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# Providing local governments sovereign immunity in disaster relief

SB 1575 by Alvarado (Krause)

## Digest

SB 1575 would have established that a municipality performed a governmental function if it entered into or took action under a contract for a purpose related to disaster recovery after the governor declared a state of disaster. A city would have had governmental immunity to suit and from liability for a cause of action arising from such a governmental function. Local governmental entities that entered into certain contracts that were not for nonresidential engineering, architecture, or construction service and that spent state or federal funds on goods and services that did not benefit the entity would not have waived immunity from liability.

## Governor's reason for veto

“Disaster-recovery tools are critically important in Texas, and this session I have signed into law important legislation that will help Texans rebuild from prior disasters and prepare for future ones. But Senate Bill 1575 goes too far in shielding municipalities from being sued for all sorts of contracts they may enter into for an unspecified period after a disaster declaration. I look forward to working with the Legislature on a more tailored approach to this issue next session.”

## Response

**Sen. Carol Alvarado**, the bill's author, could not be reached for comment on the veto.

**Rep. Matt Krause**, the House sponsor, had no comment on the veto.

## Notes

The HRO analysis of [SB 1575](#) appeared in Part Two of the May 16 *Daily Floor Report*.

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