# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 327**

***January Session, 2025***

Substitute Senate Bill No. 953

*Senate, March 31, 2025*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT REDEFINING "STATE CONTRACTOR", "PROSPECTIVE STATE CONTRACTOR" AND "SUBCONTRACTOR" TO EXCLUDE STATUTORILY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES OF THIS STATE FOR PURPOSES OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 9-612 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(f) (1) As used in this subsection and subsections (g) and (h) of this section:

(A) "Quasi-public agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-120.

(B) "State agency" means any office, department, board, council, commission, institution or other agency in the executive or legislative branch of state government.

(C) "State contract" means an agreement or contract with the state or any state agency or any quasi-public agency, let through a procurement process or otherwise, having a value of fifty thousand dollars or more, or a combination or series of such agreements or contracts having a value of one hundred thousand dollars or more in a calendar year, for (i) the rendition of services, (ii) the furnishing of any goods, material, supplies, equipment or any items of any kind, (iii) the construction, alteration or repair of any public building or public work, (iv) the acquisition, sale or lease of any land or building, (v) a licensing arrangement, or (vi) a grant, loan or loan guarantee. "State contract" does not include any agreement or contract with the state, any state agency or any quasi-public agency that is exclusively federally funded, an education loan, a loan to an individual for other than commercial purposes or any agreement or contract between the state or any state agency and the United States Department of the Navy or the United States Department of Defense.

(D) "State contractor" means a person, business entity or nonprofit organization that enters into a state contract. Such person, business entity or nonprofit organization shall be deemed to be a state contractor until December thirty-first of the year in which such contract terminates. "State contractor" does not include a municipality, **[**or**]** any other political subdivision of the state or any Indian tribe of this state recognized under subsection (b) of section 47-59a, including any entities or associations duly created by the municipality, **[**or**]** political subdivision or Indian tribe exclusively amongst themselves to further any purpose authorized by statute, **[**or**]** charter or tribal law, or an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state government or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or unclassified service and full or part-time, and only in such person's capacity as a state or quasi-public agency employee.

(E) "Prospective state contractor" means a person, business entity or nonprofit organization that (i) submits a response to a state contract solicitation by the state, a state agency or a quasi-public agency, or a proposal in response to a request for proposals by the state, a state

agency or a quasi-public agency, until the contract has been entered into, or (ii) holds a valid prequalification certificate issued by the Commissioner of Administrative Services under section 4a-100. "Prospective state contractor" does not include a municipality, [or] any other political subdivision of the state or any Indian tribe of this state recognized under subsection (b) of section 47-59a, including any entities or associations duly created by the municipality, [or] political subdivision or Indian tribe exclusively amongst themselves to further any purpose authorized by statute, [or] charter or tribal law, or an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state government or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or unclassified service and full or part-time, and only in such person's capacity as a state or quasi-public agency employee.

(F) "Principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor" means (i) any individual who is a member of the board of directors of, or has an ownership interest of five per cent or more in, a state contractor or prospective state contractor, which is a business entity, except for an individual who is a member of the board of directors of a nonprofit organization, (ii) an individual who is employed by a state contractor or prospective state contractor, which is a business entity, as president, treasurer or executive vice president, (iii) an individual who is the chief executive officer of a state contractor or prospective state contractor, which is not a business entity, or if a state contractor or prospective state contractor has no such officer, then the officer who duly possesses comparable powers and duties, (iv) an officer or an employee of any state contractor or prospective state contractor who has managerial or discretionary responsibilities with respect to a state contract, (v) the spouse or a dependent child who is eighteen years of age or older of an individual described in this subparagraph, or (vi) a political committee established or controlled by an individual described in this subparagraph or the business entity or nonprofit organization that is the state contractor or prospective state contractor.

(G) "Dependent child" means a child residing in an individual's household who may legally be claimed as a dependent on the federal

income tax return of such individual.

(H) "Managerial or discretionary responsibilities with respect to a state contract" means having direct, extensive and substantive responsibilities with respect to the negotiation of the state contract and not peripheral, clerical or ministerial responsibilities.

(I) "Rendition of services" means the provision of any service to a state agency or quasi-public agency in exchange for a fee, remuneration or compensation of any kind from the state or through an arrangement with the state.

(J) "State contract solicitation" means a request by a state agency or quasi-public agency, in whatever form issued, including, but not limited to, an invitation to bid, request for proposals, request for information or request for quotes, inviting bids, quotes or other types of submittals, through a competitive procurement process or another process authorized by law waiving competitive procurement.

(K) "Subcontractor" means any person, business entity or nonprofit organization that contracts to perform part or all of the obligations of a state contractor's state contract. Such person, business entity or nonprofit organization shall be deemed to be a subcontractor until December thirty-first of the year in which the subcontract terminates. "Subcontractor" does not include (i) a municipality, **[**or**]** any other political subdivision of the state or any Indian tribe of this state recognized under subsection (b) of section 47-59a, including any entities or associations duly created by the municipality, **[**or**]** political subdivision or Indian tribe exclusively amongst themselves to further any purpose authorized by statute, **[**or**]** charter or tribal law, or (ii) an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state government or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or unclassified service and full or part-time, and only in such person's capacity as a state or quasi-public agency employee.

