

## CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

2023–24 REGULAR SESSION

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# ASSEMBLY JOURNAL

**RECESS JOURNAL NO. 24**

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**FINAL RECESS**

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Assembly Chamber, Sacramento  
Monday, September 23, 2024

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 59, the following Assembly Journal for the 2023–24 Regular Session was printed while the Assembly was in Final Recess.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

By unanimous consent, the following committee was permitted to meet:

Select Committee on Sea Level Rise and the California Economy, on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 1 p.m., at Skyline College, 3300 College Dr., San Bruno, CA 94066, in the Farallon Room.

**MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

The following veto messages from the Governor were received and ordered printed in the Journal:

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 544**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 544 without my signature.

This bill would require the Secretary of State to create a grant program for San Benito, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz counties to develop in-person voter programs in jail facilities.

While I appreciate the author's commitment to this issue, under the Elections Code, counties are able to establish these types of programs without statutory authority. Further, this bill creates a new, unfunded grant program and should be considered in the annual budget process.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 832**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 832 without my signature.

This bill would require that at least one of the Governor-appointed members of the California Transportation Commission (CTC) have expertise in transportation issues and professional experience representing disadvantaged communities.

Under existing law, the Governor is already required to make every effort to ensure the CTC has a balanced and diverse membership with expertise in transportation issues, taking into consideration factors including, but not limited to, socioeconomic background and professional experience, which may include experience working in, or representing, disadvantaged communities. This process has proven effective in achieving diverse representation without the need for further codifying specific requirements in statute.

Given this existing statutory commitment, and the authority already vested in the Office of the Governor to make appointments to the CTC, this bill is unnecessary.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 884**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly 884 without my signature.

This bill requires the Secretary of State's Office and county elections officials to greatly expand translated election materials and language services.

While I support the author's goal of expanding language access and resources in our elections, this bill would create new, ongoing general fund cost pressures in the tens of millions of dollars not included in the 2024 Budget Act.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1738**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 1738 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to establish a new pilot program in collaboration with the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency to assist persons experiencing homelessness with obtaining an identification card. The pilot program would operate in Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and Sacramento Counties, as well as the City and County of San Francisco.

This bill builds on the Mobile Homeless Connect events my Administration launched in 2022. These events, which involved state agencies, local governments, and community organizations, successfully connected hundreds of unsheltered individuals to essential services, including ID cards and birth certificates. Additionally, pursuant to existing law, the DMV has been issuing no-fee identification cards to people experiencing homelessness since 2014, facilitating the issuance of around 120,000 ID cards each year.

While I am proud of the impact this initiative has had, along with our ongoing efforts to connect unsheltered Californians to needed resources, any expansion must be properly funded and considered within the State Budget. Given the lack of funding for this proposed program, this bill would place additional and unsustainable stress on the Motor Vehicle Account.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1817**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 1817 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) to set additional goals to address food insecurity and unemployment among young people experiencing homelessness.

While I appreciate the author's focus on critical issues related to young people experiencing homelessness, the goals outlined in the bill lack specificity and are not clearly defined. These goals also fall outside Cal ICH's current mandate under existing law, which already requires Cal ICH to set comprehensive goals to prevent and end homelessness among youth.

Furthermore, the data needed to effectively track and measure the progress of these goals is not readily available. This would necessitate the development of new data collection systems, which would require a significant financial commitment that was not accounted for in the 2024 Budget Act.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1834**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 1834 without my signature.

This bill would modify the capacity payment mechanism used to reimburse the Electricity Supply Strategic Reliability Reserve Program (Strategic Reserve) by local electric publicly owned utilities (POUs) and load-serving entities (LSEs) if they fall short in meeting their capacity procurement obligations. In addition, this bill would change POU payments for voluntary participation in the Department of Water Resources Central Procurement Function.

Last year, my Administration sponsored Assembly Bill 1373 (Garcia, 2023), which, among other things, created the capacity payment mechanism for the Strategic Reserve and Central Procurement Function. This mechanism is intended to prevent POU and LSE dependence on the Strategic Reserve when they fall short of meeting their capacity obligations. In addition, the Central Procurement Function was purposefully and precisely designed to provide a back-stop option for needed, long-lead time, diverse clean energy resources to achieve California's 100 percent clean electricity goal.

