A BILL

To allow a county to purchase public health-related items and communication equipment without competitive bidding, solicit bids electronically, and open bids during a meeting held electronically during the period of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020, and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. Sections 307.86 and 307.861 of the Revised Code are suspended with respect to purchases for resources and supplies necessary to public health and communications equipment during the period of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020.

Section 2. Divisions (A) and (C) of section 307.87 of the Revised Code are suspended during the period of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020. Instead, a county contracting authority as defined in section 307.92 of the Revised Code shall post the notice on the
contracting authority's internet web site for at least two weeks preceding the day of the opening of bids.

Section 3. During the period of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020, a county contracting authority as defined in section 307.92 of the Revised Code may open bids under section 307.88 of the Revised Code during a meeting conducted via teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology whereby the contracting authority and the public attends via teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology. The notice required under section 307.87 of the Revised Code shall indicate the "place where bids will be opened" is via electronic means and shall indicate how to obtain access to the teleconference, video conference, or other similar electronic technology.

Section 4. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to allow counties flexibility during the COVID-19 disease outbreak. Therefore, this act shall go into immediate effect.