

1 **CHAPTER 857. PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR VOCATIONAL**  
2 **REHABILITATION SERVICES BY TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

3  
4 **PROPOSED RULES WITH PREAMBLE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE *TEXAS***  
5 ***REGISTER*. THIS DOCUMENT WILL HAVE NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES BUT IS**  
6 **SUBJECT TO FORMATTING CHANGES AS REQUIRED BY THE *TEXAS REGISTER*.**  
7

8 **ON FEBRUARY 4, 2020, THE TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION PROPOSED THE**  
9 **RULES BELOW WITH PREAMBLE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE *TEXAS REGISTER*.**

10  
11 Estimated Publication Date of the Proposal in the *Texas Register*: **February 21, 2020**

12 Estimated End of Comment Period: **March 23, 2020**

13  
14 The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) proposes the repeal of Chapter 857 in its entirety,  
15 relating to the Purchase of Goods and Services for Vocational Rehabilitation Services by Texas  
16 Workforce Commission:

17  
18 Section 857.1. Noncompetitive Procurement

19  
20 **PART I. PURPOSE, BACKGROUND, AND AUTHORITY**

21 **PART II. IMPACT STATEMENTS**

22 **PART III. COORDINATION ACTIVITIES**

23 **PART I. PURPOSE, BACKGROUND, AND AUTHORITY**

24 The purpose of the proposed chapter repeal is to streamline TWC rules by incorporating the  
25 relevant portions of this chapter into Chapter 858, Vocational Rehabilitation Services Contract  
26 Management, which is being amended and renamed in a separate proposed rulemaking.

27  
28 Effective September 1, 2016, pursuant to Texas Labor Code §351.002, the administration of  
29 vocational rehabilitation (VR) services was transferred from the Texas Department of Assistive and  
30 Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to TWC. To ensure continuity and avoid any impact on customers,  
31 the administrative rules shared by all DARS programs were duplicated into Chapters 850, 857, and  
32 858 of TWC's rules upon transfer of the programs. Because the rules established DARS'  
33 administrative framework and served all DARS programs, they overlap certain existing TWC  
34 administrative rules and contain numerous references to programs that were not transferred to TWC.

35  
36 Chapter 857 consists of one section, §857.1, which authorizes the use of open-enrollment solicitation  
37 and interagency contracting, in addition to other noncompetitive procurement methods. To  
38 streamline TWC rules and preserve the relevant subsections of §857.1, the chapter should be  
39 repealed and its relevant content should be amended and moved to Chapter 858, which will be  
40 renamed "Vocational Rehabilitation Purchases and Contracts" to reflect the additional content.

41  
42 **PART II. IMPACT STATEMENTS**

43 Chris Nelson, Chief Financial Officer, has determined that for each year of the first five years the  
44 repeal is in effect, the following statements will apply:

1 There are no additional estimated costs to the state and to local governments expected as a result  
2 of the repeal.

3  
4 There are no estimated cost reductions to the state and to local governments as a result of the  
5 repeal.

6  
7 There are no estimated losses or increases in revenue to the state or to local governments as a  
8 result of the repeal.

9  
10 There are no foreseeable implications relating to costs or revenue of the state or local  
11 governments as a result of the repeal.

12  
13 There are no anticipated economic costs to individuals required to comply with the rules.

14  
15 There is no anticipated adverse economic impact on small businesses, microbusinesses, or rural  
16 communities as a result of enforcing or administering the rules.

17  
18 Based on the analyses required by Texas Government Code §2001.024, TWC has determined  
19 that the requirement to repeal or amend a rule, as required by House Bill 1290, 85th Texas  
20 Legislature, Regular Session, 2017 (to be codified at Texas Government Code §2001.0045), does  
21 not apply to this rulemaking. Additionally, Texas Labor Code §352.101 requires TWC's three-  
22 member Commission to adopt rules necessary to integrate the vocational rehabilitation programs,  
23 including recommending adopting rules to implement the integration. Therefore, the exception  
24 identified in §2001.0045(c)(9) also applies.

25  
26 Takings Impact Assessment

27 Under Texas Government Code, §2007.002(5), "taking" means a governmental action that  
28 affects private real property, in whole or in part or temporarily or permanently, in a manner that  
29 requires the governmental entity to compensate the private real property owner as provided by  
30 the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the US Constitution or the Texas Constitution, §17 or  
31 §19, Article I; or an action that restricts or limits the owner's right to the property that would  
32 otherwise exist in the absence of the governmental action, and is the producing cause of a  
33 reduction of at least 25 percent in the market value of the affected private real property,  
34 determined by comparing the market value of the property as if the governmental action is not in  
35 effect with the market value of the property as if the governmental action is in effect. The  
36 Commission completed a Takings Impact Analysis for the proposed rulemaking action under  
37 Texas Government Code, §2007.043. The primary purpose of this proposed rulemaking action,  
38 as discussed elsewhere in this preamble, is to streamline TWC rules by incorporating the relevant  
39 portions of Chapter 857 into Chapter 858, Vocational Rehabilitation Services Contract  
40 Management, which is being amended and renamed in a separate proposed rulemaking.

