

SENATE, No. 2729

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Debars permanently from government contracting any person convicted of certain crimes involving government contracts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT barring certain persons from working on government
2 contracts and supplementing chapter 32 of Title 52 of the
3 Revised Statutes and chapter 21 of Title 2C of the New Jersey
4 Statutes.

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6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
7 *of New Jersey:*

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9 1. a. A person who is convicted of a crime under subsection a.
10 or b. of section 97 of P.L.1999, c.440 (C.2C:21-34) shall be
11 permanently barred from:

12 (1) contracting with a contracting agency; or

13 (2) serving as a key employee of any entity that is contracting
14 with a contracting agency or any affiliate of such an entity.

15 b. As used in this section:

16 “Affiliate” means any entity that (1) directly, indirectly, or
17 constructively controls another entity, (2) is directly, indirectly, or
18 constructively controlled by another entity, or (3) is subject to the
19 control of a common entity. An entity controls another entity if it
20 owns, directly or individually, more than 50% of the ownership
21 interest in that entity;

22 “Contract” means a contract or agreement at or above the
23 contracting agency’s bid threshold to procure services or any
24 material, supplies or equipment, or for any project involving
25 construction, renovation, or restoration;

26 “Contracting agency” means the principal departments in the
27 Executive Branch of the State Government, and any division, board,
28 bureau, office, commission or other instrumentality within or
29 created by such department, or any independent State authority,
30 commission, instrumentality or agency, or any State college or
31 university, any county college, or any local unit;

32 “Key employee” means any natural person employed with an
33 entity in a supervisory capacity or empowered to make
34 discretionary decisions regarding business operations, including,
35 but not limited to, presidents, vice-presidents, chief executive
36 officers, chief financial officers, chief information officers, chief
37 operating officers, directors, and supervisory managers;

38 “Local unit” means any contracting unit as defined pursuant to
39 section 2 of P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-2) and any board of
40 education as defined pursuant to N.J.S.18A:18A-2.

41 c. Prior to awarding any contract to any person or entity, that
42 person or entity shall provide a written certification to the
43 contracting agency that the person or the key employees of the
44 entity and its affiliates are not permanently debarred pursuant to
45 subsection a. of this section. A contracting agency shall not make,
46 negotiate, or award a contract to any person or entity that does not
47 provide such written certification as required by this subsection.

1 d. The Department of the Treasury, in consultation with the
2 Division of Local Government Services in the Department of
3 Community Affairs, shall provide each contracting agency with
4 appropriate language reflecting the obligations of contractors under
5 this section that the contracting agency shall include in any contract
6 document, bid specification, requests for proposals, or other
7 documents notifying potential contractors of contract opportunities
8 with a contracting agency.

9 e. In situations of an emergent nature, a contracting agency
10 may enter into a contract with a person or entity, provided that the
11 contractor agrees to provide the written certification required
12 pursuant to subsection c. of this section within two weeks of the
13 execution of the contract. The contracting agency shall not make
14 final payment to the contractor until such time as the contractor
15 provides the written certification. Failure to pay the contractor until
16 the written certification is received shall not be grounds for the
17 agency being liable for payment.

18 f. The requirements of this section shall not apply with regard
19 to purchases made pursuant to sections 1 and 7 of P.L.1996, c.16
20 (C.52:34-6.1 and C.52:34-6.2).

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22 2. Upon conviction of a person of a crime under subsection a.
23 or b. of section 97 of P.L.1999, c.440 (C.2C:21-34), the county
24 prosecutor or Attorney General shall provide notice of that
25 conviction to the contracting agency that awarded the government
26 contract at issue in that conviction.

27 The county prosecutor shall notify the Attorney General of any
28 person who is convicted of a crime under subsection a. or b. of
29 section 97 of P.L.1999, c.440 (C.2C:21-34). The Attorney General
30 shall notify the State Treasurer of all relevant convictions under
31 section 97 of P.L.1999, c.440 (C.2C:21-34) and the State Treasurer
32 shall maintain a list of all persons who have been permanently
33 debarred pursuant to subsection a. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)
34 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The list shall be made
35 available to the public through the Internet. The contracting agency
36 shall have the right to rely solely on the contractor's certification
37 and the list provided by the State Treasurer.

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39 3. This act shall take effect on the 30th day after the date of
40 enactment.

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STATEMENT

45 This bill provides that any person who is convicted under
46 subsection a. or b. of N.J.S.A.2C:21-34 will be permanently
47 debarred from contracting or from working as a key employee of a
48 contractor, or any affiliate, that is contracting with a government

1 entity. These subsections involve fraudulent activity in relation to
2 government contracts.

3 The bill requires the State Treasurer to publish and maintain a
4 list on the Internet of permanently debarred persons. Persons or
5 entities wishing to contract with a government entity will be
6 required to file a written certification stating that the person or
7 entity and any key employees are not permanently debarred
8 pursuant to this bill. In some emergency situations, the contractor
9 may submit the written certification after the contract has been
10 awarded. The contracting agency will have the right to rely solely
11 on the contractor's certification and the list provided by the State
12 Treasurer.

13 This bill does not apply to purchases from federal supply
14 schedules or cooperative purchasing agreements with one or more
15 states.