

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY JOURNAL

RECESS JOURNAL NO. 43

FINAL RECESS

Assembly Chamber, Sacramento
Friday, September 25, 2026

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 59, the following Assembly Journal for the 2025–26 Regular Session was printed while the Assembly was in Final Recess.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Privacy and Consumer Protection, on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., at 1021 O Street, Room 1100.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

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

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 353

Governor's Office, Sacramento

September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 353 without my signature.

This bill would require the Governor to appoint an Inspector General of the Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to serve a six-year term and transfer the existing internal auditing functions to the new Inspector General.

I understand the author's ambition to bring more oversight to the decisions made at, and programs administered by, the CPUC. However, this bill contains several flaws. Most significantly, it would compromise the Public Advocates Office's (Office) role as a robust advocate before the CPUC. By granting existing agency staff access to internal deliberations, work products, and litigation strategies, this measure would undermine the independence of the Office. Further, a reorganization of the CPUC at the scale envisioned by this bill would have significant fixed and operational costs in the tens of millions of dollars that are not included in this year's budget.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1049

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1049 without my signature.

This bill exempts the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) from federal sponsor-deeming rules and exemptions so that a sponsor's income and resources are no longer attributed to a sponsored immigrant applicant.

I applaud the author's commitment to removing barriers for individuals seeking access to food assistance. Unfortunately, the changes proposed by this bill would create a significant inconsistency between the federally funded CalFresh program and the state-funded CFAP program. Both programs utilize the same application and follow the same sponsor deeming requirements. I am reluctant to fundamentally alter rules that could lead to apparent discrepancies that could be weaponized by the current federal administration. We have already witnessed their limitless cruelty in denying millions of American families food assistance with little to no regard.

There are existing exemptions to sponsor deeming that are aligned with the intent of this bill. I am directing the Department of Social Services to continue to work with counties and trusted community messengers to support awareness of these exemptions, alongside other efforts to connect Californians to food benefits.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1547

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1547 without my signature.

This bill, an urgency measure, requires the University of California (UC) to complete a feasibility study to establish a UC medical school branch campus in Kern County by January 1, 2028.

I am unable to sign this bill because it requires significant General Fund resources that are not included in the 2026 Budget Act. Additionally, in 2024, I signed AB 2357 (Bains), which established the UC Kern County Medical Education Endowment Fund to support the operating costs associated with establishing a UC Medical School in Kern County. That bill specified the endowment funds could be used to conduct a feasibility study.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we 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. 1591

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1591 without my signature.

This bill requires the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to establish and administer the California Podiatric Pipeline Program.

While well-intentioned, this bill duplicates existing efforts. HCAI already administers workforce pathway programs that offer exposure to health professions, including podiatric medicine. Additionally, the two special funds referenced in the bill are already allocated for other purposes and thus cannot support this program, and no additional funds were made available for this specific purpose in this year's final budget agreement.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we 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. 1722

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1722 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit the imposition of civil or criminal penalties on an individual who "takes" a species listed, or a candidate for listing, under the California Endangered Species Act if the individual acted in self-defense or in defense of another individual to protect against immediate bodily harm.

Defending oneself from immediate bodily harm is a fundamental right. California law already protects against penalties for taking endangered species if the take occurred to protect oneself or another person. This bill duplicates these protections while creating confusion about the applicable standard for invoking this type of defense.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1729

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1729 without my signature.

This bill would require a state agency to provide a detailed written justification to the agency's employees if the agency's unique operational needs and programmatic mission require employees to report to the workplace. This measure would also require each state agency to decennially update its telework program.

I deeply admire our state workforce's dedication to public service and all that they achieve on behalf of the people of California. While I fundamentally believe in-person collaboration is an essential part of a productive and effective workplace, the state's existing telework policy includes a process for departments to consider exemptions on a case-by-case basis. This measure, by limiting departmental flexibility and encouraging telework to be the default work arrangement, takes the state's telework policy in the wrong direction.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1882

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1882 without my signature.

This bill would establish the Safe Delivery Fund Pilot Program within the Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI) to provide hospitals with funding to offset specified uncompensated standby costs.