While I appreciate the author's intent to adjust the requirements to address additional feedback from POUs, I am concerned that the changes proposed in this bill are not only premature, but are counter to the objective of the capacity payment mechanism and its use in maintaining electric supply reliability. I am also cautious to make any changes to the Central Procurement Function, considering that the California Public Utilities Commission only recently initiated the use of this function. Any changes to its governing statute should be carefully considered and evaluated before they advance.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1918**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 1918 without my signature.

This bill would provide a narrow statutory exemption from the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Standards) solar ready and battery storage system installation requirements in the Trinity Public Utilities District (PUD).

While I recognize that Trinity PUD is unique among all utilities in the state in being served by 100 percent clean, large hydroelectric power, this bill is unnecessary. The California Energy Commission (CEC) has approved Trinity PUD's applications for administrative exemptions from the solar ready and battery storage system requirements over multiple Standards cycles.

Further, the CEC recently adopted an administrative pathway, as part of the 2025 Standards, to lower the burden of Trinity PUD's re-application process when triennial updates to the Standards occur. The CEC's adopted pathway is more broadly applicable than this legislation, achieves the same outcome for Trinity PUD, and thoughtfully balances the objectives of the Standards—lowering consumer energy costs, reducing energy consumption, and avoiding greenhouse gas emissions.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1919**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 1919 without my signature.

This bill requires a school district to document any alternative means of correction used prior to the suspension of a student and requires, by July 1, 2026, local educational agencies to adopt at least one of the best practices for restorative justice implementation developed by the California Department of Education.

I respect the author's commitment to expanding restorative justice practices in our schools. Providing students with alternative conflict resolution methods is an important strategy for improving the academic achievement and school environment for all students. Unfortunately, while contingent upon budget appropriation, this bill adds tens of millions in ongoing cost pressures to future budgets.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1947**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 1947 without my signature.

This bill would authorize California State Preschool Program (CSPP) contractors to offer up to six days of reimbursed staff training for part-day and full-day care, and would require a CSPP contractor that serves more than 25 percent of dual language learners (DLLs) to schedule a minimum of three staff training days, with one day dedicated to support dual language children.

I appreciate the author's commitment to ensuring that dual language learners are provided a culturally appropriate and equitable educational experience. Our preschool, child care, and development workforce plays a key role in the academic future of such learners, and I agree with the author that it is important to provide our educators with the training to support these children. This is why the Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the Department of Education, is continuing its work to develop a single child care and development rate reimbursement structure that will include a new methodology to address some of these very same issues. These new requirements are better considered in a holistic manner as a part of the rate reform process.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1977**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 1977 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit a health plan from requiring an enrollee who was previously diagnosed with pervasive developmental disorder (PDD) or autism to be reevaluated or receive a new behavioral diagnosis to maintain coverage.

Under existing law, health plans may require utilization review (UR) to ensure enrollees receive the right care at the right time and to control costs for unnecessary services. Plans are prohibited from conducting UR more frequently than prescribed or recommended by the nonprofit professional association for the relevant clinical specialty, such as the Council of Autism Service Providers (CASP). While plans should make every effort to streamline UR processes and reduce unnecessary burdens for families, prohibiting reasonable UR entirely does not strike an appropriate balance.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1992**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 1992 without my signature.

This bill would authorize the California Coastal Commission and the California Natural Resources Agency to facilitate the development of blue and teal carbon demonstration projects in certain coastal areas and inland wetlands.

California is a global leader in advancing nature-based carbon capture and sequestration solutions, having built and expanded our portfolio of actions over decades. In fact, between 2020 and 2023 alone, the State invested approximately \$9.6 billion in nature-based solutions. Additionally, I signed Assembly Bill 1757 (C. Garcia) in 2022, which required the state to develop achievable carbon removal targets for natural and working lands. This same year, the Natural and Working Land Climate Smart Strategy cataloged over 350 efforts across State agencies to deliver meaningful nature-based solution climate action.

