
SENATE BILL No. 559

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 35-44-1-3.

Synopsis: Conflict of interest. Specifies certain definitions and defenses that apply to the crime of conflict of interest.

Effective: July 1, 2011.

Bray

January 20, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on Corrections, Criminal, and Civil Matters.

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First Regular Session 117th General Assembly (2011)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2010 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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SENATE BILL No. 559



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning criminal law and procedure.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 35-44-1-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2011]: Sec. 3. **(a) This section**
3 **does not apply to members of the governing board of a hospital**
4 **organized or operated under IC 16-22-1 through IC 16-22-5 or**
5 **IC 16-23-1.**

6 **(b) The following definitions apply throughout this section:**
7 **(1) "Dependent" means any of the following:**
8 **(A) The spouse of a public servant.**
9 **(B) A child, stepchild, or adoptee (as defined in**
10 **IC 31-9-2-2) of a public servant who is:**
11 **(i) unemancipated; and**
12 **(ii) less than eighteen (18) years of age.**
13 **(C) An individual more than one-half (1/2) of whose**
14 **support is provided during a year by the public servant.**
15 **(2) "Governmental entity served by the public servant" means**
16 **the immediate governmental entity being served by a public**
17 **servant. The term does not include any other governmental**



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unit related to the immediate governmental entity.
(3) "Pecuniary interest" means an interest in a contract or purchase if the contract or purchase will result or is intended to result in an ascertainable increase in the income or net worth of:

- (A) the public servant; or**
- (B) a dependent of the public servant who:**
 - (i) is under the direct or indirect administrative control of the public servant; or**
 - (ii) receives a contract or purchase order that is reviewed, approved, or directly or indirectly administered by the public servant.**

(a) (c) A public servant who knowingly or intentionally:

- (1) has a pecuniary interest in; or**
- (2) derives a profit from;**

a contract or purchase connected with an action by the governmental entity served by the public servant commits conflict of interest, a Class D felony.

(b) This section does not prohibit a public servant from receiving compensation for:

- (1) services provided as a public servant; or**
- (2) expenses incurred by the public servant as provided by law.**

(c) This section does not prohibit a public servant from having a pecuniary interest in or deriving a profit from a contract or purchase connected with the governmental entity served under any of the following conditions:

- (1) If the:**
 - (A) public servant is not a member or on the staff of the governing body empowered to contract or purchase on behalf of the governmental entity;**
 - (B) functions and duties performed by the public servant for the governmental entity are unrelated to the contract or purchase; and**
 - (C) public servant makes a disclosure under subsection (d)(1) through (d)(6).**

(2) If the contract or purchase involves utility services from a utility whose rate structure is regulated by the state or federal government.

(3) If the public servant:

- (A) is an elected public servant or a member of the board of trustees of a state supported college or university; and**
- (B) makes a disclosure under subsection (d)(1) through (d)(6).**

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- 1 (4) If the public servant:
- 2 (A) was appointed by an elected public servant or the board of
- 3 trustees of a state supported college or university; and
- 4 (B) makes a disclosure under subsection (d)(1) through (d)(7):
- 5 (5) If the public servant:
- 6 (A) acts in only an advisory capacity for a state supported
- 7 college or university; and
- 8 (B) does not have authority to act on behalf of the college or
- 9 university in a matter involving a contract or purchase:
- 10 (6) If the public servant:
- 11 (A) is employed by the governing body of a school corporation
- 12 and the contract or purchase involves the employment of a
- 13 dependent or the payment of fees to a dependent; and
- 14 (B) makes a disclosure under subsection (d)(1) through (d)(6):
- 15 (7) If the public servant is under the jurisdiction of the state ethics
- 16 commission as provided in IC 4-2-6-2.5 and obtains from the state
- 17 ethics commission, following full and truthful disclosure, written
- 18 approval that the public servant will not or does not have a
- 19 conflict of interest in connection with the contract or purchase
- 20 under IC 4-2-6 and this section. The approval required under this
- 21 subdivision must be:
- 22 (A) granted to the public servant before action is taken in
- 23 connection with the contract or purchase by the governmental
- 24 entity served; or
- 25 (B) sought by the public servant as soon after the contract or
- 26 purchase as the public servant becomes aware of the facts that
- 27 give rise to a question of conflict of interest.
- 28 (d) A disclosure required by this section must:
- 29 (1) be in writing;
- 30 (2) describe the contract or purchase to be made by the
- 31 governmental entity;
- 32 (3) describe the pecuniary interest that the public servant has in
- 33 the contract or purchase;
- 34 (4) be affirmed under penalty of perjury;
- 35 (5) be submitted to the governmental entity and be accepted by
- 36 the governmental entity in a public meeting of the governmental
- 37 entity prior to final action on the contract or purchase;
- 38 (6) be filed within fifteen (15) days after final action on the
- 39 contract or purchase with:
- 40 (A) the state board of accounts; and
- 41 (B) if the governmental entity is a governmental entity other
- 42 than the state or a state supported college or university; the

