

Questions for State Contracting Standards Board Executive Director Nominee

By: Terry Adams, Principal Analyst
April 24, 2023 | 2023-R-0031

State Contracting Standards Board, Executive Director ([CGS § 4e-2](#))

- The State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB) is a division within the Office of Government Accountability (OGA) but maintains independent decision-making authority.
- The board has various responsibilities associated with state contracting processes, including adopting procurement regulations and reviewing, monitoring, and auditing state contracting agencies' procurement processes.
- The executive director serves as an ex-officio, nonvoting board member. In consultation with the board's chief procurement officer, the executive director must (1) prepare a comprehensive plan of the board's administrative functions; (2) coordinate the board's budget and personnel activities; (3) provide for the board's administrative organization to be examined for economy and efficiency; (4) act as the board's external liaison; and (5) perform any other duties the chairperson or board assigns, as appropriate.
- The executive director may contract as necessary to carry out his or her duties.

Questions

1. How has your education and previous experience prepared you for this position?
2. What is the board's role in state contracting? What is its relationship to the state's primary contracting agencies (e.g., the Department of Administrative Services)?

3. FY 23 is the first fiscal year in which the board has been fully staffed. Previously, the executive director was the board's only staff member. What activities will the board be able to undertake with the new staff members that it was previously unable to? What are your priorities for the board over the next year?
4. Several of the board's enabling statutes do not take effect until the board adopts implementing regulations, including regulations for procurement methods, competitive bidding waivers, and change orders. For which of these areas does the board intend to adopt regulations? Are there any regulation-adoption requirements for which the board will seek legislative changes?
5. How do the state's current contracting policies and practices compare with the policies and practices in 2007, when the board's enabling legislation was enacted? Are there any changes to the board's powers and duties that you would recommend to reflect current contracting practices? Please explain.
6. In [testimony](#) submitted to the Appropriations Committee last month, SCSB's chairperson stated that the board would seek legislation to subject all quasi-public agencies to SCSB oversight. Please describe the board's reasons for seeking this legislation. How would you respond to opposing arguments made by the quasi-public agencies?
7. The chairperson's testimony also stated that the board's long-term goal is to centralize the state's procurement functions. What would this goal mean in practice? Does the board intend to propose legislation this session to implement this goal?
8. The 2021 implementer subjected the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) to SCSB oversight (other than the privatization law) until June 30, 2026 ([PA 21-2](#), June Special Session, § 309). What authority did this provision give SCSB with respect to CPA that it does not have for other quasi-public agencies? How has the board exercised this authority in the past two years?
9. In January 2023, the attorney general [issued an opinion](#) concerning CPA's authority to enter into public-private partnerships. What were the opinion's conclusions? What is the board's response to the opinion?
10. What authority does the board have over UConn and the Board of Regents for Higher Education? Do you believe the board's authority is sufficient, or should it be amended? Please explain.

TA:kl