While I share the author's desire to accelerate novel nature-based climate solutions, this bill creates a new, unfunded program. In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM



**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2022**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2022 without my signature.

This bill would impose new requirements on the Emergency Preparedness Plans (EPP) that mobilehome park owners must implement starting January 1, 2027. The bill would also update requirements for park owners to notify residents of the EPP, require enforcement agencies to ensure compliance and impose penalties, and require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to post these changes by June 30, 2026.

While the goal of improving emergency communication between park owners and residents is commendable, the bill raises several concerns. By applying the proposed requirements only to Mobilehome Parks (MHPs) and excluding Special Occupancy Parks (SOPs), the bill would disrupt the historically consistent regulations for both park types, complicating enforcement and creating uneven safety standards. Additionally, the bill contains several ambiguities around park owners' responsibilities, particularly concerning their knowledge and handling of critical infrastructure during an emergency.

The bill would also result in a significant increase in workload for HCD to process, implement, and monitor these new requirements. The expansion of staff and resources to meet these ongoing obligations must be evaluated within the broader context of the state budget, ensuring that long-term workload demands align with available resources.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2038**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2038 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit the California Department of Parks and Recreation from requiring special event permits, and associated fees, for outdoor recreation programming within the State Park System for groups of up to 30 people, as specified.

This bill is premature given the legislation I signed last year, Assembly Bill 1150 (Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife, 2023), which expanded and enhanced access to the State Park System for underserved park users, including free and reduced-cost access through the use of "community access agreements" with nonprofit organizations.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2088**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2088 without my signature.

This bill requires school and community college employers, in both merit and non-merit districts, to offer part-time and full-time classified positions to current regular non-probationary classified employees a first refusal over all applicants, with specified exceptions, during a 10-day notice period. This bill allows the employer to advertise the position, but prohibits them from offering it to an external applicant until the 10-day notice period expires and no eligible employee candidate has applied.

This bill is significantly similar to Assembly Bill 1699 of 2023, which I vetoed, and several of the same concerns remain. In particular, like Assembly Bill 1699, this bill may have unintended consequences that are not in the best interest of students. As noted previously, this issue is already bargainable and several local bargaining agreements have such provisions in place. Placing specific requirements in statute—as this bill does—may make it more difficult for local processes to develop an alternative that best meets the needs of the district, employees, and students.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2093**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2093 without my signature.

This bill extends the California College Promise program's potential term of eligibility by an additional two academic years for first-time community college students and returning community college students who matriculate into upper-division coursework of a community college baccalaureate degree program.

I admire the author's commitment to college affordability. Unfortunately, this bill could create significant ongoing and increasing General Fund cost pressures and was not included in the 2024 Budget Act. Further, community college students pursuing baccalaureate degrees may receive a California College Promise Grant, a Cal Grant, or a Middle Class Scholarship award if they meet eligibility requirements.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2103**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2103 without my signature.

This bill would authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department), until January 1, 2030, to purchase real property for Big Basin Redwoods, Año Nuevo, and Butano state parks, without State Public Works Board's review. In addition, this bill would require the Department to comply with new public hearing requirements for acquisitions related to those state park units.

While the intent of this bill is to streamline the Department's acquisition process for park units impacted by the CZU Lightning Fire Complex, its public hearing requirements may slow the acquisition process and would significantly increase the Department's costs.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2120**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2120 without my signature.

This bill would provide that the crime of trespass does not apply to a repossession agency and its employees when they are on private property searching for or repossessing collateral, provided they leave the property within a reasonable amount of time afterward.

In 2021, I vetoed a substantially similar bill, due to concerns that allowing a repossessioner virtually unfettered access to a person's private property could result in confusion and possibly violent confrontations between property owners and repossessioners. I remain concerned with these provisions.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2214**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2214 without my signature.

This bill requires the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to lead an interagency coordination group to recommend statutory changes and adopt a work plan to implement recommendations from the 2022 Statewide Microplastics Strategy.

In 2018, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 1263, requiring the OPC to develop a Statewide Microplastics Strategy. The resulting Strategy, developed by the OPC in coordination with state agencies and external partners, provides a comprehensive and coordinated approach to identify early actions California can take to address microplastic pollution and advance existing microplastic research.

