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By Mr. Harrington of Everett, petition of Fred C. Harrington for legislation relative to proposals for contracts in cities and towns. Municipal Finance.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five.

### AN ACT RELATIVE TO PROPOSALS FOR CONTRACTS IN CITIES AND TOWNS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 40 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 inserting after section 4B, inserted by chapter 25 of the  
3 acts of 1951, the following section:—

4 *Section 4C.* In any city which accepts this section by  
5 vote of its city council, subject to the provisions of its  
6 charter, or in any town which accepts this section at an  
7 annual town meeting, and notwithstanding the provi-  
8 sions of any by-law or special law in any town or any  
9 ordinance or charter provision of any city, no contract  
10 for the purchase of equipment, supplies or materials or  
11 for construction work, whether for repairs or original  
12 construction, the estimated cost of which amounts to  
13 one thousand dollars or more, except in cases of special  
14 emergency involving the health or safety of the people  
15 or their property, shall be awarded unless proposals for  
16 the same have been invited by advertisement in at least  
17 one newspaper published in the city or town, or, if there  
18 is no such newspaper, in a newspaper published in the  
19 county, such publication to be at least one week before  
20 the time specified for the opening of said proposals. Such  
21 advertisement shall state the time and place for opening

22 the proposals in answer to said advertisement, and shall  
23 reserve to the city or town the right to reject any or all  
24 such proposals. All such proposals shall be opened in  
25 public. No bill or contract shall be split or divided for  
26 the purpose of evading any provisions of this section.  
27 Materials purchased by any city or town, under speci-  
28 fications of the state department of public works, and at  
29 prices established by said department of public works,  
30 pursuant to advertising and bidding for such purpose,  
31 in connection with work to be performed under the pro-  
32 visions of chapter eighty-one or chapter ninety, shall  
33 not be subject to the requirements of this section.