41  
42 The proposed rulemaking action will not create any additional burden on private real property.  
43 The proposed rulemaking action will not affect private real property in a manner that would  
44 require compensation to private real property owners under the US Constitution or the Texas  
45 Constitution. The proposed rulemaking also will not affect private real property in a manner that  
46 restricts or limits an owner's right to the property that would otherwise exist in the absence of the

1 governmental action. Therefore, the proposed rulemaking will not cause a taking under Texas  
2 Government Code, Chapter 2007.

3  
4 Government Growth Impact Statement

5 TWC has determined that during the first five years the proposed repeal will be in effect:

- 6 --the proposed repeal will not create or eliminate a government program;
- 7 --implementation of the proposed repeal will not require the creation or elimination of employee  
8 positions;
- 9 --implementation of the proposed repeal will not require an increase or decrease in future  
10 legislative appropriations to TWC;
- 11 --the proposed repeal will not require an increase or decrease in fees paid to TWC;
- 12 --the proposed repeal will not create a new regulation;
- 13 --the proposed repeal will not expand, limit, or eliminate an existing regulation;
- 14 --the proposed repeal will not change the number of individuals subject to the rules; and
- 15 --the proposed repeal will not positively or adversely affect the state's economy.

16  
17 Economic Impact Statement and Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

18 TWC has determined that the proposed repeal will not have an adverse economic impact on  
19 small businesses or rural communities, as the proposed repeal places no requirements on small  
20 businesses or rural communities.

21  
22 Mariana Vega, Director, Labor Market and Career Information, has determined that there is no  
23 significant negative impact upon employment conditions in the state as a result of the repeal.

24  
25 Cheryl Fuller, Director, Vocational Rehabilitation Division, has determined that for each year of  
26 the first five years the repeal is in effect, the public benefit will be to streamline TWC rules.

27  
28 TWC hereby certifies that the proposed repeal has been reviewed by legal counsel and found to  
29 be within TWC's legal authority to adopt.

30  
31 **PART III. COORDINATION ACTIVITIES**

32 In the development of these rules for publication and public comment, TWC sought the  
33 involvement of the 28 Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) in Texas. TWC provided  
34 the concept paper regarding the repeal to the Boards for consideration and review on June 14,  
35 2018. TWC also conducted a conference call with Board executive directors and Board staff on  
36 June 22, 2018, to discuss the concept paper. During the rulemaking process, TWC considered all  
37 information gathered in order to develop rules that provide clear and concise direction to all  
38 parties involved.

39  
40 Comments on the proposed repeal may be submitted to TWC Policy Comments, Workforce  
41 Program Policy, Attn: Workforce Editing, 101 East 15th Street, Room 459T, Austin, Texas  
42 78778; faxed to (512) 475-3577; or emailed to [TWCPolicyComments@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:TWCPolicyComments@twc.state.tx.us).  
43 Comments must be received or postmarked no later than 30 days from the date this proposal is  
44 published in the *Texas Register*.

1 The repeal is proposed under Texas Labor Code §301.0015 and §302.002(d), which provide  
2 TWC with the authority to adopt, amend, or repeal such rules as it deems necessary for the  
3 effective administration of TWC services and activities.

4

5 The repeal affects Title 4, Texas Labor Code, particularly Chapters 351 and 352.

6

7

1 **CHAPTER 857. PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR VOCATIONAL**  
2 **REHABILITATION SERVICES BY TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

3  
4 **§857.1. Noncompetitive Procurement.**  
5

6 (a) ~~General. HHSC may acquire goods or services on a noncompetitive basis as~~  
7 ~~described in this section.~~

8  
9 (b) ~~Exception to competitive purchasing. HHSC may utilize a noncompetitive~~  
10 ~~procurement method if the purchase consists of one or more of the following~~  
11 ~~transactions:~~

12  
13 (1) ~~sole source, consistent with guidance from the Comptroller of Public~~  
14 ~~Accounts;~~

15  
16 (2) ~~proprietary purchase, consistent with guidance from the Comptroller of Public~~  
17 ~~Accounts;~~

18  
19 (3) ~~emergency purchase:~~

20  
21 (A) ~~The emergency underlying the purchase must be documented and~~  
22 ~~justified in the procurement file.~~

23  
24 (B) ~~Despite the existence of a justified emergency, HHSC must use its best~~  
25 ~~efforts to conduct the procurement with as much competition as is~~  
26 ~~practical under the circumstances;~~

27  
28 (4) ~~purchase from preferred supplier;~~

29  
30 (5) ~~an enrollment contract:~~

31  
32 (A) ~~An open enrollment must be conducted in an open and fair manner that~~  
33 ~~reasonably provides interested, qualified vendors equal opportunity to~~  
34 ~~obtain a contract or do business with HHSC; and~~

35  
36 (B) ~~An open enrollment must include contract terms and conditions or other~~  
37 ~~policies adopted by HHSC and provided to the vendor that establish the~~  
38 ~~manner in which individual transactions will be processed;~~

39  
40 (6) ~~intergovernmental transfer;~~

41  
42 (7) ~~contract renewal consistent with the underlying procurement;~~

43  
44 (8) ~~a purchase is required by state or federal law to be awarded on a~~  
45 ~~noncompetitive basis;~~  
46

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8

~~(9) — a purchase for an amount of not more than \$5000.~~

~~(c) Noncompetitive negotiation. HHSC may conduct a noncompetitive negotiation if it:~~

~~(1) — conducts a transaction under a noncompetitive purchasing method; or~~

~~(2) — receives only one qualified response to a solicitation issued under a competitive purchasing method.~~