To date, the OPC has invested \$7 million in funding for plastic pollution projects, including \$3 million in funding specifically for microplastics. Recently funded projects are focused on examining the efficacy of microplastic removal from wastewater treatment plants; the use of low-impact development projects such as rain gardens and infiltration trenches; identifying sources and pathways of microplastics to stormwater; understanding ecological sensitivity to microplastics; and standardizing microplastic monitoring methods.

As scientific understanding advances, the OPC, alongside state agency partners, will evaluate the findings and lessons learned to provide policy recommendations to the Legislature by December 2025, per existing law. I believe this bill and the requirement for agencies to build out work plans ahead of the publishing of policy recommendations is premature.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2250**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2250 without my signature.

This bill would require commercial health plans and Medi-Cal to provide coverage for social determinants of health screenings, and to provide physicians with adequate access to community health workers that may perform these screenings.

My Administration has made significant investments in policies that contemplate and improve social determinants of health, such as housing, social services, community engagement, economic development, and public education. While I support the goal of this proposal, it is duplicative of existing efforts at the state and federal level, including the work the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is doing through CalAIM and the newly created federal billing code for social determinants of health risk assessments, which DHCS is currently considering. Further, this bill lacks clarity regarding “adequate access” to community health workers, which would be difficult to operationalize.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2263**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2263 without my signature.

This bill would require the State Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop a California Guaranteed Income Statewide Feasibility Study to report on the feasibility and benefits of a statewide Guaranteed Income Program, by July 1, 2027, and would create a steering committee to inform the study.

The 2021–22 Budget Act provided \$35 million over five years for grants to administer a Guaranteed Income Pilot Program, which began enrollment in 2023. Additionally, the 2024–25 Budget Act provided another \$5 million for eligible adults 60 years of age or older. Considering that there is existing funding provided and ongoing activity with the current guaranteed income pilots, this bill is premature. Further, the funding necessary to implement AB 2263 is not included in the budget.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2271**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2271 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to approve the forgiveness of any loans provided to St. Rose Hospital in the City of Hayward from the Distressed Hospital Loan Program (DHLP).

The DHLP was established in 2023 with \$300 million to offer interest-free loans to non-profit and publicly operated hospitals in financial distress. A total of 16 hospitals received loans from the program in August 2023, including \$17.65 million to St. Rose Hospital. As part of the DHLP statute, HCAI is required to develop loan modification and forgiveness guidelines that all hospitals may apply for. These guidelines will be released before the end of the year, and I encourage St. Rose Hospital to pursue loan forgiveness through this path.

While I appreciate the author's effort to support Alameda Health System's potential acquisition of St. Rose Hospital in her community, this bill would circumvent the loan forgiveness application process in existing law to secure full forgiveness for one hospital through statute. This unfairly advantages St. Rose and sets a precedent for the remaining 15 hospitals that received loans.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2277**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2277 without my signature.

This bill requires community college districts on January 1, 2025, or no later than the expiration date of an existing part-time faculty collective bargaining agreement, to negotiate the terms of reemployment preference for part-time faculty assignments. Specifically, the bill redefines a part-time faculty's load as up to a range of 80 percent to 85 percent of what is assigned for full-time faculty, rather than 60 percent to 67 percent, unless otherwise explicitly agreed upon with individual part-time faculty.

In 2021, I vetoed a bill substantially similar to this proposal. In that veto message, I acknowledged the enormous role that part-time community college faculty play across the system. I also conveyed that the proposal had significant ongoing cost pressures that are better addressed as part of the budget process, and I committed to proposing an alternative in a future budget. In the 2022 Budget Agreement, consistent with my commitment, funding for the part-time faculty health insurance program was increased by \$200 million ongoing. This bill continues to create unknown, but potentially significant costs or cost pressures in the millions to tens of millions of dollars.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2330**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2330 without my signature.

The bill would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop and implement a program to assist local governments with the taking of threatened or engaged species as part of their wildfire preparedness planning efforts.