I share the author's goal of preserving access to care in geographically isolated communities, where hospitals often face financial gaps. In this year's budget, we made unprecedented investments into our hospital system—including \$90 million in grant funding to financially distressed hospitals, with authority to augment this funding by an additional \$50 million, \$250 million dollars for public hospitals, and \$10 million dollars to stand up a new healthcare stability unit within HCAI to better assist hospitals with difficult financial situations.

This bill, while well-intentioned, does not draw from any of these budget investments and instead enacts a new, complex, and unfunded hospital reimbursement program. Further, this bill would require significant technical, operational, and reporting responsibilities that would inject unnecessary bureaucratic complexity and be costly to implement.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1889

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1889 without my signature.

This measure would authorize a court to issue a protective order, at the time of sentencing, preventing a defendant from contacting a victim in specified cases for up to one year after the defendant is released from state prison or county jail.

While well-intentioned, it is unclear whether this bill can be implemented effectively. Many factors can trigger recalculations of an incarcerated person's release date, including changes in workgroup assignments, program credit earnings, credit losses or restorations, and modifications to sentencing terms or case credits. Any one of these factors could change when an incarcerated person is released, but they are unknowable at the time of sentencing, when the court issues the protective order. This will result in inaccurate or incomplete information being entered into the electronic systems that law enforcement rely on to determine whether a particular individual is subject to such an order. Tying a protective order to the date of release requires information that will simply not be available to the court, creating confusion on the part of officers and victims alike. While I support the author's attempt to ensure victims are adequately protected, additional work is needed to allow for proper implementation of this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1894

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1894 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit a public agency from denying imported water for groundwater replenishment due to the presence of an invasive mussel.

In response to the detection of golden mussels in October 2024, my administration immediately began working with managers of uninfested and infested waters to support the implementation of invasive mussel prevention and containment programs. This work is critical to ensure that water managers are prepared to respond to the ongoing threat these species pose.

While I appreciate the author's intent, I am concerned by this bill's "one-size-fits-all" approach prohibiting the denial of local water deliveries. This could have serious, unintended consequences for water managers statewide, especially as the challenges associated with invasive mussels continue to evolve.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2012

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2012 without my signature.

This bill would modify permitting and escort requirements for transporting manufactured homes, factory-built housing, and commercial modular structures. It also would require the Department of Housing and Community Development, in consultation with the California Department of Transportation and the California Highway Patrol, to convene a workgroup to identify opportunities to reduce transportation costs and improve safety and efficiency.

My administration has consistently supported innovation in the building industry and efforts to lower construction costs and increase housing production. However, moving oversized loads safely involves complex engineering, operational, and enforcement considerations. This bill would change longstanding permitting and escort requirements before the workgroup it creates has evaluated whether and how those requirements can safely be revised.

These oversized loads often extend beyond the width of a travel lane, and their safe movement requires route-specific review of lane and shoulder widths, turning radii, bridge and overhead clearances, work zones, traffic volumes, and other changing conditions. In a state as large and geographically diverse as California, these factors can vary significantly from one segment of a route to the next, making careful review and coordination essential.

Any changes to this framework must be carefully designed to account for the technical and safety considerations involved while providing consistent requirements and rules as oversized loads are transported across jurisdictional lines.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2081

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2081 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to expand capacity in the Medi-Cal Home and Community-Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver by 5,000 slots, as well as evaluate the populations receiving priority enrollment in the program.

While I appreciate the author's intent to expand access to home and community-based services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are at risk of institutionalization, this bill would significantly and immediately increase program costs by hundreds of millions of dollars. Fortunately, the 2026 Budget Act includes \$3 million to enable DHCS to clear the HCBA waiver waitlist and serve all eligible individuals seeking enrollment in the HCBA waiver program. Any additional expansions to this program, given the significant cost, must be considered in the annual state budget process.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we 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. 2124

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2124 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Council on Science and Technology to create a program to review pending legislation upon request by legislators for impacts related to electricity or natural gas ratepayers.

