

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 8, 2009
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 11, 2009
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2009
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 906

Introduced by Assembly Members Hill and Smyth

February 26, 2009

An act to amend Section 1091 of the Government Code, relating to conflict of interest, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 906, as amended, Hill. Conflict of interest: remote interest in a contract.

Existing law prohibits Members of the Legislature, and state, county, district, judicial district, and city officers or employees from being financially interested in any contract made by them in their official capacity, or by any body or board of which they are members. Existing law defines what is a remote interest in a contract that does not present a prohibited conflict of interest under these provisions.

This bill would revise the definition of "remote interest" to include the interest of a person who is both a member of a state, county, district, judicial district, or city body or board, and an officer or employee of an investor-owned utility in a contract related to energy efficiency encouragement programs, under specified conditions.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1091 of the Government Code is amended
2 to read:

3 1091. (a) An officer shall not be deemed to be interested in a
4 contract entered into by a body or board of which the officer is a
5 member within the meaning of this article if the officer has only
6 a remote interest in the contract and if the fact of that interest is
7 disclosed to the body or board of which the officer is a member
8 and noted in its official records, and thereafter the body or board
9 authorizes, approves, or ratifies the contract in good faith by a vote
10 of its membership sufficient for the purpose without counting the
11 vote or votes of the officer or member with the remote interest.

12 (b) As used in this article, “remote interest” means any of the
13 following:

14 (1) That of an officer or employee of a nonprofit entity exempt
15 from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
16 Code (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)) or a nonprofit corporation, except
17 as provided in paragraph (8) of subdivision (a) of Section 1091.5.

18 (2) That of an employee or agent of the contracting party, if the
19 contracting party has 10 or more other employees and if the officer
20 was an employee or agent of that contracting party for at least three
21 years prior to the officer initially accepting his or her office and
22 the officer owns less than 3 percent of the shares of stock of the
23 contracting party; and the employee or agent is not an officer or
24 director of the contracting party and did not directly participate in
25 formulating the bid of the contracting party.

26 For purposes of this paragraph, time of employment with the
27 contracting party by the officer shall be counted in computing the
28 three-year period specified in this paragraph even though the
29 contracting party has been converted from one form of business
30 organization to a different form of business organization within
31 three years of the initial taking of office by the officer. Time of
32 employment in that case shall be counted only if, after the transfer
33 or change in organization, the real or ultimate ownership of the

1 contracting party is the same or substantially similar to that which
2 existed before the transfer or change in organization. For purposes
3 of this paragraph, stockholders, bondholders, partners, or other
4 persons holding an interest in the contracting party are regarded
5 as having the “real or ultimate ownership” of the contracting party.

6 (3) That of an employee or agent of the contracting party, if all
7 of the following conditions are met:

8 (A) The agency of which the person is an officer is a local public
9 agency located in a county with a population of less than 4,000,000.

10 (B) The contract is competitively bid and is not for personal
11 services.

12 (C) The employee or agent is not in a primary management
13 capacity with the contracting party, is not an officer or director of
14 the contracting party, and holds no ownership interest in the
15 contracting party.

16 (D) The contracting party has 10 or more other employees.

17 (E) The employee or agent did not directly participate in
18 formulating the bid of the contracting party.

19 (F) The contracting party is the lowest responsible bidder.

20 (4) That of a parent in the earnings of his or her minor child for
21 personal services.

22 (5) That of a landlord or tenant of the contracting party.

23 (6) That of an attorney of the contracting party or that of an
24 owner, officer, employee, or agent of a firm that renders, or has
25 rendered, service to the contracting party in the capacity of
26 stockbroker, insurance agent, insurance broker, real estate agent,
27 or real estate broker, if these individuals have not received and
28 will not receive remuneration, consideration, or a commission as
29 a result of the contract and if these individuals have an ownership
30 interest of 10 percent or more in the law practice or firm, stock
31 brokerage firm, insurance firm, or real estate firm.