While I support efforts to increase the pace and scale of wildfire preparedness, this bill creates significant, ongoing costs that should be considered in the annual budget process. In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2401**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2401 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to make several changes to the Clean Cars 4 All (CC4A) Program, including but not limited to codifying a statewide CC4A program, potentially reallocating funds between statewide and air district-run programs, expanding reporting requirements, and prioritizing certain recipients who drive older vehicles in greater amounts in more pollution-burdened areas.

The CC4A program has helped thousands of lower-income residents living in some of the most disadvantaged and air-polluted areas of the state replace their old higher-polluting vehicles with newer, cleaner vehicles. The program is designed to be consumer-focused, and its appeal is its ease of access and straightforward eligibility and participation requirements.

Unfortunately, while the intent of this bill is laudable, the new application requirements it would impose on the CC4A program recipients are onerous and will discourage some of the lowest-income residents in California from participating. In addition, the new verification requirements would necessitate constant and costly monitoring by CARB of recipient driving patterns, further discouraging program participation and thereby preventing continued reductions in local air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from being realized.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM



**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2448**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2448 without my signature.

This bill would require the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA), upon appropriation of the Legislature, to establish an Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone in the county of Riverside, for the purpose of creating educational and employment opportunities related to electrical vehicles.

While I support efforts to boost electric vehicle manufacturing jobs and education in this state, particularly in low-income communities, this bill creates General Fund cost pressures and should be considered in the annual budget process.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2537**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2537 without my signature.

This bill would create the Offshore Wind Community Capacity Funding Grant Account for the purpose of building capacity within local and tribal communities to support engagement on offshore wind (OSW) energy projects.

While I share the author's desire to ensure communities hosting OSW projects are resourced to constructively engage in their planning and development, this bill falls short of providing a viable funding stream to accomplish this very objective. I encourage the author and the OSW developers to collaborate further with communities to identify an approach that not only fosters capacity for engagement but considers community benefits from the development of these projects.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2538**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2538 without my signature.

The bill would, among other things, require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to employ seasonal firefighters (FFI) through the use of an employment list. This bill would also require the Department of Human Resources to coordinate with the State Personnel Board, and any other relevant State agency, to take the necessary actions to allow CAL FIRE to employ seasonal firefighters for longer than 9 months in a consecutive 12-month period.

Increasing CAL FIRE's capacity is an important objective, and with the introduction of the 66-hour work week for firefighters, my Administration will need to hire more than 2,000 new year-round firefighters, significantly increasing the department's capacity in the off-season. This bill is therefore unnecessary.

Additionally, this bill raises challenging questions about its compatibility with Article VII, Section 5 of the California Constitution, which provides generally that a temporary appointment may be made in the absence of an employment list, and no person may serve in one or more positions under a temporary appointment for longer than 9 months in a consecutive 12-month period. The seasonal firefighters that are the subject of this bill are hired into the Firefighter I classification, which is a temporary appointment.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2586**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2586 without my signature.

This bill prohibits California public universities from disqualifying a student from employment due to their failure to provide proof of federal employment authorization.

California has a proud history of being at the forefront of expanding opportunities for undocumented students who seek to realize their higher education dreams. Including immigrant students in opportunities to succeed through higher education is also important for local communities and California's economy. Since 2001, when the California DREAM Act (AB 540) was signed into law, the state has continually broadened access to financial aid opportunities and other supports for students who call California home, regardless of their immigration status.

While I am proud of these efforts, I am unfortunately unable to sign this legislation at this time. Given the gravity of the potential consequences of this bill, which include potential criminal and civil liability for state employees, it is critical that the courts address the legality of such a policy and the novel legal theory behind this legislation before proceeding. Seeking declaratory relief in court—an option available to the University of California—would provide such clarity.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2637**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2637 without my signature.

This bill would repeal existing law that requires a private nonprofit corporation or association that receives a working capital loan from the California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) to repay and discharge the loan within 24 months of the loan date.

