RELATING TO PUBLIC PURCHASING; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE PROCUREMENT CODE PERTAINING TO PUBLIC NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BIDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 13-1-104 NMSA 1978 (being Laws

1984, Chapter 65, Section 77, as amended) is amended to read:

"13-1-104. COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS--PUBLIC NOTICE.--

A. An invitation for bids or a notice thereof shall be published not less than ten calendar days prior to the date set forth for the opening of bids. In the case of purchases made by the state purchasing agent, the invitation or notice shall be published at least once in at least three newspapers of general circulation in this state. In the case of purchases made by other central purchasing offices, the invitation or notice shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the area in which the central purchasing office is located. These requirements of publication are in addition to any other procedures which may be adopted by central purchasing offices to notify prospective bidders that bids will be received, including but not limited to publication in a trade journal, if available. If there is no newspaper of general circulation in the area in which the central purchasing office is located, such other notice may be given as is commercially reasonable.

- The state purchasing agent and all central purchasing offices shall send copies of the notice or invitation for bids involving the expenditure of more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to those businesses which have signified in writing an interest in submitting bids for particular categories of items of tangible personal property, construction and services and which have paid any required fees. The state purchasing agent or a central purchasing office may set different registration fees for different categories of services, construction or items of tangible personal property, but such fees shall be related to the actual, direct cost of furnishing copies of the notice or invitation for bids to the prospective bidders. shall be used exclusively for the purpose of furnishing copies of the notice or invitation for bids of proposed procurements to prospective bidders.
- C. As used in this subsection, "prospective bidders" includes persons considering submission of a bid as a general contractor for the construction contract and persons who may submit bids to a general contractor for work to be subcontracted pursuant to the construction contract. The state purchasing agent and all central purchasing offices shall make copies of invitations for bids for construction contracts available to prospective bidders. The state

purchasing agent or a central purchasing office may require prospective bidders who have requested documents for bid on a construction contract to pay a deposit for a copy of the documents for bid. The deposit shall equal the full cost of reproduction and delivery of the documents for bid. The deposit, less delivery charges, shall be refunded if the documents for bid are returned in usable condition within the time limits specified in the documents for bid, which time limits shall be no less than ten calendar days from the date of the bid opening. All forfeited deposits shall be credited to the funds of the state purchasing agent or central purchasing office, whichever is applicable."