

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

TURNPIKE AND BRIDGE AUTHORITY

Title of Rule: Rules and Regulations Governing Procurement (855-RICR-00-00-1)

Rule Identifier: 855-RICR-00-00-1

Rulemaking Action: Direct Final Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: August 25, 2025

End of Public Comment: September 24, 2025

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws § 37-2-9

R.I. Gen. Laws § 37-2-13

R.I. Gen. Laws § 24-12-9(23)

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The proposed rule revises RITBA's current regulations regarding its procurement process. The proposed rule is intended to reduce unnecessary administrative costs and streamline the procurement process, including by relying on reference to Rhode Island General Laws procurement requirements, while ensuring that competition remains among those submitting bids and proposals for procurement and RITBA remains in compliance with State procurement laws.

The Agency does not expect this filing to be controversial and therefore, a public hearing will not be held.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

If no formal objection is received on or before September 24, 2025, the Turnpike and Bridge Authority will file the Amendment and the Final Rule will take effect on this date.

Objections should be addressed to:

mdurgin@ritba.org

Turnpike and Bridge Authority

RITBA-One East Shore Road

Jamestown

Jamestown, RI 02835

mdurgin@ritba.org

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

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.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.