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Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities**

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Approval of Contract Compliance Programs by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities

Sec. 46a-68k-1. Definitions

As used in Sections 46a-68k-1 through 46a-68k-8, inclusive:

(1) “Agency” means each agency, department, board and Commission of the State of Connecticut;

(2) “Commission” means the commission on human rights and opportunities created by Section 46a-52 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 1 of Public Act 89-332;

(3) “Contract compliance program” means a program containing formal written rules for the receipt, evaluation and monitoring of information concerning public works contracts and for enforcing compliance with legal requirements and responsibilities attendant thereto;

(4) “Contractor” means a contractor, as defined in Section 46a-68j-21 (7), for a public works contract; and

(5) “Public works contract” means a contract for public works as defined in Section 46a-68b of the Connecticut General Statutes as amended by Section 1 of Public Act 89-253.

(Effective August 23, 1990)

Sec. 46a-68k-2. Contract compliance programs at least equivalent; criteria for approval of programs

(a) Any contractor who is a party to a public works contract with an agency may be relieved of the requirements and responsibilities of Sections 4a-60, as amended by Section 2 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68c, as amended by Section 3 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68d, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68e and 46a-68f of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the commission determines that the contract compliance program of such agency is at least equivalent to the requirements and responsibilities of Sections 4a-60, as amended by Section 2 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68c, as amended by Section 3 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68d, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68e and 46a-68f of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(b) No contract compliance program shall be approved by the commission unless all of the following criteria are met:

(1) the agency has statutory authority to review, monitor and enforce contracting policies and practices otherwise covered by Sections 4a-60, as amended by Section 2 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68c, as amended by Section 3 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68d, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68e and 46a-68f of the Connecticut General Statutes;

(2) the agency actively and routinely reviews and monitors the policies and practices of contractors, subcontractors, awarding agencies and other concerns under its jurisdiction; and

(3) where the petition pursuant to Section 46a-68k-3 is for reapproval as an approved agency, the agency has established a satisfactory record of performance pursuant to Sections 46a-68k-6 and 46a-68k-7.

(Effective August 23, 1990)

Sec. 46a-68k-3. Petitions for approval

(a) Any agency may petition for approval of its contract compliance program as at least equivalent to the requirements and responsibilities of Sections 4a-60, as

amended by Section 2 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68c, as amended by Section 3 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68d, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68e and 46a-68f of the Connecticut General Statutes. Petitions for approval shall be addressed to the chairperson of the commission and shall contain the following information:

(1) a detailed statement as to how the agency meets the criteria listed in Section 46a-68k-2 (b);

(2) a detailed organizational statement describing the operation of the contract compliance program, including funding and budget information, the number of employees assigned contract compliance responsibilities and the nature of their duties; and

(3) the name, job title, address and telephone number of the agency representative whom the commission may contact concerning the program.

(b) Approval of a contract compliance program by the commission shall expire on the date set forth in the memorandum of understanding between the commission and the agency pursuant to Section 46a-68k-5. Any agency may petition for reapproval of its contract compliance program at any time.

(Effective August 23, 1990)

Sec. 46a-68k-4. Review of petitions; determination by commission

(a) The commission shall review each petition for approval and shall approve the petition only if the agency meets the criteria contained in Section 46a-68k-2

(b). If the commission determines that the agency meets the criteria contained in Section 46a-68k-2 (b), it shall notify the agency in writing that its contract compliance program has been approved as at least equivalent to the requirements and responsibilities of Sections 4a-60, as amended by Section 2 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68c, as amended by Section 3 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68d, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68e and 46a-68f of the Connecticut General Statutes. The commission shall approve a petition only upon the affirmative vote of a majority of its members present and voting.

(b) Where it appears from the petition that a contract compliance program does not meet the criteria contained in Section 46a-68k-2 (b), the commission shall deny the petition. The commission shall notify the agency in writing of its decision. The notice shall specify the grounds upon which the denial is based.

(c) An agency whose petition has been denied may request that the commission reconsider its determination. Requests for reconsideration shall be addressed to the chairperson of the commission and shall provide all information and documents necessary to demonstrate that the agency meets the criteria contained in Section 46a-68k-2 (b). The commission shall grant such requests only upon the affirmative vote of a majority of its members present and voting.

(Effective August 23, 1990)

Sec. 46a-68k-5. Memorandum of understanding

(a) Upon approval of a contract compliance program as at least equivalent to the requirements and responsibilities of Section 4a-60, as amended by Section 2 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68c, as amended by Section 3 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68d, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68e and 46a-68f of the Connecticut General Statutes, the commission shall meet with the agency to discuss the terms of the agreement under which the agency shall substitute its own program for that of the commission. The memorandum of understanding shall contain, at a minimum, the following provisions:

- (1) a detailed description of the agency's contract compliance program;
- (2) the length of time for which the commission has approved use of the program;
- (3) an organizational statement containing information on the amount of funds requested or budgeted to operate the program, the number of employees assigned contract compliance responsibilities and the nature of their duties;
- (4) a description of the types of contracts or the names of contractors subject to agency review;
- (5) a statement of what information the agency will report to the commission concerning its contract compliance program and the frequency of such reporting; and
- (6) such other and further terms as is necessary for the effective implementation of the agreement.

(b) A memorandum of understanding shall be signed by the commission and the agency, and shall pledge the parties to make a good faith effort to implement the agreement faithfully and for the best interests of the state.