(L) "Principal of a subcontractor" means (i) any individual who is a member of the board of directors of, or has an ownership interest of five

per cent or more in, a subcontractor, which is a business entity, except for an individual who is a member of the board of directors of a nonprofit organization, (ii) an individual who is employed by a subcontractor, which is a business entity, as president, treasurer or executive vice president, (iii) an individual who is the chief executive officer of a subcontractor, which is not a business entity, or if a subcontractor has no such officer, then the officer who duly possesses comparable powers and duties, (iv) an officer or an employee of any subcontractor who has managerial or discretionary responsibilities with respect to a subcontract with a state contractor, (v) the spouse or a dependent child who is eighteen years of age or older of an individual described in this subparagraph, or (vi) a political committee established or controlled by an individual described in this subparagraph or the business entity or nonprofit organization that is the subcontractor.

(2) (A) No state contractor, prospective state contractor, principal of a state contractor or principal of a prospective state contractor, with regard to a state contract or a state contract solicitation with or from a state agency in the executive branch or a quasi-public agency or a holder, or principal of a holder, of a valid prequalification certificate, shall make a contribution to, or, on and after January 1, 2011, knowingly solicit contributions from the state contractor's or prospective state contractor's employees or from a subcontractor or principals of the subcontractor on behalf of (i) an exploratory committee or candidate committee established by a candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer, (ii) a political committee authorized to make contributions or expenditures to or for the benefit of such candidates, or (iii) a party committee;

(B) No state contractor, prospective state contractor, principal of a state contractor or principal of a prospective state contractor, with regard to a state contract or a state contract solicitation with or from the General Assembly or a holder, or principal of a holder, of a valid prequalification certificate, shall make a contribution to, or, on and after January 1, 2011, knowingly solicit contributions from the state

contractor's or prospective state contractor's employees or from a subcontractor or principals of the subcontractor on behalf of (i) an exploratory committee or candidate committee established by a candidate for nomination or election to the office of state senator or state representative, (ii) a political committee authorized to make contributions or expenditures to or for the benefit of such candidates, or (iii) a party committee;

(C) If a state contractor or principal of a state contractor makes or solicits a contribution as prohibited under subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision, as determined by the State Elections Enforcement Commission, the contracting state agency or quasi-public agency may, in the case of a state contract executed on or after February 8, 2007, void the existing contract with such contractor, and no state agency or quasi-public agency shall award the state contractor a state contract or an extension or an amendment to a state contract for one year after the election for which such contribution is made or solicited unless the commission determines that mitigating circumstances exist concerning such violation. No violation of the prohibitions contained in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision shall be deemed to have occurred if, and only if, the improper contribution is returned to the principal by the later of thirty days after receipt of such contribution by the recipient committee treasurer or the filing date that corresponds with the reporting period in which such contribution was made;

(D) If a prospective state contractor or principal of a prospective state contractor makes or solicits a contribution as prohibited under subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision, as determined by the State Elections Enforcement Commission, no state agency or quasi-public agency shall award the prospective state contractor the contract described in the state contract solicitation or any other state contract for one year after the election for which such contribution is made or solicited unless the commission determines that mitigating circumstances exist concerning such violation. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall notify applicants of the provisions of this subparagraph and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision during

the prequalification application process;

(E) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall make available to each state agency and quasi-public agency a written notice advising state contractors and prospective state contractors of the contribution and solicitation prohibitions contained in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision. Such notice shall: (i) Direct each state contractor and prospective state contractor to inform each individual described in subparagraph (F) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, with regard to such state contractor or prospective state contractor, about the provisions of subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision, whichever is applicable, and this subparagraph; (ii) inform each state contractor and prospective state contractor of the civil and criminal penalties that could be imposed for violations of such prohibitions if any such contribution is made or solicited; (iii) inform each state contractor and prospective state contractor that, in the case of a state contractor, if any such contribution is made or solicited, the contract may be voided; (iv) inform each state contractor and prospective state contractor that, in the case of a prospective state contractor, if any such contribution is made or solicited, the contract described in the state contract solicitation shall not be awarded, unless the commission determines that mitigating circumstances exist concerning such violation; and (v) inform each state contractor and prospective state contractor that the state will not award any other state contract to anyone found in violation of such prohibitions for a period of one year after the election for which such contribution is made or solicited, unless the commission determines that mitigating circumstances exist concerning such violation. Each state agency and quasi-public agency shall include in the bid specifications or request for proposals for a state contract, a copy of or Internet link to such notice. No state agency or quasi-public agency shall execute a state contract unless such contract contains a representation that the chief executive officer or authorized signatory of the contract has received such notice; and

(F) (i) Any principal of the state contractor or prospective state contractor submitting a bid or proposal for a state contract shall certify

that neither the contractor or prospective state contractor, nor any of its principals, have made any contributions to, or solicited any contributions on behalf of, any party committee, exploratory committee, candidate for state-wide office or for the General Assembly, or political committee authorized to make contributions to or expenditures to or for, the benefit of such candidates, in the previous four years, that were determined by the State Elections Enforcement Commission to be in violation of subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision, without mitigating circumstances having been found to exist concerning such violation. Each such certification shall be sworn as true to the best knowledge and belief of the person signing the certification, subject to the penalties of false statement. If there is any change in the information contained in the most recently filed certification, such person shall submit an updated certification not later than thirty days after the effective date of any such change or upon the submittal of any new bid or proposal for a state contract, whichever is earlier.

