



STATE of CONNECTICUT
Office of Governmental Accountability
State Contracting Standards Board

The Digest of Administrative Reports to the Governor
Fiscal Year 2022-2023

At-a-Glance

Office of Governmental Accountability – State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB)

State Contracting Standards Board Members – Michael P. Walsh, Chair, Thomas G. Ahneman, Alfred W. Bertoline, Bruce H. Buff, Lauren C. Gauthier, Albert G. Ilg, Donna M. Karnes, Salvatore C. Luciano, Stuart L. Mahler, Jean M. Morningstar, Robert D. Rinker, Daniel S. Rovero, Brenda L. Sisco, one Vacancy.

Executive Director – Gregory F. Daniels, Esq.

Chief Procurement Officer – Jonathan M. Longman

Established – 2009

Statutory authority – Conn. Gen. Statutes §§ 4e-1 to 4e-47

State Office Building –1st floor, Suite 1060, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Number of employees – 7 (3 - vacancies)

Recurring operating expenses – \$678,787

Organizational structure – Fourteen-member State Contracting Standards Board, Contracting Standards Advisory Council, Vendor and Citizen Advisory Panel, 4e-36 Contested Solicitations and Awards Subcommittee, Privatization Contract Committee, Audit and Data Analysis Work Group, Statutes, Regulations, Policies, and Procedures Work Group, and Training Work Group.

Mission – Our mission is to require that state contracting and procurement requirements are understood and carried out in a manner that is open, cost-effective, efficient, and consistent with State and Federal statutes, rules, and regulations. (Adopted March 11, 2016)

Statutory Responsibility

- Establishes the Board as the central oversight and policy body for all state procurement.
- Creates the position of Chief Procurement Officer, an experienced procurement professional to assist the Board in implementing its programs, policies, and procedures.
- Requires each agency head to appoint a qualified Agency Procurement Officer to oversee all agency procurement activities and serve as the liaison to the Chief Procurement Officer.
- Calls for developing and implementing a standardized state procurement and project management education and training program, certifying that agencies and staff comply with the statutes and regulations.
- Sets forth the criteria and enforcement authority of the Board, including the ability to restrict or eliminate the procurement authority of any state agency and the disqualification of any contractor, bidder, or proposer for up to five years.
- Establishes a structural process that all state agencies shall follow when entering a privatization agreement, including a cost-benefit analysis.
- Creates a Contracting Standards Advisory Council of agency representatives to discuss state procurement issues and recommend improvements to procurement processes.

- Creates a Vendor and Citizen Advisory Panel of 15 citizens and vendor members to make recommendations to the Board regarding best practices in state procurement processes and project management, as well as other issues pertaining to stakeholders in the system.
- Requires each of the State’s constitutional officers (Secretary of the State, Comptroller, Treasurer, and Attorney General) to adopt a code of procurement practices.
- Requires the Judicial and Legislative Branches to prepare a uniform procurement code applicable to contracting expenditures, including any building, renovation, alteration, or repairs.
- Recommends a timeline to redesign and streamline the repetitive, conflicting, or obsolete law provisions, policies, and practices in the state procurement process.

Public Service

The chief beneficiaries of the State Contracting Standards Board work are three-fold: state contracting agencies, state contractors, and state taxpayers. By creating relationships with state contracting agencies, working to develop regulations, and facilitating compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, state contracting agencies are better poised to produce procurements and let contracts uniformly. State contractors benefit from a standardized expectation of administration and procedure. Taxpayers benefit from the compliance of the state contracting agencies, which yields cost savings to the state. As the Board continues to develop robust policies and procedures, require reports from the state contracting agencies, and host training and seminars, the Board should see improvement in the results of the audits it conducts. Additionally, annual reports should show improvement year to year.

Improvements/Achievements for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

- Developed a comprehensive procurement training curriculum with a blended, subject-centered, learner-centered, and hybrid approach, combining traditional and online education with active learning strategies, such as “hands-on” exercises.
- Created a comprehensive training guide and conducted outreach classes to explain the privatization requirements under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4e-16.
- Onboarded six new staff members, expanding the board's ability to conduct, investigate, and audit state contracting agencies' procurement practices and policies.
- Performed a comprehensive restructuring of the tri-annual audit program by expanding reviews by performing random checks of contractual documentation and reviewing the effectiveness of each agency's internal controls.
- The Board concluded a procurement Review of the Connecticut Port Authority and issued a revised report and set of recommendations for process improvement.
- The Board processed multiple privatization petitions, complaints, and investigations of poor contracting practices and mediated a contested solicitation.