The Legislature already employs professional staff to analyze pending legislation, and their work should include the potential impacts on ratepayers. Additionally, the Legislature has access to the resources and analysis of the Legislative Analysts Office, which could also achieve the goals of this bill. Lastly, the resources required to implement this bill were not considered in the context of this year's budget agreement.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we 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. 2166

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2166 without my signature.

This bill would establish the Multifamily Backstop Financing Program within the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank to provide state-backed credit support for surety bonds issued to eligible offsite housing factories serving multifamily projects.

I support innovative financing strategies that can lower housing construction costs, and I thank the author for advancing this important goal. However, this novel program is estimated to require hundreds of millions of dollars in initial capitalization, funding that was not included in the state budget. A proposal of this scale should instead be considered through the annual budget process, where its funding needs, risk protections, and administrative structure can be evaluated together.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we 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. 2301

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2301 without my signature.

This bill requires the California Community College (CCC) Chancellor's Office to establish a Community College Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program that would authorize 10 community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

This year, I proudly signed SB 960 and AB 2694 to create a statewide framework for community college districts to establish baccalaureate programs already offered by other public higher education institutions. This framework is inclusive of all academic programs, so long as specified criteria are met—such as a demonstrated workforce demand and lack of capacity in regional universities. Given this progress, it is neither necessary nor appropriate to authorize an additional pilot or create an exception to the framework, as this bill proposes. California's public higher education segments should instead focus on implementing this newly created, comprehensive system.

Additionally, the 2024 Budget Agreement included \$60 million per year, from 2025–26 to 2028–29, for the Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Grant Program, which community colleges can use to expand BSN partnerships with the University of California, California State University, and independent nonprofit higher education institutions. These partnerships have proven successful in increasing BSN degree recipients and access for community college students. All segments of higher education should continue collaborating to build these programs.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2343

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2343 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to designate or design a public consumer-protection platform to provide information on licensed and certified alcohol and other drug treatment facilities and programs.

While I appreciate the author's intent to help those struggling with addiction find high-quality treatment, this bill is duplicative of existing efforts. In 2023, as part of the state's broader response to the opioid crisis, California launched a free, confidential platform—known as the Treatment Atlas—to help people find and compare addiction treatment options. The 2026 Budget Act provided additional funding for DHCS to continue it through September 30, 2027, making this bill unnecessary.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2349

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2349 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to expand its incident air monitoring program.

While I share the author's goal of expanding emergency air monitoring, the proposed program requires significant resources not included in this year's budget.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we 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. 2395

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2395 without my signature.

This bill modifies the statewide Debt Reduction Program (DRP), through which parents can make an offer in compromise for child support and interest owed to the state. The bill requires the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) to implement highly specific standardized forms and procedures across all local child support agencies (LCSAs) to ensure the DRP operates uniformly throughout the state.

I appreciate the author's intent to increase access to the DRP. However, while well-intentioned, this bill adds unnecessary complexity to provide improvements that can be achieved administratively. DCSS already has full statutory authority to establish and operate a statewide DRP. To that end, DCSS is actively working with local child support agencies and other stakeholders to improve the program's transparency, fairness, and accountability.

Finally, the new complaint resolution process envisioned by this bill would require administrators to review and potentially overturn their own decisions—creating an inherent conflict of interest. These changes undermine the program's clarity and administrative integrity, and do not provide meaningful improvements for families seeking debt relief.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2494

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2494 without my signature.

This bill would significantly revise the state's management policies for the Demonstration State Forests and establish new goals, forestry techniques, research efforts, and other activities allowable on the demonstration forests. For 80 years, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Demonstration State Forests have served as living laboratories for research, recreation, and the demonstration of sustainable forest management.

My administration, in partnership with the Legislature, has made historic investments to accelerate the pace and scale of science-based forest management to improve forest health, enhance wildfire resilience, and mitigate climate change. Though small in size, Demonstration State Forests produce cutting-edge strategies that inform forest management on public and private lands across California—work that is critical to achieving our goals.

By narrowing the management of these forests to a limited set of public benefits, this bill risks the State's ability to fully demonstrate the best science-based practices. At a time when California is racing to keep pace with a rapidly changing climate, we cannot afford to lose the flexibility needed to safeguard our forests for future generations.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2588

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 18, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2588 without my signature.