32 (7) That of a member of a nonprofit corporation formed under
33 the Food and Agricultural Code or a nonprofit corporation formed
34 under the Corporations Code for the sole purpose of engaging in
35 the merchandising of agricultural products or the supplying of
36 water.

37 (8) That of a supplier of goods or services when those goods or
38 services have been supplied to the contracting party by the officer
39 for at least five years prior to his or her election or appointment
40 to office.

1 (9) That of a person subject to the provisions of Section 1090
2 in any contract or agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions
3 of the California Land Conservation Act of 1965.

4 (10) Except as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 1091.5,
5 that of a director of, or a person having an ownership interest of,
6 10 percent or more in a bank, bank holding company, or savings
7 and loan association with which a party to the contract has a
8 relationship of borrower or depositor, debtor or creditor.

9 (11) That of an engineer, geologist, or architect employed by a
10 consulting engineering or architectural firm. This paragraph applies
11 only to an employee of a consulting firm who does not serve in a
12 primary management capacity, and does not apply to an officer or
13 director of a consulting firm.

14 (12) That of an elected officer otherwise subject to Section 1090,
15 in any housing assistance payment contract entered into pursuant
16 to Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
17 Sec. 1437f) as amended, provided that the housing assistance
18 payment contract was in existence before Section 1090 became
19 applicable to the officer and will be renewed or extended only as
20 to the existing tenant, or, in a jurisdiction in which the rental
21 vacancy rate is less than 5 percent, as to new tenants in a unit
22 previously under a Section 8 contract. This section applies to any
23 person who became a public official on or after November 1, 1986.

24 (13) That of a person receiving salary, per diem, or
25 reimbursement for expenses from a government entity.

26 (14) That of a person owning less than 3 percent of the shares
27 of a contracting party that is a for-profit corporation, provided that
28 the ownership of the shares derived from the person's employment
29 with that corporation.

30 (15) That of a party to litigation involving the body or board of
31 which the officer is a member in connection with an agreement in
32 which all of the following apply:

33 (A) The agreement is entered into as part of a settlement of
34 litigation in which the body or board is represented by legal
35 counsel.

36 (B) After a review of the merits of the agreement and other
37 relevant facts and circumstances, a court of competent jurisdiction
38 finds that the agreement serves the public interest.

1 (C) The interested member has recused himself or herself from
2 all participation, direct or indirect, in the making of the agreement
3 on behalf of the body or board.

4 (16) That of a person who is an officer or employee of an
5 investor-owned utility that is regulated by the Public Utilities
6 Commission with respect to a contract between the investor-owned
7 utility and a state, county, district, judicial district, or city body or
8 board of which the person is a member, if the contract requires the
9 investor-owned utility to provide energy efficiency rebates or other
10 type of program to encourage energy efficiency that benefits the
11 public when all of the following apply:

12 (A) The contract is funded by utility consumers pursuant to
13 regulations of the Public Utilities Commission.

14 (B) The contract is not performed for the profit of the
15 investor-owned utility and provides no individual benefit to the
16 person that is not also provided to the public.

17 (C) The person has recused himself or herself from all
18 participation in making the contract on behalf of the state, county,
19 district, judicial district, or city body or board of which he or she
20 is a member.

21 ~~(D) The contract is approved by the Public Utilities Commission.~~

22 *(D) The contract implements a program authorized by the Public*
23 *Utilities Commission.*

24 (c) This section is not applicable to any officer interested in a
25 contract who influences or attempts to influence another member
26 of the body or board of which he or she is a member to enter into
27 the contract.

28 (d) The willful failure of an officer to disclose the fact of his or
29 her interest in a contract pursuant to this section is punishable as
30 provided in Section 1097. That violation does not void the contract
31 unless the contracting party had knowledge of the fact of the remote
32 interest of the officer at the time the contract was executed.

33 SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
34 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within
35 the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into
36 immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

37 To allow the state, a county, district, judicial district, or city to
38 gain the economic benefits of participating in sponsored energy

- 1 conservation programs as soon as possible, it *is* necessary for this
- 2 act to go into immediate effect.

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