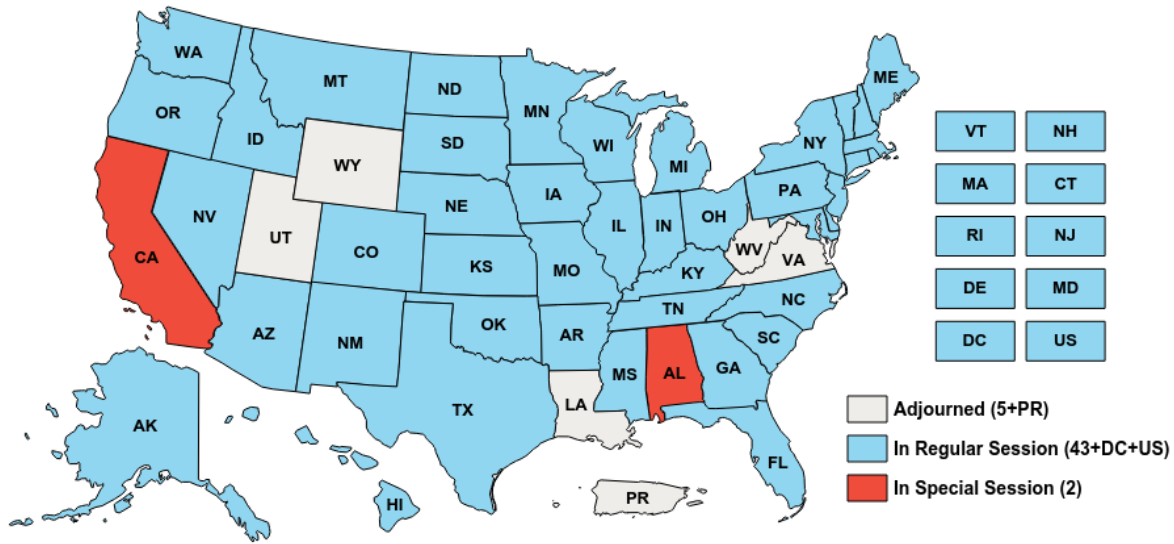


States in Session



Overview

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin are in regular session. The District of Columbia Council and the U.S. Congress are also in session.

Arkansas lawmakers are scheduled to recess on March 16 and reconvene on March 27, according to [SCR 2](#) which passed both chambers on February 6.

West Virginia adjourned their legislative session sine die on March 11.

The following states are scheduled to adjourn their 2023 legislative sessions sine die on the dates provided: **New Mexico** (March 18), **South Dakota** (March 27), **Georgia** (March 29), **Kentucky** (March 30) and **Idaho** (March 31).

Louisiana is scheduled to convene their 2023 legislative sessions on April 10.

California Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom convened lawmakers into a special session on December 5, to consider his controversial [proposed price gouging penalty](#) designed to deter excessive price increases in the state. The special session is set to run concurrent to the regular session. [SCR 1](#) sets the Joint Rules for the special session and specifies the special session will only be in recess when the regular session is in recess.

Alabama Republican Gov. Kay Ivey [called](#) the legislature into a special session on March 8 to allocate the remaining funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The special session is expected to last through March 21.

Wyoming Republican Gov. Mark Gordon has until March 18 to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Utah** Republican Gov. Spencer Cox has until March 23 to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Virginia** Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin has until March 27 to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **West Virginia** Republican Gov. Jim Justice has until March 29 to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature.

Interim Committees/Prefiles

[Louisiana](#) is currently holding interim committee hearings.

Special Elections

Tennessee House District 86 held a special election on March 14, reports [ABC24](#). The seat was vacated by former Rep. Barbara Cooper, D-Memphis, who died before winning re-election in November. Democrat Justin Pearson, a Memphis social justice advocate, won the Democratic primary in January over nine other Democrats vying for the seat with 52 percent of the vote. According to [Memphis Commercial Appeal](#), Representative Pearson has already been serving as the interim representative since the January 25 primary.

The following seats are scheduled to be filled by special elections on the dates provided: **Georgia** House District 75 (March 21) and **Louisiana** House District 93 (March 25).

