

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.6, the following is a concise explanatory statement:

AGENCY: Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority

DIVISION: N/A

RULE IDENTIFIER: 855-RICR-00-00-1

RULE TITLE:

Rules and Regulations Governing Procurement

REASON FOR RULEMAKING:

To amend RITBA's procurement regulations for the reasons set forth in the Regulatory Analysis below.

ANY FINDING REQUIRED BY LAW AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RULE:

N/A

TESTIMONY AND COMMENTS:

No public comments received.

CHANGE TO TEXT OF THE RULE:

The only change between the text of the Rule as proposed and the text of the Final Rule is a correction of a non-material and non-substantive typographical error in Section 1.3.A [the phrase "Chief Purchasing **Offer**" should have read "Chief Purchasing **Officer**"]. This has been corrected in the Final Rule.

REGULATORY ANALYSIS:

This rule amends RITBA's procurement process by, among other things, increasing the threshold amount for small purchases that require competitive bidding and cross-referencing governing Rhode Island law with respect to applicable threshold dollar amounts. This will reduce administrative burdens and costs to RITBA in situations where the time and costs of procurement for small purchases exceed any potential savings from requiring competitive bidding. The rule also provides additional discretion to RITBA, while remaining compliant with the State Purchases Act (R.I. Gen. Laws §

37-2-1 et seq.), which will streamline the procurement process and reduce administrative costs.

Given the nature of RITBA's operations and purchases, it has found that having more flexibility with respect to small purchases under the \$10,000 limit established by the General Assembly is necessary because the \$1,000 limit has become an administrative burden. RITBA does not expect that any of its stakeholders or potential vendors would object or have any concerns with this proposed change, especially given that it aligns with the limits set by state law.

After due consideration, RITBA has not identified alternative approaches that would be less burdensome or more cost-effective. To the contrary, RITBA believes that the proposed amendments will increase operational efficiencies and provide greater flexibility for RITBA to procure small purchases in a manner consistent with the State Purchases Act.