This bill would allow a District Agricultural Association (DAA) board of directors, in cases where the Governor has not filled a vacancy within 90 days and the DAA board has insufficient membership to establish a quorum, to temporarily appoint a director to fill the vacancy and to establish a quorum.

I share the author's goal of ensuring a DAA has sufficient appointees to conduct business, which is why my office engages with local community groups and leaders to seek recommendations and recruit candidates to serve on these boards. This process includes a thorough vetting to ensure that appointees reflect the community and are the most qualified to serve. This bill would create a temporary appointment process outside this standard vetting framework, raising accountability and oversight concerns as decisions are made regarding these state properties. I encourage the author and interested stakeholders to continue discussions with my office to continue to build this pool of potential appointees to be vetted through the appropriate process.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt

I acknowledge receipt this 18th day of September, 2026 at 5:25 p.m., of the following Assembly Bills without the Governor's signature, together with a statement of his objections thereto, signed by the Governor, delivered to me personally by Kimberly Moran Fuentes.

Assembly Bills Nos. 353, 1049, 1547, 1591, 1722, 1729, 1882, 1889, 1894, 2012, 2081, 2124, 2166, 2301, 2343, 2349, 2395, 2494, and 2588.

SUE PARKER
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 306

Governor's Office, Sacramento

September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 306 without my signature. This bill would expand the California Building Standards Commission's authority to hear appeals of certain local building code decisions, including requests to use alternative materials or construction methods, and to interpret provisions it has adopted.

My administration worked extensively with the Legislature to make California's building standards more predictable and efficient. Last year's state budget incorporated provisions from an earlier iteration of this measure that generally paused new residential building standards until mid-2031, providing greater regulatory certainty and helping contain construction costs.

I thank the author for their partnership and continued commitment to this important issue. However, this bill does not clearly explain how the Commission's new appeals pathway would interact with the existing processes administered by the California Energy Commission, the State Historical Building Safety Board, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

These agencies already administer specialized energy, fire, and life-safety standards, resolve disputes arising from local decisions, and evaluate alternative methods of compliance. Allowing the same issues to be presented to the Building Standards Commission without specifying which agency has final authority could result in duplicative proceedings, inconsistent interpretations, and project delays. These risks are particularly concerning for housing projects, where uncertainty over applicable building standards can delay approvals, disrupt financing, increase construction costs, and ultimately prevent urgently needed homes from being built. The new process would also impose significant ongoing costs without dedicated funding.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 539

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 539 without my signature.

This bill would require approved prior authorizations for healthcare services requested by in-network providers to remain valid for at least one year, or for the period requested by the treating provider if less than one year.

While I appreciate the author's intent to reduce administrative burdens, this bill would apply prior authorizations too broadly, limiting health plans' ability to reassess medical necessity as a member's condition changes.

This could result in overutilization, inappropriate continuation of services, and unnecessary costs. The bill also conflicts with existing clinical guidelines and utilization management controls, undermining program integrity and flexibility to ensure that care remains appropriate for patients.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 605

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 605 without my signature.

This bill would establish the Refinery Safe Staffing Task Force, composed of employer and employee organization representatives, to report to the Legislature by June 1, 2029, on strategies for employee retention prior to refinery closures.

I support the author's intent to identify strategies to protect and support workers displaced by refinery closures, and the state needs a real, long-term plan. This bill, however, establishes a task force supported by staff from the Division of Occupational Safety and Health's Process Safety Management Unit, which primarily inspects refineries and chemical plants that handle large quantities of toxic and flammable materials. This Unit is also charged with enforcing health and safety standards intended to prevent catastrophic explosions, fires, and releases of dangerous chemicals.

I am concerned that diverting these specialized inspectors to support the task force envisioned by this bill—without any identified resources—will diminish their ability to focus on holding refineries accountable for meeting required health and safety standards, potentially putting refinery workers at greater risk.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 713

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 713 without my signature.

This bill prohibits California public universities, beginning January 6, 2027, from disqualifying a student from employment for failing to provide proof of federal employment authorization.