Catch-All Procurement

No significant movement this report

Cooperative Purchasing

Three noteworthy cooperative purchasing bills amending [Chapter 30B](#) of Massachusetts' General Laws were recently presented in the legislature. The first, [HB 3127](#), sponsored by Rep. Tommy Vitolo, D-Norfolk, was referred to the House State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee on February 16. The bill would amend multiple sections of [Chapter 30B](#), including:

- [Section 4](#) to increase from \$50,000 to \$100,000 the cap on those contracts subject to specified reporting requirements, unless otherwise subject to [Section 6](#).
- Sections [5](#), [6](#) and [7](#) to increase the relevant contract award from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and removing the qualifier “municipal or regional school districts” from [Section 6](#).
- Inserting a provision into [Section 6](#) rendering certain sealed proposals subject to [Section 4a](#).

A second, and largely identical bill, [SB 2019](#), was introduced by Sen. Jason Lewis, D-Middlesex and referred to the Senate Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee on February 16. The bill's only divergence from [HB 3127](#) is to retain the original language regarding municipal and regional school districts found in [Section 6](#).

Sen. Bruce Tarr, R-Essex, introduced the third bill, [SB 2070](#), which was referred to the Senate Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee on February 16 as well. The bill would amend [Section 22](#) to allow public procurement units engaged in cooperative purchasing agreements to award contracts to multiple offerors, so long as the chief procurement officer deems doing so to be in the participating parties' best interests.

All three bills would take effect 90 days following their enactment.

Montana [HB 151](#) passed the Senate State Administration Committee on March 15. The bill would raise the threshold of construction activities that require legislative approval to \$300,000. The Department of Administration would be permitted to forgo provisions of existing law relating to advertising, bidding or supervision of projects with a proposed cost of \$150,000 or less, rather than \$75,000. Beginning July 1, 2028 and every five years thereafter the department would be required to adjust these limits for inflation. The bill would also allow for public notice via electronic methods for competitive bidding on certain projects and permit building constructions bids to be secured by an irrevocable letter of credit.

North Dakota [SB 2370](#), introduced by Sen. Kyle Davison, R-Fargo, was reported from House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee with a do not pass recommendation. The House will vote to decide whether to accept this recommendation. The amendments would specify that the bill does not apply to the construction of a public improvement. The bill would amend the North Dakota Century Code with respect to cooperative purchasing and the authority of cities and counties to engage in it. Subsection 4 of [11.11.14](#) would be expanded to empower the board of county commissioners to contract for cooperative purchases consistent with the joint-powers agreement under chapter [54-40.3](#). Additionally, the bill would allow a county, pursuant to the

board of county commissioner's approval, to pursue cooperative purchasing agreements with the state, another political subdivision of the state or any other state.

Washington [SB 5342](#) has been scheduled for a hearing in the House Transportation Committee on March 16 at 4:00 PM. This bill would exempt transit agencies from interlocal agreement requirements when purchasing rolling stock and related equipment from state cooperative procurement schedules.

Construction Procurement

Ohio [SB 23](#) was heard in the Senate Government Oversight Committee on February 22 and February 28. The committee took testimony from Sourcewell and National Cooperative Procurement Partners who testified in support and numerous opponents including the Associated General Contractors, Ohio Council of Educational Purchasing Consortia and the Construction Employers Association but did not take any action. The bill would expand political subdivision joint purchasing authority to expressly include purchases for construction services.

New York [AB 624/Chapter 17](#) was signed by Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul on March 3 and took immediate effect. The law increases the threshold amount for centralized contracts, which require approval by the state comptroller, from \$85,000 to \$125,000. It also subjects any purchase order or other procurement transaction issued under the centralized contract that exceeds \$200,000 to review and approval by the comptroller. The law also raises additional threshold amounts including:

- Contracts for the purchase of goods and services by the State University of New York from \$50,000 to \$75,000.
- Contracts for the purchase of goods and services by the State University of New York health care facilities from \$75,000 to \$150,000.
- Contracts for the purchase of goods and services by the City University of New York from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

The threshold amounts for contracts entered into by the City University of New York or the State University of New York construction funds are limited to \$75,000.