

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

HB 661

2022 Regular Session

Hilferty

Present law authorizes parish presidents to declare states of emergency or disaster and provides for his authority during such a declaration. Provide similarly regarding the authority of the mayor of a municipality.

Proposed law would have provided that during a state of emergency or disaster declared by a local official, state buildings and facilities were not subject to any rule, procedure, guidance, restriction, prohibition, or limitation that stemmed from the declaration.

(Proposed to add R.S. 29:736(E))

VETO MESSAGE:

"This bill would limit the authority of a parish president or mayor, during a declared emergency, to have authority over a state building inside their parish or city. While this bill is clearly designed to respond to the COVID mitigation measures put in place in some cities throughout Louisiana over the last several years, the practical effects are much broader. Emergencies, by nature, are inherently unpredictable and the response plans can change literally minute by minute. Local officials, like state officials, need the ability to respond, often with little time and imperfect information, to protect the health and safety of the public. Thus, local officials may need to be able to use state facilities in the height of an emergency. This bill would take away that authority. Should it be determined that the use of a state facility or a restriction placed upon it was inappropriate, the governor, or the legislature by passage of a bill, could always step in to remove the local restriction. However, by limiting all use and restrictions on state facilities in an emergency, this bill is simply too broad."