

SB 533 85R - State Contracting
Senator Jane Nelson

- Authorizes Lt. Governor and Speaker (in addition to Governor) to initiate enhanced contract monitoring;
- Adds the Comptroller to the Quality Assurance Team (QAT);
- Requires agencies to submit to the QAT a technical architectural assessment for major IT projects and contracts;
- Requires agency project delivery frameworks be recognized as a best practice for major information resources projects and contracts;
- Increases the cap on cooperative IT contracts from \$1m to \$5m;
- Clarifies that agencies may communicate with the private sector;
- Lowers threshold for Contract Oversight Team review from \$10 to \$5m;
- Establishes a Chief Procurement Officer in the Comptroller's office to coordinate contracting across agencies and leverage purchasing power;
- Clarifies that conflicts of interest are prohibited from the beginning of contract negotiations until the expiration of the contract;
- Requires the Texas Education Agency to follow state guidelines when contracting with Education Service Centers;
- Removes duplicative posting requirements;
- Clarifies that sensitive information in contracts not be posted online;
- And it allows the federal government and other states to purchase off of pre-negotiated contracts from the Comptroller.