(c) Failure of the commission and the agency to execute a memorandum of understanding within thirty (30) days of the date that the agency receives notice from the commission approving the program shall result in a forfeiture of the approval. For good cause shown, the commission may grant an extension of time to execute a memorandum of understanding. Extensions of time may be granted only upon certification to the commission from its representatives that an agreement is an immediate, likely outcome of further discussion.

(Effective August 23, 1990)

Sec. 46a-68k-6. Equivalent weight accordance

(a) The commission shall accord equivalent weight to the determinations of an agency approved pursuant to Section 46a-68k-4. If the agency determination was made in full accordance with the terms of the memorandum of understanding between the agency and the commission and all applicable laws and regulations governing the agency's contract compliance program, the commission shall treat the agency's determination as if it were reached by the commission under Sections 46a-68j-21 through 46a-68j-43, inclusive.

(b) The commission may reverse the determination of an approved agency only if an independent review indicates that there is a considerable probability that the conclusion reached by the agency is against the evidence. The commission may review any such determination upon its own motion or upon the application of any person, and may reverse or modify the agency's determination upon an affirmative vote of a majority of its members present and voting.

(c) The provisions of Section 46a-68k-6 (a) notwithstanding, the commission may at any time conduct a review of a contractor who is a party to a public works contract with a state agency. The commission shall notify the agency in writing that it intends to conduct such a review and, upon receipt of the notice, the agency shall suspend further review of the contractor under Section 46a-68k-5 unless and until the commission notifies the agency in writing that the agency's review may continue.

(Effective August 23, 1990)

Sec. 46a-68k-7. Evaluation of approved programs

(a) To assure that agencies maintain standards consistent with Sections 4a-60, as amended by Section 2 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68c, as amended by Section 3 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68d, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68e and 46a-68f of the Connecticut General Statutes, and Sections 46a-68j-21

through 46a-68j-43, inclusive, the commission shall conduct an annual review of each contract compliance program approved pursuant to Section 46a-68k-4. At a minimum, the commission shall evaluate:

- (1) the degree to which an agency's program conforms to the memorandum of understanding;
- (2) the quantity and accuracy of contract compliance reviews;
- (3) the extent to which the agency has successfully implemented proposals to increase the efficiency of its program;
- (4) the overall effectiveness of the contract compliance program; and
- (5) the extent to which the agency has cooperated with the commission in the operation of its contract compliance program.

(b) Each agency shall provide the commission with all information necessary to complete the evaluation of its contract compliance program. Failure to provide the commission with complete and accurate information shall be deemed a failure to cooperate with the commission as required by Section 46a-77 of the Connecticut General Statutes. In addition to any other action taken, the commission may terminate the memorandum of understanding with the agency and revoke its approval of the agency's contract compliance program, as provided in Section 46a-68k-8.

(c) The commission shall report its findings to the agency within ninety (90) days of the date it has received all pertinent information provided pursuant to Section 46a-68k-6 (b). The commission shall include in its report a list of recommendations as to how the agency may improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its contract compliance program, together with proposed timetables for implementation of each recommendation, if any.

(d) If the commission finds that an agency's program is deficient, when measured against the criteria of Section 46a-68k-7 (a), the agency shall confirm in writing that it has accepted the recommendations and timetables proposed by the commission within fifteen (15) days of the date the agency receives the commission's report. If an agency fails or refuses to accept the commission's recommendations and timetables, it shall notify the commissioner in writing within fifteen (15) days of the date the commission's report is received. The agency may propose countermeasures and timetables to correct deficiencies noted in the commission's report. The commission and agency shall meet within ten (10) days of the commission's receipt of the agency's counterproposals to resolve outstanding differences. Any agreement between the commission and agency shall be in writing and shall contain timetables for its implementation. If the commission and agency are unable to agree to mutually acceptable terms, the commission may initiate proceedings to revoke its approval of the agency's contract compliance program, as provided in Section 46a-68k-8.

(Effective August 23, 1990)

Sec. 46a-68k-8. Revocation of approval

(a) The commission, acting upon its own motion or the complaint of any person, may revoke its approval of any contract compliance program made pursuant to Section 46a-68k-4 if:

- (1) a contract compliance program no longer meets the criteria contained in Section 46a-68k-2 (b);
- (2) an agency is in violation of the terms of a memorandum of understanding entered into pursuant to Section 46a-68k-5;
- (3) an agency's performance is found deficient by the commission in accordance with Section 46a-68k-7; or

(4) an agency fails to accept or implement the commission's recommendations issued as part of an annual review conducted under Section 46a-68k-7.

(b) A petition to revoke approval of an approved contract compliance program shall be filed under oath in writing and shall state what subdivision or subdivisions of Section 46a-68k-8 (a) are alleged to have been violated, together with a statement of the facts and circumstances upon which the charged violations are based. The commission shall serve a copy of the petition upon the agency by registered mail within ten (10) days of its vote to initiate revocation proceedings or within ten (10) days of its receipt of a petition; as the case may be.

(c) The agency shall file an answer to the petition within fifteen (15) days of the date it is mailed by the commission. The answer shall contain a detailed response to the allegations of the petition and shall be accompanied by such information as appropriate to rebut the charges.

(d) The commission shall carefully consider the evidence in support of and against the agency. In accordance with Section 46a-54 (9) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 2 of Public Act 89-332, the commission may hold a hearing, if necessary, on the question. If the evidence indicates that the agency's contract compliance program is not at least equivalent to the requirements and responsibilities of Sections 4a-60, as amended by Section 2 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68c, as amended by Section 3 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68d, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 89-253; 46a-68e and 46a-68f of the Connecticut General Statutes, the commission may revoke its approval of the program by the affirmative vote of a majority of its members present and voting.

(Effective August 23, 1990)