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September 12, 1991

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ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION NO. 91- 108

The Honorable Galen Weiland  
State Representative, Forty-Ninth District  
Box 146  
Benedena, Kansas 66008

Re: Schools--School Unification Acts--School District  
Expenditures Over \$10,000; Requirements Relating to  
Bids and Bidders; Exemptions; Architectural Services

Synopsis: Architectural services sought by a unified school  
district are exempt from the mandatory bidding  
requirements of K.S.A. 1990 Supp. 72-6760, as  
amended by L. 1991, ch. 226, § 10. Cited  
herein: K.S.A. 1990 Supp. 72-6760, as amended by  
L. 1991, ch. 226, § 10.

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Dear Representative Weiland:

As representative for the forty-ninth district, you request  
our opinion regarding whether architectural services sought by  
a unified school district are subject to the mandatory bidding  
requirements of K.S.A. 1990 Supp. 72-6760, as amended by L.  
1991, ch. 226, § 10.

The fundamental rule of statutory construction is that the  
purpose and intent of the legislature governs when that intent  
can be ascertained from the statute. Unified School District  
No. 279 v. Secretary of the Kansas Department of Human  
Resources, 247 Kan. 519, 524 (1990). In determining  
legislative intent, courts are not limited to a mere  
consideration of the language employed but may properly look

to historical background of the enactment. Joe Self Chevrolet v. Board of County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, 247 Kan. 625, 633 (1990).

K.S.A. 1990 Supp. 72-6760, as amended by L. 1991, ch. 226, § 10, states in part:

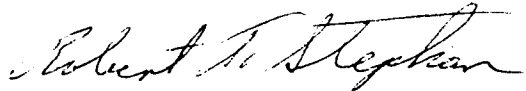
"(a) No expenditure involving an amount greater than \$10,000 for construction, reconstruction or remodeling or for the purchase of materials, goods or wares shall be made by the board of education of any school district except upon sealed proposals, and to the lowest responsible bidder.


"(b) The provisions of subsection (a) do not apply to expenditures by a board of education for the purchase of:

"(1) Services." (Emphasis denotes new language.)

1991 Senate Bill No. 122 was introduced in part to clarify that the amendments to the statute passed in 1990 were not intended to make professional services, including architectural services, sought by a unified school district subject to the mandatory bidding requirements. Minutes, House Committee on Education (March 25, 1991); Minutes, House Committee on Education (March 4, 1991); Minutes, Senate Committee on Education (February 27, 1991). It is clear that architectural services sought by a unified school district are exempt from the mandatory bidding requirements of K.S.A. 1990 Supp. 72-6760, as amended by L. 1991, ch. 226, § 10.

Very truly yours,

  
ROBERT T. STEPHAN  
Attorney General of Kansas

  
Richard D. Smith  
Assistant Attorney General