



## **Disclosure of Bids on State Contracts**

### **Am I required to notify the Ethics Commission if I bid on a contract?**

Yes. In 2003, the Legislature instituted a disclosure requirement for Legislators and organizations associated with Legislators that bid on contracts with State agencies. The law states that when a Legislator or an “associated organization” bids on a contract with a State agency, the Legislator or organization must file a statement with the Ethics Commission disclosing the subject of the bid, and the names of the Legislator, the organization (if appropriate), and the State agency. (1 M.R.S.A. § 1016-D)

### **What is an associated organization?**

“Associated organization” means any organization in which a Legislator or a Legislator’s spouse is a director, officer or trustee, or owns or controls, directly or indirectly, and severally or in the aggregate, at least 10% of the outstanding equity.

### **What is the deadline for filing the disclosure statement?**

The statement must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day that the bid is submitted.

### **What does the Ethics Commission do with the disclosure statement?**

The statement is posted on the Commission’s website for the public to access.

### **How do I obtain a blank copy of the disclosure statement?**

Please telephone the Commission staff at 287-4179, or go to the Commission’s website at [www.maine.gov/ethics/legislators](http://www.maine.gov/ethics/legislators).

### **Did the Legislative Ethics law impose any other restrictions or requirements?**

Yes. It is a violation of legislative ethics for a Legislator or an associated organization to enter into any contract with a state agency that is to be paid in whole or in part out of government funds unless the contract has been awarded through a process of public notice and competitive bidding or is exempt from competitive bidding pursuant to state purchasing laws. (1 M.R.S.A. § 1014(4))

### **Who do I call if I have more questions?**

Please telephone the Commission’s Executive Director, Jonathan Wayne, at 287-4179.