



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
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June 12, 2026

RECEIVED

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**SENATE
SECRETARY'S
OFFICE**

The Honorable Cameron Henry
President of the Senate
900 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

The Honorable Yolanda Dixon
Secretary of the Senate
900 North Third Street, Basement
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: Senate Bill 384 of the 2026 Regular Session by Senator Jimmy Harris

Dear President Henry and Secretary Dixon:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 384 of the 2026 Regular Session by Senator Jimmy Harris.

Senate Bill 384 would create an exception to existing laws governing public contracts, particularly Louisiana's Public Bid Law, R.S. 38:2211 *et seq.*, for political subdivisions located in any parish that designates itself a "Pilot Innovation Hub." Upon adoption of this designation, every political subdivision located within the parish would be empowered to establish its own procedures for selecting a "Pilot Innovation Contractor," who would then be empowered to select candidates who may be awarded a no-bid contract with the political subdivision.

Enacting Senate Bill 384 would fragment the State's uniform system of public procurement and invite each of the hundreds of political subdivisions within the State to craft its own contracting procedures, subject only to a subjective standard of reasonableness. In doing so, Senate Bill 384 would replace one predictable, statewide procurement standard upon which taxpayers, vendors, and local officials could rely upon, with a patchwork of inconsistent local procedures.

When the Legislature created exceptions to the Public Bid Law in the past, it has done so by carefully prescribing uniform procedures for the entities that use them. *See, e.g.* R.S. 38:2225.1 (design-build); R.S. 38:2225.2.4 (construction management at risk). Senate Bill 384, however, lacks any criteria identifying products or services that may be considered "innovative" and would expand the circumstances in which sole-source contracts may be awarded. *See, e.g.* R.S. 39:1597 (authorizing sole source contracts "when there is only one source for [a] required supply, service, or major repair item").

A uniform competitive-bidding requirement protects taxpayers from exorbitant and extortionate expenditures of public funds. *See Broadmoor, L.L.C. v. Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition*

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Senate Bill 384 Veto Message

Hall Auth., 2004-0211 (La. 3/18/04), 867 So.2d 651, 656. The proliferation of divergent, locally devised procurement methods would needlessly increase the complexity of public procurement, making it more difficult for businesses desiring to enter the market or expand their business to be awarded a public contract. Senate Bill 384 would also make public contracts substantially harder to monitor and significantly easier to manipulate for improper reasons.

While I share Senate Bill 384's stated goal of fostering innovation and economic development, these goals can be pursued without compromising the predictability and accountability that standardized procurement procedures provide, particularly when Louisiana taxpayers are footing the bill.

For these reasons, Senate Bill 384 will not become law.

For Louisiana,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeff Landry
Governor

Enclosure: Returned Senate Bill 384