

19-11-717. State-supported institutions of higher education.

(a) (1) Notwithstanding anything in this subchapter to the contrary, if, in either of the events in subdivisions (a)(1)(A) and (B) of this section, the contract or subcontract, solicitation, or proposal involves patents, copyrights, or other proprietary information in which a state-supported institution of higher education and an employee or former employee of the state-supported institution of higher education have rights or interests, provided that a contract or subcontract shall be approved by the governing board of the state-supported institution of higher education in a public meeting, it shall not be a violation of § 19-11-709, a conflict of interest, or a breach of ethical standards for:

(A) The state-supported institution of higher education to contract with a person or firm in which an employee or former employee of the state-supported institution of higher education has a financial interest; or

(B) The employee or former employee of the state-supported institution of higher education to participate directly or indirectly in a matter pertaining to a contract, subcontract, solicitation, or proposal for a contract or subcontract between a state-supported institution of higher education and a person or firm in which the employee or former employee has a financial interest.

(2) (A) Within thirty (30) days of the approval by the governing board of a state-supported institution of higher education of a contract, subcontract, solicitation, or proposal executed under subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the state-supported institution of higher education shall file a summary of the contract, subcontract, solicitation, or proposal with the president of the state-supported institution of higher education.

(B) Failure to file the required summary with the president of the state-supported institution of higher education as required under subdivision (a)(2)(A) of this section renders the contract null and void.

(b) (1) Nothing in the Arkansas Procurement Law, § 19-11-201 et seq., or in § 19-11-1001 et seq. shall prevent a state agency from contracting for goods or services, including professional or consultant services, with an organization that employs or contracts with a regular, full-time, or part-time employee of a state-supported institution of higher education in situations in which the employee of the state-supported institution of higher education will provide some or all of the goods or services under the contract.

(2) An organization or state agency entering into a contract described under this subsection shall comply with the Arkansas Procurement Law, § 19-11-201 et seq., and § 19-11-1001 et seq. to the extent that the Arkansas Procurement Law, § 19-11-201 et seq., and § 19-11-1001 et seq. do not conflict with this section.

(3) An employee of a state-supported institution of higher education who provides goods or services to a state agency through his or her association with an organization that has a contract with the state agency to provide goods or services shall obtain the requisite approvals under the policies of the state-supported institution of higher education by which he or she is employed and comply with all provisions of this subchapter.

(c) (1) No later than January 31 each year, an employee or former employee contracting or receiving benefits under this section shall file with the Secretary of State on a form provided by the Secretary of State a disclosure of the type and amount of the contract or benefits received during the previous year.

(2) Failure to file the required form with the Secretary of State as required under subdivision (c)(1) of this section is a breach of ethical standards.

HISTORY: Acts 1989, No. 875, § 1; 2005, No. 949, § 1; 2009, No. 735, § 1.