

1 furniture manufactured or produced in North Carolina or who is incorporated
2 in the State, but the State Purchasing Officer shall not be required to expand
3 the number of qualified vendors to more than six qualified vendors. A
4 vendor is qualified under this ~~section~~ subsection if the vendor's products
5 conform to the term contract specifications, the vendor is listed on the State's
6 qualified products list, and the vendor submits a responsive bid.

7 (4) ~~An agency may purchase from any vendor certified on the contract but shall
8 make the most economical purchase that it determines meets its needs, based
9 upon price, compatibility, service, delivery, freight charges, and other factors
10 that it considers relevant.~~

11 (a1) GSA Furniture Schedule. – Vendors meeting the following requirements are treated
12 as qualified vendors under any State furniture requirements contract:

13 (1) The vendor's products are included on a United States General Services
14 Administration (GSA) Furniture Schedule.

15 (2) The vendor is a federally qualified vendor within the GSA Furniture
16 Schedule.

17 (3) The vendor offers products on the same pricing and specifications as the
18 vendor's products included on the GSA Furniture Schedule.

19 (4) The vendor is a resident bidder as defined in G.S. 143-59(c) or the vendor
20 offers products manufactured or produced in North Carolina.

21 (b) Definition. – For purposes of this section, "furniture requirements contract" means
22 State requirements contracts for casegoods, classroom furniture, bookcases, ergonomic chairs,
23 office swivel and side chairs, computer furniture, mobile and folding furniture, upholstered
24 seating, commercial dining tables, and related items.

25 (c) Authority to Purchase. – An agency may purchase from any vendor certified on the
26 State furniture requirements contract, including vendors meeting the requirements of subsection
27 (a1) of this section. An agency shall make the most economical purchase that it determines
28 meets its needs, based upon price, compatibility, service, delivery, freight charges, contract
29 terms, and other factors that it considers relevant."

30 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.