

STATE OF NEW YORK

5839

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 26, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. GALEF, ABINANTI, PAULIN, J. RIVERA, GOTTFRIED, MAGNARELLI, ENGLEBRIGHT, COLTON, HEVESI, SANTABARBARA, LAVINE, CAHILL, JACOBSON, STECK, ASHBY, GOODELL, TAGUE, B. MILLER, FERNANDEZ, REYES, RA, MONTESANO, MORINELLO, J. M. GIGLIO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. DAVILA, MANKTELOW, McDONOUGH, SIMON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to government vendor contributions

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The election law is amended by adding a new section 14-131 to read as follows:

§ 14-131. Government vendor contributions. 1. For the purpose of this section, "state governmental entity" shall mean any public authority, public benefit corporation or not-for-profit corporation, the majority of whose board members are officials of the state or are appointed by such officials.

2. (a) It shall be unlawful during the restricted vendor contribution period for any person, organization, group of persons, or business entity that submits a bid, quotation, offer or response to a state governmental entity posting or solicitation for procurement to make a contribution to any officeholder of or with authority over the state governmental entity or entities responsible for issuing such procurement posting or solicitation, evaluating responses to the procurement posting or solicitation for purposes of determining an award, or approving the selection of an awardee, or awarding the final contract, or to any candidate for an office of such governmental entity, including to such officeholder's or candidate's authorized political committees or political committees the officeholder or candidate exerts operational control over. It shall further be unlawful, pursuant to section 14-120 of this article, to make contributions to political committees not

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 authorized or operationally controlled by the officeholder or candidate
2 for the purpose of transferring a contribution to the officeholder's or
3 candidate's authorized political committees or political committees they
4 exert operational control over.

5 (b) For purposes of this section the assembly and senate shall be
6 separate and distinct governmental entities when a particular posting or
7 solicitation for procurement is issued by only one respective house.

8 (c) The state governmental entity directly responsible for issuing
9 such posting or solicitation for procurement shall include a notice of
10 the prohibition established by this section and the state governmental
11 entity responsible for evaluating responses to such posting or solicita-
12 tion shall provide to any person, organization, group of persons, or
13 business entity that submits a proposal in response to such posting or
14 solicitation a notice of the prohibition established by this section and
15 the restricted vendor contribution period commencement date.

16 3. As used in this section "business entity" means a business corpo-
17 ration, professional services corporation, limited liability company,
18 partnership, limited partnership, business trust, association or any
19 other legal commercial entity organized under the laws of this state or
20 any other state or foreign jurisdiction, including any subsidiary
21 directly or indirectly controlled by the business entity, and any poli-
22 tical organization, including but not limited to any political organiza-
23 tion organized under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code, that is
24 directly or indirectly controlled by the business entity.

25 4. The restricted vendor contribution period described in this section
26 shall commence, with respect to a specific person, organization, group
27 of persons, or business entity when it files a statement of registration
28 pursuant to section one-e of the legislative law, or engages lobbying,
29 as defined by subdivision (c) of section one-c of the legislative law,
30 to generate a procurement opportunity or pilot program or submits a bid,
31 quotation, offer or response to the state governmental entity posting or
32 solicitation, at the earliest posting, on a state governmental entity's
33 website, in a newspaper of general circulation or in the procurement
34 opportunities newsletter in accordance with article four-C of the
35 economic development law of written notice, advertisement or sollicita-
36 tion of a request for proposal, invitation for bids, or solicitations of
37 proposals, or any other method provided for by law or regulation for
38 soliciting a response from offerers intending to result in a procurement
39 contract with a state governmental entity. The restricted vendor
40 contribution period does not apply to a person, organization, group of
41 persons or business entity that is responding to a state governmental
42 entity's request for information or other informational exchanges occur-
43 ring prior to such governmental entity's posting or solicitation for
44 procurement provided it has not filed a statement of registration pursu-
45 ant to section one-e of the legislative law or engaged in lobbying, as
46 defined by subdivision (c) of section one-c of the legislative law, to
47 generate a procurement opportunity or pilot program.

48 5. The restricted vendor contribution period described in this section
49 shall end with respect to a specific person, organization, group of
50 persons, or business entity if:

51 (a) the person, organization, group of persons, or business entity is
52 the recipient of the final contract award, the restricted vendor
53 contribution period shall end six months after the final contract award
54 and approval by the state governmental entity and, where applicable, the
55 state comptroller and if the person, organization, group of persons or

1 business entity does not lobby on the execution of the contract after
2 its award; or

3 (b) the person, organization, group of persons, or business entity is
4 not the recipient of the final contract award, the restricted vendor
5 contribution period shall end with the final contract award and approval
6 by the state governmental entity and, where applicable, the state comp-
7 troller.

8 6. The restricted vendor contribution period shall recommence if a
9 person, organization, group of persons or business entity engages in
10 activity pursuant to subdivision four of this section.

11 § 2. Section 14-126 of the election law is amended by adding a new
12 subdivision 8 to read as follows:

13 8. (a) Any person, organization, group of persons, or business entity
14 as that term is used in section 14-131 of this article, who, under
15 circumstances evincing an intent to violate such law, makes a contrib-
16 ution in contravention of section 14-131 of this article shall be
17 subject to a civil penalty not to exceed the greater of ten thousand
18 dollars or an amount equal to two hundred percent of the contribution,
19 to be recoverable in a special proceeding or civil action to be brought
20 by the state board of elections chief enforcement counsel.

21 (b) Any person who, acting as or on behalf of an officeholder, candi-
22 date, or political committee, accepts a contribution or receives a
23 transfer in contravention of section 14-131 of this article shall be
24 required to refund such contribution.

25 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
26 it shall have become a law.