Cooperative purchasing in South Carolina is authorized by South Carolina State Statutes:

**Title 11 Public Finance**

**Chapter 35 South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code**

**Article 19 Intergovernmental Relations**

**SUBARTICLE 3. COOPERATIVE PURCHASING**

**SECTION 11-35-4810.** Cooperative purchasing authorized.

Any public procurement unit may participate in, sponsor, conduct, or administer a cooperative purchasing agreement for the procurement of any supplies, services, or construction with one or more public procurement units or external procurement activities in accordance with an agreement entered into between the participants. Such cooperative purchasing may include, but is not limited to, joint or multi-party contracts between public procurement units and open-ended state public procurement unit contracts which shall be made available to local public procurement units, except as provided in Section 11-35-4820 or except as may otherwise be limited by the board through regulations.

However, thirty days notice of a proposed multi-state solicitation shall be provided through central advertising and such contracts may be only awarded to manufacturers who will be distributing the products to South Carolina governmental bodies through South Carolina vendors.

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**NJPA Interpretation**

The statute authorizes "public procurement units" to participate in cooperative purchasing agreements like those established by NJPA. The State's definition of public procurement unit includes cities, counties, and school districts.

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