



State of Alabama  
Department of  
**Examiners of Public Accounts**

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June 13, 2016

Location:  
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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Alabama Municipalities  
County Commissions  
City and County Boards of Education  
Alabama Community College System  
Other Entities subject to the *Code of Alabama 1975*, Section 41-16-50

From: Ronald L. Jones   
CHIEF EXAMINER

Subject: Purchasing Cooperative Update – Act 2016-298, Acts of Alabama

This memorandum is being issued to update guidance previously issued by this Department due to the passage of Act 2016-298, Acts of Alabama. It supersedes and replaces letters issued by this Department dated October 19, 2015 for the following national purchasing cooperatives:

- U.S. Communities
- The Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN)
- National IPA
- National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA)
- National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA)
- Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and
- E&I Cooperative Services (For Board of Education use only)

We previously reviewed the competitive bidding process utilized by these national purchasing cooperatives and based on those reviews our approval for the above named cooperatives remains in effect until November 30, 2017. The *Code of Alabama 1975*, Sections 41-16-51 and 16-13B-2, was amended by Act 2016-298, Acts of Alabama, to allow affected entities to purchase goods or services, other than voice or data wireless communication services, from purchasing cooperatives. Therefore, you are authorized to purchase goods or services, other than voice or data wireless communication services, using any of purchasing cooperatives mentioned above.

Please do not hesitate to call us, should you have any questions regarding the application of this guidance.