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1 clerk of the circuit court in the county where the governmental
2 entity takes final action on the contract or purchase; and
3 (7) contain; if the public servant is appointed; the written approval
4 of the elected public servant (if any) or the board of trustees of a
5 state supported college or university (if any) that appointed the
6 public servant.
7 (e) The state board of accounts shall forward to the state ethics
8 commission a copy of all disclosures filed with the board under
9 IC 16-22-2 through IC 16-22-5, IC 16-23-1, or this section.
10 (f) The state ethics commission shall maintain an index of all
11 disclosures received by the commission. The index must contain a
12 listing of each public servant; setting forth the disclosures received by
13 the commission made by that public servant.
14 (g) A public servant has a pecuniary interest in a contract or
15 purchase if the contract or purchase will result or is intended to result
16 in an ascertainable increase in the income or net worth of:
17 (1) the public servant; or
18 (2) a dependent of the public servant who:
19 (A) is under the direct or indirect administrative control of the
20 public servant; or
21 (B) receives a contract or purchase order that is reviewed;
22 approved; or directly or indirectly administered by the public
23 servant.
24 (h) It is a defense in a prosecution under this section that the public
25 servant's interest in the contract or purchase and all other contracts and
26 purchases made by the governmental entity during the twelve (12)
27 months before the date of the contract or purchase was two hundred
28 fifty dollars (\$250) or less.
29 (i) Notwithstanding subsection (d); a member of the board of
30 trustees of a state supported college or university; or a person appointed
31 by such a board of trustees; complies with the disclosure requirements
32 of this chapter with respect to the member's or person's pecuniary
33 interest in a particular type of contract or purchase which is made on
34 a regular basis from a particular vendor if the member or person files
35 with the state board of accounts and the board of trustees a statement
36 of pecuniary interest in that particular type of contract or purchase
37 made with that particular vendor. The statement required by this
38 subsection must be made on an annual basis.
39 (j) This section does not apply to members of the governing board
40 of a hospital organized or operated under IC 16-22-1 through
41 IC 16-22-5 or IC 16-23-1.
42 (k) As used in this section; "dependent" means any of the following:

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- 1 (1) The spouse of a public servant.
- 2 (2) A child, stepchild, or adoptee (as defined in IC 31-9-2-2) of a
- 3 public servant who is:
- 4 (A) unemancipated; and
- 5 (B) less than eighteen (18) years of age.
- 6 (3) Any individual more than one-half (1/2) of whose support is
- 7 provided during a year by the public servant.
- 8 **(d) The following defenses apply to a prosecution under this**
- 9 **section:**
- 10 **(1) The public servant receives compensation for:**
- 11 **(A) services provided as a public servant; or**
- 12 **(B) expenses incurred by the public servant as provided by**
- 13 **law.**
- 14 **(2) The public servant's interest in the contract or purchase**
- 15 **and all other contracts and purchases made by the**
- 16 **governmental entity during the twelve (12) months before the**
- 17 **date of the contract or purchase was two hundred fifty dollars**
- 18 **(\$250) or less.**
- 19 **(3) The contract or purchase involves utility services from a**
- 20 **utility whose rate structure is regulated by the state or federal**
- 21 **government.**
- 22 **(4) The public servant:**
- 23 **(A) acts in only an advisory capacity for a state supported**
- 24 **college or university; and**
- 25 **(B) does not have authority to act on behalf of the college**
- 26 **or university in a matter involving a contract or purchase.**
- 27 **(5) A public servant under the jurisdiction of the state ethics**
- 28 **commission (as provided in IC 4-2-6-2.5) obtains from the**
- 29 **state ethics commission, following full and truthful disclosure,**
- 30 **written approval that the public servant will not or does not**
- 31 **have a conflict of interest in connection with the contract or**
- 32 **purchase under IC 4-2-6 and this section. The approval**
- 33 **required under this subdivision must be:**
- 34 **(A) granted to the public servant before action is taken in**
- 35 **connection with the contract or purchase by the**
- 36 **governmental entity served; or**
- 37 **(B) sought by the public servant as soon after the contract**
- 38 **or purchase as the public servant becomes aware of the**
- 39 **facts that give rise to a question of conflict of interest.**
- 40 **(6) This subdivision does not apply to a public servant who is:**
- 41 **(A) not a member or on the staff of the governing body**
- 42 **empowered to contract or purchase on behalf of the**

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governmental entity, and functions and performs duties for the governmental entity unrelated to the contract or purchase;
(B) appointed by an elected public servant; or
(C) employed by the governing body of a school corporation and the contract or purchase involves the employment of a dependent or the payment of fees to a dependent.

The public servant makes a disclosure that meets the requirements of subsection (e) or (f).

(e) This subsection does not apply to a member of, or a person appointed by, the board of trustees of a state supported college or university. A disclosure described in subsection (c)(6) must:

- (1) be in writing;
- (2) describe the contract or purchase to be made by the governmental entity;
- (3) describe the pecuniary interest that the public servant has in the contract or purchase;
- (4) be affirmed under penalty of perjury;
- (5) be submitted to the governmental entity and be accepted by the governmental entity in a public meeting of the governmental entity before final action on the contract or purchase;
- (6) be filed within fifteen (15) days after final action on the contract or purchase with:
 - (A) the state board of accounts; and
 - (B) if the governmental entity is a governmental entity other than the state or a state supported college or university, the clerk of the circuit court in the county where the governmental entity takes final action on the contract or purchase; and
- (7) contain, if the public servant is appointed, the written approval of the elected public servant (if any) or the board of trustees of a state supported college or university (if any) that appointed the public servant.

(f) This subsection applies only to a person who is a member of, or a person appointed by, the board of trustees of a state supported college or university. A person to whom this subsection applies complies with the disclosure requirements of this chapter with respect to the person's pecuniary interest in a particular type of contract or purchase which is made on a regular basis from a particular vendor if the individual files with the state board of

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1 **accounts and the board of trustees a statement of pecuniary**
2 **interest in that particular type of contract or purchase made with**
3 **that particular vendor. The statement required by this subsection**
4 **must be made on an annual basis.**

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