
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6570

AN ACT CONCERNING DAMAGES TO PERSON OR PROPERTY CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENT OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE OWNED BY A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE.

SUMMARY

Under existing law, political subdivisions of the state (e.g., municipalities) are generally liable for damages to a person or property caused by, among other things, their negligence or the negligence of their employees, officers, or agents acting within the scope of their employment or official duties. However, they are not liable for damages caused by negligent acts or omissions requiring the exercise of judgment or discretion as an official function of authority granted by law (i.e., discretionary actions). So, political subdivisions are immune from civil liability for damages caused by discretionary actions.

Regardless of this exception for discretionary actions, this bill eliminates the governmental immunity defense in a civil action for damages to a person or property caused by any negligent operation of a motor vehicle owned by a political subdivision. (Presumably, this change applies only to motor vehicles operated by an employee, officer, or agent of the political subdivision that owns it.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage and applicable to any civil action pending on or filed on or after that date.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 31 Nay 6 (03/27/2023)