

Illinois Ethics Law

(30 ILCS 500/50-37)

Sec. 50-37. Prohibition of political contributions.

(a) As used in this Section:

The terms "contract", "State contract", and "contract with a State agency" each mean any contract, as defined in this Code, between a business entity and a State agency let or awarded pursuant to this Code. The terms "contract", "State contract", and "contract with a State agency" do not include cost reimbursement contracts; purchase of care agreements as defined in Section 1-15.68 of this Code; grants, including but are not limited to grants for job training or transportation; and grants, loans, or tax credit agreements for economic development purposes.

"Contribution" means a contribution as defined in Section 9-1.4 of the Election Code.

"Declared candidate" means a person who has filed a statement of candidacy and petition for nomination or election in the principal office of the State Board of Elections.

"State agency" means and includes all boards, commissions, agencies, institutions, authorities, and bodies politic and corporate of the State, created by or in accordance with the Illinois Constitution or State statute, of the executive branch of State government and does include colleges, universities, public employee retirement systems, and institutions under the jurisdiction of the governing boards of the University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Eastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois University, Chicago State University, Governors State University, Northeastern Illinois University, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

"Officeholder" means the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller, or Treasurer. The Governor shall be considered the officeholder responsible for awarding all contracts by all officers and employees of, and vendors and others doing business with, executive branch State agencies under the jurisdiction of the Executive Ethics Commission and not within the jurisdiction of the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Comptroller, or the Treasurer.

"Sponsoring entity" means a sponsoring entity as defined in Section 9-3 of the Election Code.

"Affiliated person" means (i) any person with any ownership interest or distributive share of the bidding or contracting business entity in excess of 7.5%, (ii) executive employees of the bidding or contracting business entity, and (iii) the spouse and minor children of any such persons.

"Affiliated entity" means (i) any subsidiary of the

bidding or contracting business entity, (ii) any member of the same unitary business group, (iii) any organization recognized by the United States Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt organization described in Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or any successor provision of federal tax law) established by the bidding or contracting business entity, any affiliated entity of that business entity, or any affiliated person of that business entity, or (iv) any political committee for which the bidding or contracting business entity, or any 501(c) organization described in item (iii) related to that business entity, is the sponsoring entity.

"Business entity" means any entity doing business for profit, whether organized as a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, limited liability company or partnership, or otherwise.

"Executive employee" means the President, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, or other employee with executive decision-making authority over the long-term and day-to-day affairs of the entity employing the employee, or an employee whose compensation is determined directly, in whole or in part, by the award or payment of contracts by a State agency to the entity employing the employee.

(b) Any business entity whose contracts with State agencies, in the aggregate, annually total more than \$50,000, and any affiliated entities or affiliated persons of such business entity, are prohibited from making any contributions to any political committees established to promote the candidacy of (i) the officeholder responsible for awarding the contracts or (ii) any other declared candidate for that office. This prohibition shall be effective for the duration of the term of office of the incumbent officeholder awarding the contracts or for a period of 2 years following the expiration or termination of the contracts, whichever is longer.

(c) Any business entity whose aggregate pending bids and proposals on State contracts total more than \$50,000, or whose aggregate pending bids and proposals on State contracts combined with the business entity's aggregate annual total value of State contracts exceed \$50,000, and any affiliated entities or affiliated persons of such business entity, are prohibited from making any contributions to any political committee established to promote the candidacy of the officeholder responsible for awarding the contract on which the business entity has submitted a bid or proposal during the period beginning on the date the invitation for bids or request for proposals is issued and ending on the day after the date the contract is awarded.

(d) All contracts between State agencies and a business entity that violate subsection (b) or (c) shall be voidable under Section 50-60. If a business entity violates subsection (b) 3 or more times within a 36-month period, then all contracts between State agencies and that business entity shall be void, and that business entity shall not bid or respond to any invitation to bid or request for proposals from any State agency or otherwise

enter into any contract with any State agency for 3 years from the date of the last violation. A notice of each violation and the penalty imposed shall be published in both the Procurement Bulletin and the Illinois Register.

(e) Any political committee that has received a contribution in violation of subsection (b) or (c) shall pay an amount equal to the value of the contribution to the State no more than 30 days after notice of the violation concerning the contribution appears in the Illinois Register. Payments received by the State pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into the general revenue fund.

(Source: P.A. 95-971, eff. 1-1-09.)