

Calhoun County, Texas

POLICY OF COMPLIANCE

SECTION 2252.908 TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE

Approved by Commissioners Court January 28, 2016

Amended by Commissioners Court January 31, 2018

BACKGROUND

Section 2252.908 was added to the Government Code by the 84th Texas Legislature through the adoption of House Bill 1295. The law states that the County may not enter into a contract with a business entity unless a Certificate of Interested Parties (Form 1295) is provided to the county at the time the contract is considered for action by Commissioner's Court. The term "business entity" includes a sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation (whether for-profit or non-profit). The term "contract" includes amendment, extension or renewal of an existing contract. The law does not apply to a contract between the County and another governmental entity or state agency. The county is required to file Form 1295 with the state within 30 days of approving a contract with a business entity. Governmental transparency is the objective of the law.

Senate Bill 255 adopted by the 85th Legislature Regular Session amended the law effective for contracts entered into or amended on or after January 1, 2018. Additional exemptions from Form 1295 requirement were added for 1) a contract with a publicly traded business entity, including a wholly owned subsidiary of the business entity, 2) a contract with an electric utility as defined by Section 31.002 of the Utilities Code, or 3) a contract with a gas utility as defined by Section 121.001 of the Utilities Code. Notarization of Form 1295 has been replaced by an unsworn statement under penalty of perjury by an authorized representative of the business entity.

The Texas Ethics Commission promulgated rules to implement the law and established an online portal https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm. A business entity will generate Form 1295 online. Calhoun County will acknowledge online the receipt of Form 1295 after a contract is executed. Within seven business days, Form 1295 will be available for public viewing on the Commission's website.

COMPLAINCE

Calhoun County Commissioners Court will not consider for action any contract or bid with a business entity unless it is accompanied by a completed, signed Form 1295 or a signed statement declaring the provision of the law under which the business entity is exempt.

No later than 30 days after Commissioner's Court approves a contract or awards a bid with a non-exempt business entity, the **County Clerk** will file acknowledgement of receipt of the Form 1295 with the Ethics Commission.