Hospitals are critical to the health and safety of our communities, and it is a priority of my Administration to assist hospitals that are struggling financially. For this reason, together with the Legislature, we authorized \$300 million for the Distressed Hospital Loan Program to offer zero-interest loans to eligible financially distressed hospitals. While I support efforts to ensure loan repayment requirements are feasible, this bill would result in an open-ended timeframe without any required end date that loans must be repaid. Extending the timeline for the recoupment of CHFFA loans would be better discussed as a part of the annual budget process.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2677**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2677 without my signature.

This bill would cap the aggregate liability of an insurer that issues a surety bond to the amount of the bond.

While I appreciate the author's attempt to reduce the cost of bonds for licensees, California law offers numerous avenues for insurers to limit their liability for attorney fees when faced with meritorious claims. I am concerned that this bill's limitation of attorney fees could have the unintended consequence of preventing all but the most affluent consumers from being able to seek redress if they are harmed.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2681**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2681 without my signature.

This bill would make it an infraction to manufacture, modify, sell, transfer, or operate a robotic device equipped or mounted with a weapon.

I support the author's intent to prohibit the weaponization of an emerging technology and place common sense restrictions on potentially dangerous devices. However, this bill would also prohibit beneficial law enforcement use of such devices. For example, when confronted with armed and barricaded suspects, law enforcement agencies sometimes use remotely operated robots to deploy less-lethal force to drive these suspects into the open or protect officers from dangerous suspects.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2910**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 2910 without my signature.

This bill would authorize the City of Los Angeles to adopt alternative building regulations for converting commercial buildings to residential use, subject to local zoning and public safety requirements, and requires the City to submit these regulations for state approval.

While I recognize the importance of facilitating adaptive reuse projects, this bill overlaps with ongoing state efforts recently established with the enactment of Assembly Bill 529 (Gabriel, 2023). This law requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to convene a working group to identify and recommend amendments to state building standards for converting commercial buildings into housing by December 31, 2025. With these existing efforts still being implemented, this bill would result in unnecessary duplication and added complexity.

Additionally, the Building Standards Commission does not have the resources or capacity to conduct the comprehensive reviews of local ordinances required by this bill, which would result in General Fund costs not accounted for in the 2024 Budget.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 3023**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 3023 without my signature.

This bill would require creating an interagency funding strategy to “align ongoing planning and implementation” of state actions to deliver on our climate change and biodiversity goals, including wildfire and watershed restoration activities.

While I appreciate the author's intent to seek greater alignment between specific state programs, this bill duplicates existing efforts already well underway to achieve integrated outcomes on California's climate change and biodiversity goals. For example, nearly 45 state entities under my Administration are developing nature-based solutions to achieve the targets created as a result of AB 1757 (C. Garcia, 2022). This level of involvement and integration was possible due to years of interagency collaboration and process-building.

Furthermore, this bill would result in state General Fund impacts not included in the 2024 Budget Act and could present legal challenges surrounding General Obligation bonds and how existing programs would manage inconsistencies with bond law. In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

**Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 3034**

Governor's Office, Sacramento  
September 22, 2024

*To the Members of the California State Assembly:*

I am returning Assembly Bill 3034 without my signature.

The bill requires the California State University, and requests that the University of California, waive tuition and mandatory fees for two years for full-time students who have served in the California Conservation Corps for at least one year and meet specified eligibility requirements.

I appreciate the author's commitment to college affordability and rewarding public service. Unfortunately, this bill could create ongoing significant General Fund cost pressures in the millions of dollars not included in the 2024 Budget Act.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt of Bills

I acknowledge receipt this 22nd day of September, 2024 at 11:47 a.m., of the following Assembly bills without the Governor's signature, together with statements of his objections thereto, signed by the Governor, delivered to me personally by Jasmine Valle:

Assembly Bills Nos. 544, 832, 884, 1738, 1817, 1834, 1918, 1919, 1947, 1977, 1992, 2022, 2038, 2088, 2093, 2103, 2120, 2214, 2250, 2263, 2271, 2277, 2330, 2401, 2448, 2537, 2538, 2586, 2637, 2677, 2681, 2910, 3023, and 3034.

SUE PARKER  
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

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ROBERT RIVAS, Speaker

DANIEL ALVAREZ, Assistant Minute Clerk

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