

By: West, Royce

S.B. No. 1355

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to requiring a contractor to provide health insurance to
3 its employees as a condition of eligibility for the award of certain
4 state contracts.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 2155, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 2155.0771 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 2155.0771. HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE REQUIRED. (a) A
9 vendor may not be awarded a state contract for goods or services
10 that has a value greater than \$1 million, including a contract for
11 which purchasing authority is delegated to a state agency, unless
12 the vendor provides health benefits coverage that is at least
13 equivalent to basic coverage provided under the state employees
14 group benefit program provided under Chapter 1551, Insurance Code,
15 to each full-time employee and the employee's dependents.

16 (b) The vendor must pay 100 percent of the health insurance
17 premiums for each full-time employee who participates in the
18 insurance program and at least 50 percent of the health insurance
19 premiums for each dependent of a full-time employee whom the
20 employee elects to cover under the insurance program.

21 SECTION 2. Section 2155.0771, Government Code, as added by
22 this Act, applies only to a contract for the procurement of goods
23 and services for which the solicitation of bids or proposals or
24 similar expressions of interest is published on or after September

1 1, 2005.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.