

## **Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary**

<b>Bill #:</b>	H.4157
<b>Title:</b>	An Act further regulating procurements by the city of Cambridge
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Rep. Marjorie C. Decker
<b>Committee:</b>	Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	June 24, 2025
<b>Current Law:</b>	<p>Chapter 30B of the MGL governs how municipalities advertise and award procurement contracts. Section 4 of Chapter 30B specifically states that contracts valued between \$10,000 and \$50,000 should receive quotes from at least three businesses, with an exception for school-related projects. Procurement contracts valued below \$10,000 should be awarded through “sound business practices,” defined in Section 2 of Chapter 30B as acquiring favorable pricing through periodical quotes, and contracts above \$50,000 should be subject to a competitive bidding procedure detailed in the chapter.</p> <p>A “disadvantaged business” is defined by the supplier diversity office, by virtue of Cambridge’s contract with Boston, or by virtue of certification by Cambridge itself.</p>
<b>Exec. Summary:</b>	<p>H.4157 increases the threshold between the “sound business practices” mandate and the three-business mandate to \$20,000 if the recipient is a disadvantaged business. Under this legislation, if the contract awarded is valued above \$20,000, rather than \$10,000, and the recipient is a disadvantaged business, then the procurement process is not subject to the three-business minimum. For contracts valued between \$20,000 and the small procurement threshold as defined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Operational Services Division (\$250,000), the City of Cambridge must seek quotations from not fewer than three disadvantaged businesses.</p>
<b>Summary:</b>	<p><b>Section 1</b> states that the City of Cambridge may use sound business practices to award procurement contracts in the amount of \$20,000 less as long as the recipient of the contract is a disadvantaged business. However, the City must comply with Chapter 30B, Section 3’s recordkeeping requirement if the contracts result from a purchase of \$10,000 or more.</p> <p><b>Section 2</b> states that the City must seek written quotations from no fewer than three disadvantaged businesses if the contract is valued</p>

between \$20,000 and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Operational Services Division's threshold for small procurement, which is currently set at \$250,000. These procurement processes must be compliant with Section 3 of Chapter 30B. After awarding the contract, the City must publish notice for public consumption.

**Section 3** states that the provisions of this act are severable, and any ruling of unconstitutionality affecting one part of the act does not nullify the remaining provisions.

**Section 4** implements this legislation upon passage.

**Notes:**

Approved unanimously during Cambridge City Council meeting dated April 14, 2025.