

GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE 10. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

SUBTITLE F. STATE AND LOCAL CONTRACTS AND FUND MANAGEMENT

CHAPTER 2253. PUBLIC WORK PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BONDS

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 2253.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Governmental entity" means a governmental or quasi-governmental authority authorized by state law to make a public work contract, including:

(A) the state, a county, or a municipality;

(B) a department, board, or agency of the state, a county, or a municipality; and

(C) a school district or a subdivision of a school district.

(2) "Payment bond beneficiary" means a person for whose protection and use this chapter requires a payment bond.

(3) "Prime contractor" means a person, firm, or corporation that makes a public work contract with a governmental entity.

(4) "Public work contract" means a contract for constructing, altering, or repairing a public building or carrying out or completing any public work.

(5) "Public work labor" means labor used directly to carry out a public work.

(6) "Public work material" means:

(A) material used, or ordered and delivered for use, directly to carry out a public work;

(B) specially fabricated material;

(C) reasonable rental and actual running repair costs for construction equipment used, or reasonably required and delivered for use, directly to carry out work at the project site; or

(D) power, water, fuel, and lubricants used, or ordered and delivered for use, directly to carry out a public work.

(7) "Retainage" means the part of the payments under a

public work contract that are not required to be paid within the month after the month in which the public work labor is performed or public work material is delivered under the contract.

(8) "Specially fabricated material" means material ordered by a prime contractor or subcontractor that is:

(A) specially fabricated for use in a public work; and

(B) reasonably unsuitable for another use.

(9) "Subcontractor" means a person, firm, or corporation that provides public work labor or material to fulfill an obligation to a prime contractor or to a subcontractor for the performance and installation of any of the work required by a public work contract.

Added by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 268, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1993.
Amended by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 62, Sec. 8.20, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.

Sec. 2253.002. EXEMPTION. This chapter does not apply to a public work contract entered into by a state agency relating to an action taken under Subchapter F or I, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, or Subchapter I, Chapter 26, Water Code.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 793, Sec. 18, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

SUBCHAPTER B. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS; LIABILITY

Sec. 2253.021. PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BONDS REQUIRED. (a)

A governmental entity that makes a public work contract with a prime contractor shall require the contractor, before beginning the work, to execute to the governmental entity:

(1) a performance bond if the contract is in excess of \$100,000; and

(2) a payment bond if:

(A) the contract is in excess of \$25,000, and the governmental entity is not a municipality or a joint board created under Subchapter D, Chapter 22, Transportation Code; or

(B) the contract is in excess of \$50,000, and the governmental entity is a municipality or a joint board created

under Subchapter D, Chapter [22](#), Transportation Code.

(b) The performance bond is:

(1) solely for the protection of the state or governmental entity awarding the public work contract;

(2) in the amount of the contract; and

(3) conditioned on the faithful performance of the work in accordance with the plans, specifications, and contract documents.

(c) The payment bond is:

(1) solely for the protection and use of payment bond beneficiaries who have a direct contractual relationship with the prime contractor or a subcontractor to supply public work labor or material; and

(2) in the amount of the contract.

(d) A bond required by this section must be executed by a corporate surety in accordance with Section 1, Chapter 87, Acts of the 56th Legislature, Regular Session, 1959 (Article 7.19-1, Vernon's Texas Insurance Code).

(e) A bond executed for a public work contract with the state or a department, board, or agency of the state must be payable to the state and its form must be approved by the attorney general. A bond executed for a public work contract with another governmental entity must be payable to and its form must be approved by the awarding governmental entity.

(f) A bond required under this section must clearly and prominently display on the bond or on an attachment to the bond:

(1) the name, mailing address, physical address, and telephone number, including the area code, of the surety company to which any notice of claim should be sent; or

(2) the toll-free telephone number maintained by the Texas Department of Insurance under Subchapter B, Chapter [521](#), Insurance Code, and a statement that the address of the surety company to which any notice of claim should be sent may be obtained from the Texas Department of Insurance by calling the toll-free telephone number.

(g) A governmental entity may not require a contractor for any public building or other construction contract to obtain a