



Texas Department of Information Resources

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News for State Agencies

State IT updates and tools for Texas agencies

June 2015



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **SAVE THE DATES:** Informational Events on IT-Related Legislation
- Senate Bill 20 Modifies Processes for State Contracting, DIR Contracts
- Legislative Update: A Summary of IT-Related Changes from the 84th Legislative Session
- How to Stay Informed on Contracting Developments
- **ON OUR WEBSITE:** Hot Topics, Informative Pages, and other Items of Interest



DIR EVENTS

Stay up-to-date on DIR board meetings, training events, and more via the [DIR website calendar](#).

TIP: Click the "[Upcoming](#)" button to view events months in advance.

SAVE THE DATES!

Informational Events on IT-Related Legislation

The following events are geared toward **state agency purchasers, IRMs**, and other interested staff. Watch the DIR website for details as they develop.

- **July 16, 2-3:30 pm | Town Hall 1**
Stephen F. Austin Bldg, Rm 170, Austin
IT contracting bills, including SB 20
- **July 21, 2-3 pm | Webinar 1**
Technology bills highlights
- **August 12, 2-3 pm | Webinar 2**
IT contracting bills, including SB 20

LEGISLATIVE ACTION SUMMARY

	Filed	Passed	Vetoed
House Bills	4,207	819	33
Senate Bills	2,069	504	9
Total	6,276	1,323	42

Senate Bill 20

Modifies Processes for State Contracting, DIR Contracts

Texas state contracting will undergo several major changes on or before September 1, 2015, as a result of this year's legislative session.

The combination of several measures bring additional value to DIR Cooperative Contracts customers by increasing oversight of the program, strengthening vendor competition, and building upon the state's collective purchasing power by expanding eligibility to new customer groups.

Currently eligible customers may continue to purchase technology products and services through DIR over the summer, confident that doing so meets all existing state purchasing requirements (See our [Cooperative Contracts FAQs](#) for more information on current processes).

Below is a summary of DIR Cooperative Contracts purchasing changes brought about by [Senate Bill 20](#) (SB 20), which goes into effect September 1.

NOTE: These changes to DIR Cooperative Contracts affect state agencies only.

Statement of Work Review Requirement

SB 20 requires state agencies to submit statements of work (SOWs) that are 1) for defined services and 2) greater than \$50,000, to DIR for review before submitting those SOWs to vendors. DIR must also sign these SOWs before any payment is made to the vendor. Once executed, the agency must post the SOW on their website.

DIR contracts requiring SOWs include, but are not limited to

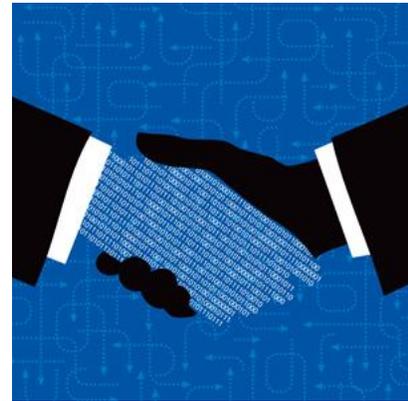
- Deliverables-Based Information Technology Services (DBITS)
- Managed services for information technology
- Managed services for telecommunications
- Cloud services

DIR will post the process for SOW review and signature on its website. In addition, customers will soon be able to submit SOWs electronically through an online portal. Stay tuned to our home page and look for additional communications as we draw closer to September 1.

Commodity Purchasing Thresholds and Exemptions

In addition to SOW review, a state agency purchasing commodity hardware, software, or service items after September 1 will be required to follow certain thresholds when requesting pricing from DIR contracts.

Thresholds are listed below.



Contract Value	Agency Requirement
\$50,000 or less	May award directly to a vendor without submission of a pricing request to other vendors on the list
More than \$50,000 but not more than \$150,000	Must submit a request for pricing to at least three vendors in the category to which the contract relates
More than \$150,000 but not more than \$1M	Must submit a request for pricing to a least six vendors included in the category to which the contract relates
More than \$1M	Is required to prepare its own solicitation

Also on September 1, state agencies will be automatically delegated authority (granted exemptions) for IT commodity purchases over \$1 million. Please refer to the [DIR Cooperative Contracts - Blanket Exemptions](#) page for more on this blanket exemption authority.

A Note on Data Center Services Agencies

[Texas Government Code 2157.068](#) governs the Cooperative Contracts program. Purchases that go through the Texas Data Center Services (DCS) program are governed by a separate statutory authority and do not have these restrictions. Purchases that are required to go through the consolidated data center will still be required to follow the current process for the DCS program.

Legislative Update: A Summary of IT-Related Changes from the 84th Legislature

This year's legislative session resulted in more than 20 percent of the session's bills achieving passage. During session, DIR closely monitored technology-related bills under consideration, and our [Technology Legislation page](#) now reflects IT bills that became law. Our legislation page will continue to be updated with resulting developments, process changes, and requirements affecting our customers and the use of technology across the state.

Here is a summary of major IT and contracting bills that are now law following the 84th Texas Legislature.

