

## CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

2011–12 FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

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# ASSEMBLY JOURNAL

RECESS JOURNAL NO. 4

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**RECESS UPON CALL OF SPEAKER**

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Assembly Chamber, Sacramento  
Friday, July 8, 2011

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 59, the following Assembly Journal for the 2011–12 First Extraordinary Session was printed while the Assembly was in Recess Upon Call of Speaker.

**MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

The following veto message from the Governor was received and ordered printed in the Journal and Assembly Bill No. 34 ordered to the unfinished business file:

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 34**Governor's Office, Sacramento  
July 7, 2011

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 34 without my signature.

The Senior Citizens' Property Tax Postponement Law was enacted beginning for the 1977–1978 fiscal year to give property tax relief to seniors. It was subsequently expanded to include blind and disabled persons. The law was suspended in 2009 due to the realities of the state's budget. AB 34 would repeal the suspension so that postponement claims can once again be accepted by the Controller. In addition, the bill would establish a new fund in the State Treasury and provide a continuous appropriation for the Controller to pay postponement claims.

Given the very significant cuts to state and local core public services that are occurring, the state cannot afford the \$19.3 million that the Department of Finance estimates this bill would cost during the 2011–2012 fiscal year or the continuing estimated annual revenue cost of \$30 million.

For this reason I am unable to sign the bill.

Sincerely,

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

## Receipt of Bills

I acknowledge receipt this 8th day of July, 2011 at 11:06 a.m., of Assembly Bill No. 34 in the First Extraordinary Session without the Governor's signature, together with a statement of his objections thereto, signed by the Governor, delivered to me personally by Jacque Roberts.

SUE PARKER  
Assistant Chief Clerk of the Assembly

The following message from the Governor was received and ordered printed in the Journal:

**Governor's Message—Assembly Bill No. 29**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
July 7, 2011

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am signing Assembly Bill 29 because establishing a fire protection and prevention fee in state responsibility areas will reduce General Fund costs, and ensure property owners in developed wildland areas pay for a portion of the fire and emergency response services they receive.

As a result of population increases and urban development in state responsibility areas in recent decades, there has been a significant increase in state costs associated with fire protection in state wildland areas. This bill recognizes that a portion of the costs borne by the state for wildland fire prevention and protection services should be funded by the landowners in these areas.

Specifically, this bill will establish a \$150 fire prevention fee on each structure within state responsibility areas. The purpose of this bill is to make the necessary statutory changes to realize \$50 million of General Fund savings identified in the budget bill by allocating the revenue generated from this fee to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE's) fire protection program, as well as \$200 million in ongoing General Fund savings.

A fee consistent with the "beneficiary pays principle," such as the one intended in this bill, can achieve significant General Fund savings. However, as currently drafted, the revenues may not materialize. I am directing the Department of Finance and CAL FIRE to work with the Legislature during the remaining legislative session to identify necessary clean-up language to realize these revenues.

The budget bill includes provisional language requiring CAL FIRE to convene a working group consisting of legislative staff, department executive staff, the Department of Finance, the Legislative Analyst's Office, and at least two fire chiefs to discuss options for future funding, realignment, and possible changes in the state's management of wildland firefighting. The working group, guided by the clean-up legislation noted above, will develop recommendations to establish a state responsibility area fee and address relevant legal, programmatic and implementation issues.

Sincerely,

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

JOHN A. PÉREZ, Speaker

AMY LEACH, Minute Clerk