama State University, Athens State College, and Alabama A & M University]** from entering into joint purchasing agreements **[including NJPA contracts]** to purchase, lease, or lease-purchase materials, equipment, supplies, other personal property and services which have been let by competitive bid or competitive solicitation process by any group or consortium of governmental entities or through a group purchasing organization within or without the State of Alabama upon a finding by the institution that such purchasing agreements are in the best interests of the institution; provided, however, this sentence shall not permit agreements to purchase, lease, or lease-purchase wireless communications equipment

or services through any group or consortium of governmental entities or through any group purchasing organization.

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