

SB 719 -- SCHOOL PURCHASES

This bill prohibits any elected official, appointed official, or employee of any school district from performing a service or selling, renting, or leasing any property to the school district for more than \$500 per transaction or \$5,000 annually to him or her, to his or her spouse, to a dependent child in his or her custody, or to any business with which he or she is associated unless the transaction is made pursuant to an award on a contract let or sale made after public notice and in the case of property other than real property, competitive bidding, if the bid or offer accepted is the lowest received.

Currently, any school board member, officer, or employee of a seven-director school district that is located in a first classification county who sells or provides certain commodities to the district is guilty of a class A misdemeanor and must forfeit his or her position with the district. The bill removes this prohibition and aligns seven-director districts located in a first classification county with the current law regarding seven-director districts located in second, third, and fourth classification counties so that any school board member, officer, or employee may sell or provide certain commodities to the district if he or she complies with specified conflict of interest provisions.

Currently, a school board cannot lease or rent a building to be used for school purposes while the district school is unoccupied. The bill allows an exception for lease agreements entered into under the provisions of Section 177.088, RSMo, regarding agreements with not-for-profit corporations.

Currently, a school district board, community college board, or college or university board for an institution organized under Chapter 174 may enter into an agreement with a not-for-profit corporation to acquire, construct, improve, extend, repair, remodel, or finance sites, buildings, facilities, furnishings, and equipment for the use of the institution for educational purposes. The bill repeals the requirement that it be a not-for-profit corporation and repeals the provision allowing the governing board of an educational institution to refinance any lease purchase agreement if it satisfies at least one of the specified conditions for the purpose of payment on any lease with a corporation for sites, buildings, facilities, furnishings, or equipment which the corporation has acquired or constructed.