

- SUBJECT:** Declaring a local state of disaster
- COMMITTEE:** Defense and Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Gutierrez, Blanco, Arévalo, Cain, Lambert, Wilson  
1 nay — Flynn
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 19 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** No public hearing
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code, sec. 418.108 allows the presiding officer of the governing body of a political subdivision to declare a local state of disaster. A declaration immediately activates the appropriate recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local or interjurisdictional emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance.
- Concerns have been raised that the provisions governing the declaration of a state of disaster by the governor and the declaration of a local disaster by a political subdivision are not a uniform as they could be.
- DIGEST:** SB 1897 would allow the presiding officer of the governing body of a political subdivision to declare a local state of disaster if the officer found that a disaster had occurred or that the occurrence or threat of disaster was imminent.
- An order or proclamation declaring, continuing, or terminating a local state of disaster would have to include a description of the nature of the disaster, a designation of the threatened area, and a description of the conditions that brought about the state of disaster or its termination. The political subdivision to which the order or proclamation applied would have to post a copy of it on the subdivision's website, if available.
- On request of the presiding officer, the governor could waive or suspend a

deadline imposed by statute or orders of a state agency on the political subdivision, including one related to a budget or property tax, if the waiver or suspension was reasonably necessary for the subdivision to cope with a local state of disaster.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.