

OPINION NO. 69-048

Syllabus:

If a county proposes to purchase insurance, competitive bidding is required if the cost is in excess of two thousand dollars. (Opinion No. 69-045, Opinions of the Attorney General for 1969, approved and followed.)

To: Roger Cloud, Auditor of State, Columbus, Ohio
By: Paul W. Brown, Attorney General, May 26, 1969

Before me is your request for my opinion concerning the necessity for competitive bidding when a county proposes to purchase insurance. Section 307.86, Revised Code, provides in pertinent part as follows:

"Anything to be purchased, leased, leased with an option or agreement to purchase, or constructed, including, but not limited to, any product, structure, construction, reconstruction, improvement, maintenance, repair, or service, except the services of an accountant, architect, attorney at law, physician, professional engineer, surveyor, or appraiser by or on behalf of the county or contracting authority, as defined in section 307.92 of the Revised Code, at a cost in excess of two thousand dollars, except as otherwise provided in section 307.02, 3501.301, 3505.13, 5543.19, 5555.71, 5713.01, or 6137.05, of the Revised Code, shall be obtained through competitive bidding.* * *

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(Emphasis added.)

Insofar as purchases of group insurance coverage pursuant to Section 305.171, Revised Code, are concerned, Section 307.86, supra, requires competitive bids if the cost is in excess of \$2000.00. (See Opinion No. 69-045, Opinions of the Attorney General for 1969.)

There is no reason why insurance purchases should be exempt from competitive bidding unless there is a specific statutory exemption. The exemption in Section 307.86, supra, relate to personal or professional services requiring special skills or abilities. However, the thing or product being purchased is "insurance" not "professional services" and insurance purchases are not exempt.

Therefore, it is my opinion and you are hereby advised that if a county proposes to purchase insurance, competitive bidding is required if the cost is in excess of two thousand dollars. (Opinion No. 69-045, Opinions of the Attorney General for 1969, approved and followed.)