

Chapter 238

(House Bill 377)

AN ACT concerning

**Montgomery County – Village of Friendship Heights Special Taxing District
– Procurement****MC 15–23**

FOR the purpose of increasing the threshold amount above which the Friendship Heights Village Council is prohibited from entering into a certain contract without a competitive bidding process; authorizing the village council to enter into a certain contract that exceeds the threshold amount without a competitive bidding process if the procurement is in response to an emergency; and generally relating to procurement in the Village of Friendship Heights special taxing district.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
The Public Local Laws of Montgomery County
Section 66–10
Article 16 – Public Local Laws of Maryland
(2004 Edition and September 2022 Supplement, as amended)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 16 – Montgomery County

Sec. 66–10.

(a) [The] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE** “Friendship Heights Village Council” may not expend for material or work a sum exceeding **[\$5,000] \$20,000** without having first advertised the specifications therefor and inviting bids for it, after which the village council may purchase whatever material or make contract for work or have the work done by employed labor or otherwise, as it may deem best.

(b) **(1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “EMERGENCY” MEANS AN OCCURRENCE OR
CONDITION THAT:**

(I) THE VILLAGE COUNCIL REASONABLY COULD NOT FORESEE;
AND

**(II) REQUIRES AN ACTION TO AVOID OR MITIGATE SERIOUS
DAMAGE TO PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE.**

(2) THE VILLAGE COUNCIL, BY MAJORITY VOTE, MAY ENTER INTO A CONTRACT EXCEEDING \$20,000 WITHOUT SEEKING COMPETITIVE BIDS IF THE PROCUREMENT IS IN RESPONSE TO AN EMERGENCY.

(C) The village council may engage in cooperative procurement with other governmental entities in Montgomery County.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2023.