

NEW LEGISLATION AND PENDING BILL AFFECTING ILLINOIS LIBRARIES

Workplace Violence Prevention Act

On January 1, 2014, the Workplace Violence Prevention Act (Public Act 98-0430, codified at 820 ILCS 275/1 *et seq.*) (the "Act") went into effect in Illinois. The purpose of the law is to assist private and public employers in protecting their appointed and elected officials, employees, volunteers, workforce, customers, guests and property by limiting access to workplace venues by potentially violent individuals. An employer may have an order of protection entered by a court in an effort to protect an employee (as defined in the Act) from a credible threat of violence to be carried out at the employer's place of work and which is directed at the employee or at the employee's immediate family. In order to obtain an order of protection, the employer must meet certain standards. If you have any questions about this process or if the need to apply for an order of protection arises, please contact us.

Senate Bill 3071

This bill amends the Local Library Act and the Public Library District Act of 1991 to allow libraries to follow similar bid processes as those followed by park districts and school districts. It allows for exceptions to competitive bidding for subjects such as:

- contracts for the services of individuals possessing a high degree of professional skill where the ability or fitness of the individual plays an important part;
- contracts for the printing of finance committee reports and departmental reports;



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- contracts for the printing or engraving of bonds, tax warrants and other evidences of indebtedness;
- contracts for the maintenance or servicing of, or provision of repair parts for, equipment which are made with the manufacturer or authorized service agent of that equipment where the provision of parts, maintenance, or servicing can best be performed by the manufacturer or authorized service agent;
- purchases and contracts for the use, purchase, delivery, movement, or installation of data processing equipment, software, or services and telecommunications and interconnect equipment, software, and services;
- contracts for duplicating machines and supplies;
- contracts for utility services such as water, light, heat, natural gas, electricity, telephone or telegraph;
- contracts for goods or services procured from another governmental agency; purchases of equipment previously owned by some entity other than the library itself; and
- contracts for goods or services which are economically procurable from only one source, such as for the purchase of magazines, books, periodicals, pamphlets and reports are not subject to competitive bidding.

In addition, contracts for emergency expenditures are also exempt from competitive bidding when the emergency expenditure is approved by 3/4 of the members of the board.

This bill is supported by the Illinois Library Association and was drafted by our office in conjunction with two library directors. We thank them for their work on this important issue and hope that the legislature passes the bill. On February 26, 2014, it was approved by the Local Government Committee and sent to the full Senate for a vote. You can check the Illinois General Assembly's website for updates regarding this important bill.

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