BPR Recommendations

Many recommendations from DIR's statutorily required [Biennial Performance Report](#) (BPR) resulted in legislation this session. These recommendations reflect IT priorities outlined in the [2014-2018 State Strategic Plan for Information Resources Management \(PDF\)](#), and were developed collaboratively with other state agencies.

These BPR recommendations became law:

- **HB 1890** carries out the four recommendations of DIR's 2014 [Legacy Systems Study \(PDF\)](#). The bill requires DIR, in collaboration with other state agencies, to
 - develop a legacy system modernization strategy
 - build upon that strategy by establishing a statewide application development framework, facilitating



- standardization and collaboration, and achieving economies of scale by leveraging agency investments
 - implement a shared reporting services and business analytics pilot to determine the viability of a statewide solution
 - establish a voluntary pilot program that provides statewide application portfolio management practices and toolsets
- **HB 1912** creates the position of a statewide data coordinator at DIR. The coordinator acts as a data steward to improve data governance and integrity. The goal is to seek opportunities for data sharing across governmental entities, resulting in future cost savings.
- **HB 2000** expands the DIR Cooperative Contracts program customer base to include quasi-state agencies, private schools and universities, and volunteer fire departments.

Other IT and Contracting Legislation

- **HB 1 (General Appropriations Act) Riders**
 - **Article IX, Sec. 7.12** requires agencies to notify the Legislative Budget Board of certain purchases or contract awards, amendments, and extensions.
 - **Article IX, Sec. 9.04** allows DIR to require state agencies to coordinate certain IT purchases to achieve cost savings through a coordinated bulk purchasing effort. Institutions of higher education are also allowed to participate. Bulk purchases include personal computers, laptops, tablets, productivity software, and seat management services.
 - **Article IX, Sec. 9.08** requires state agencies to report an inventory of all personal computers (desktops, laptops, and tablets) and other IT devices to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) by September 1 of each year.
 - **Article IX, Sec. 9.09** adds various reporting requirements for DIR and agencies participating in the Data Center Services program.
 - **Article IX, Sec. 9.10** requires DIR to submit to the LBB, by October 1, 2016, a prioritization of state agencies' cybersecurity and legacy systems modernization projects to be considered for funding.
 - **Article IX, Sec. 9.11** ensures DIR and agencies coordinate information security purchases in order to adhere to best practices and to achieve cost savings through bulk purchases.
 - **Article IX, Sec. 9.12** encourages agencies to purchase IT hardware through the state surplus property program.
- **SB 20** implements several changes affecting state contracting and procurement. See "[SB 20 Modifies Processes...](#)" for more information.
- **SB 34** requires DIR to submit a report to state leadership evaluating information security for state information resources. This evaluation will be based upon agencies' information security plans submitted as required by SB 1597 (83R).
- **HB 855** requires DIR to identify and post on its website the three most commonly used Internet browsers, updating the list biennially. State agencies must ensure their websites are compatible with the most recently listed browsers, and with most wireless communication devices.
- **SB 1844** establishes the Interagency Data Transparency Commission to study and review current public data structure, classification, sharing, and reporting protocols.
- **SB 1877** requires each state agency to develop a data use agreement that meets the particular needs of the agency and that is consistent with DIR rules relating to information security standards for state agencies.
- **SB 1878** requires DIR to study the feasibility of implementing more secure access requirements for certain electronically stored information held by the state.

Please continue to visit the DIR website for updates on bill implementation.

How to Stay Informed on DIR Contracting Developments



DIR Website Will Keep You in the Loop

DIR is working quickly to implement processes that respond to the new legislative requirements, and we will continue to communicate with our customer and vendor communities. Visit the [DIR website](#) often for **new process information, updated FAQs, related town halls and webinars**, and more.

On Our Website

Hot Topics, Informative Pages, and other Items of Interest



Contract Announcements Keep Purchasers Up to Date

Distributed weekly, the **ITSOURCING email announcement list** distributes information to DIR eligible customers regarding new contract awards, planned procurements, legislative implementation of contracting initiatives, planned and upcoming events, and related items. Any employee of an organization eligible to utilize DIR contracts may subscribe.

Learn more about how to subscribe to this or other DIR mailing lists by visiting our [Collaboration](#) page.



DIR Provides Front Line Support during Hurricane Season, Emergencies

During major emergencies (hurricanes, ice storms, flooding, etc.), the State Emergency Operations Center (SOC) is activated by the Governor to identify, mobilize, and deploy state and volunteer group resources for front line response.

But did you know that [DIR also plays a very important role](#) in the process?



Texas Launches First-Ever One-Page State Government Website

Texas.gov reimagines the official state portal with a simple, approachable, "find it your way" experience for citizens. In addition to simplifying the experience, the approachability of the portal shines through with a Texas-friendly conversational tone and imagery that celebrates the state's unique character. [View the press release on the new site design.](#)

We Want Your Feedback!

Let us know if you'd like more information on a specific DIR program or service in future issues of this newsletter. Likewise, if you have a general comment about the agency, our website or this publication, please [share it with us](#). We'd like to hear from you!