(ii) Each state agency and quasi-public agency shall include in the bid specifications or request for proposals for a state contract a notice of the certification requirements of this subparagraph. No state agency or quasi-public agency shall execute a state contract unless the state agency or quasi-public agency obtains the written certification described in this subparagraph.

(iii) Any principal of the state contractor or prospective state contractor submitting a bid or proposal for a state contract shall disclose on the certification all contributions made by any of its principals to any party committee, exploratory committee, candidate for state-wide office or for the General Assembly, or political committee authorized to make contributions to or expenditures to or for the benefit of such candidates for a period of four years prior to the signing of the contract or date of the response to the bid, whichever is longer, and certify that all such contributions have been disclosed.

(3) (A) On and after December 31, 2006, neither the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of

the State or State Treasurer, any candidate for any such office nor any agent of any such official or candidate shall knowingly, wilfully or intentionally solicit contributions on behalf of an exploratory committee or candidate committee established by a candidate for nomination or election to any public office, a political committee or a party committee, from a person who he or she knows is prohibited from making contributions, including a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor with regard to a state contract solicitation with or from a state agency in the executive branch or a quasi-public agency or a holder of a valid prequalification certificate.

(B) On and after December 31, 2006, neither a member of the General Assembly, any candidate for any such office nor any agent of any such official or candidate shall knowingly, wilfully or intentionally solicit contributions on behalf of an exploratory committee or candidate committee established by a candidate for nomination or election to any public office, a political committee or a party committee, from a person who he or she knows is prohibited from making contributions, including a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor with regard to a state contract solicitation with or from the General Assembly or a holder of a valid prequalification certificate.

(4) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the campaign of a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor or to a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor who is an elected public official.

(5) Each state contractor and prospective state contractor shall make reasonable efforts to comply with the provisions of this subsection. If the State Elections Enforcement Commission determines that a state contractor or prospective state contractor has failed to make reasonable efforts to comply with this subsection, the commission may impose civil penalties against such state contractor or prospective state contractor in accordance with subsection (a) of section 9-7b.

| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
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| Section 1 | *October 1, 2025* | 9-612(f) |

***GAE*** *Joint Favorable Subst.*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

## *OFA Fiscal Note*

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

### *Explanation*

The bill expands existing exemptions from certain definitions under state campaign finance law to statutorily recognized Indian tribes, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

### *The Out Years*

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sSB 953**

***AN ACT REDEFINING "STATE CONTRACTOR", "PROSPECTIVE STATE CONTRACTOR" AND "SUBCONTRACTOR" TO EXCLUDE STATUTORILY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES OF THIS STATE FOR PURPOSES OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS.***

## SUMMARY

This bill exempts statutorily recognized Indian tribes in this state, as well as any entities or associations created by the tribes and its political subdivisions under tribal law, from certain definitions under a state campaign finance law.

Specifically, it applies to the definitions of "state contractor," "prospective state contractor," and "subcontractor" under the state campaign finance law that generally prohibits these contractors from making contributions to statewide and legislative candidates for public office and restricts these candidates from knowingly, willfully, or intentionally accepting contributions from these contractors (see BACKGROUND). Existing law also generally exempts from these definitions (1) municipalities or other political subdivisions of the state, (2) executive or legislative branch employees, and (3) quasi-public employees.

State law statutorily recognizes the Schaghticoke, the Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, the Mashantucket Pequot, the Mohegan, and the Golden Hill Paugussett tribes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

## BACKGROUND

### *Campaign Finance Prohibitions Regarding Contractors*

State law generally bans state contractors, prospective state contractors, pre-qualified contractors, subcontractors, and their

principals from making contributions to or on behalf of the following recipients: (1) exploratory or candidate committees for statewide or legislative candidates, (2) political committees authorized to make contributions to or spend on behalf of candidates for statewide or legislative office, or (3) party committees.

Contractors are also prohibited from soliciting contributions for these committees from their employees, subcontractors, or subcontractors' principals. The prohibitions are branch-specific (e.g., a state contractor contracted with the General Assembly may not engage in these prohibited activities for legislative contests).

Relatedly, constitutional officers, legislators, candidates for these offices, and their agents generally may not knowingly, willfully, or intentionally solicit contributions from a prohibited entity for any exploratory, candidate, political, or party committee.

## COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/12/2025)