

Date of Hearing: April 5, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Susan Talamantes Eggman, Chair

AB 639 (Obernolte) – As Introduced February 14, 2017

SUBJECT: Department of General Services: contracts: electronic submission

SUMMARY: Requires the Department of General Services (DGS) to develop procedures authorizing the submittal of electronic signatures and documents by all parties on contracts covered by the State Contracting Manual (SCM).

EXISTING LAW establishes DGS to provide centralized services for various state functions, including purchasing.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: This bill requires DGS to develop procedures for using electronic signatures and documents in state contracts.

The SCM, a DGS document, provides policies, procedures, and guidelines to those involved in the state's contracting process. The SCM requires entities to submit original signatures on specified contracting forms in the standardized contracting process. Additionally, multiple copies of agreements and forms are also required.

The author explains that setting up a process for electronic signatures and electronic documents will increase efficiency by reducing the need to send documents to various parties throughout the state. Other benefits could include saving paper and the reduced need to store paper contract-related files.

According to DGS, the department has begun researching the use of electronic signatures and documents for state contracts and recognizes the potential benefits.

PRIOR LEGISLATION:

AB 2746 (Obernolte), Chapter 334, Statutes of 2016 requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt procedures authorizing the submittal of electronic signatures and documents by all parties on contracts involving the commission.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Scott Herbstman / A. & A.R. /