Two years ago, I vetoed a nearly identical bill and, unfortunately, my concerns about its unintended consequences have only grown. The current federal government has shown it is quick to wreak destruction for political spectacle—attacking California's public higher education institutions and terrorizing immigrant communities, including students, with reckless disregard for consequences and a desire for chaos.

California remains committed to economic opportunity and tuition affordability for all students, including leading efforts to support undocumented students who face growing barriers and threats under this cruel federal administration. But given the gravity of this bill's consequences—including potential criminal and civil liability for state employees—the federal courts must resolve the legality of the novel legal theory behind this legislation before we proceed. Seeking declaratory relief in federal court would provide such clarity.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 917

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 917 without my signature.

This bill requires certificated employees in school districts and county offices of education with less than 250 average daily attendance to be granted permanent status after two years of employment and reelection for a third year, consistent with employees in larger local educational agencies. The bill also allows service as an instructor in certain regional occupational centers or programs (ROC/P) to count toward permanent status in a school district and makes conforming changes to employment, dismissal, suspension, reassignment, and contract provisions.

This bill, while laudable in its intent, eliminates many of the flexibilities established for small school districts in light of the unique circumstances. I am concerned this could have the unintended consequence of undermining the educational entity's ability to best meet the needs of its students—especially since permanency is an issue that can be addressed through the collective bargaining process. Further, by limiting a ROC/P's ability to respond nimbly to changing regional workforce needs, this bill is inconsistent with my administration's focus on ensuring the state's education and workforce training programs are aligned with workforce demands.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1328

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1328 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services to adjust the rates for nonemergency medical transportation to be reimbursed at 80% of the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule, starting January 1, 2027.

While I appreciate the author's intent to support Medi-Cal members' access to nonemergency transportation services, mandating rate increases for ground ambulance services could create inappropriate incentives to utilize ambulance transport over other more appropriate and available modes of nonemergency transportation. Additionally, the rate increases required by this bill would have an annual General Fund impact in the tens of millions of dollars.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we 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. 1383

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1383 without my signature.

This bill would modify the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) to prospectively establish a new pensionable compensation limit for all members and reduce the benefit age factor to 55 for safety members. This bill would also authorize a new safety formula that could be agreed to in the collective bargaining process.

This measure would partially reverse some of PEPRA's reforms and significantly increase state and local government costs. Moreover, by widening the retirement benefit gap between safety members and non-safety members, this measure invites future changes that would expose our retirement system to additional risk.

PEPRA was a necessary reform born of a crisis exacerbated by past policy decisions. I still recall—before PEPRA's passage in 2012—the alarming forecasts, the fierce criticism of public employees, and the growing pressure to eliminate defined benefit plans altogether. This is an era of California history I do not want to repeat. I fear that undoing PEPRA's reforms, even partially, risks us doing exactly that.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1595

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1595 without my signature.

This bill would substantially expand circumstances in which a person who has been convicted of a criminal offense may file petitions for writs of habeas corpus.

Due to the expanded pleading standards, this bill will result in additional workload costs to various state and local entities including the Department of Justice, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Department of State Hospitals, and local public defender and district attorney offices. Additionally, the bill would add to the trial courts' caseload, potentially causing court backlogs and creating pressure on the General Fund to handle the increased caseload.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital we 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. 1602

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1602 without my signature.

This bill establishes a statewide Child Welfare Disaster Response Fund and a Child Welfare Disaster Response Program to support foster children and youth and their caregivers during a disaster.

While I share the author's goal to support foster children and youth and their caregivers, this bill would create a new, unfunded grant program. Last year I vetoed an identical bill, noting that without an identified funding source, it would have created significant, ongoing General Fund cost pressures to fund local assistance costs annually. That is still the case.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1761

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1761 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to disclose any data, including market-sensitive data, to load-serving entities and advocacy organizations concurrent with any proposal or analysis related to the Power Charge Indifference Account.

I am concerned that this legislation will result in improper dissemination of market-sensitive information and benefit a limited subset of market participants.

Fortunately, there are already processes in place at the CPUC to make applicable data available to the public and market participants using existing, approved confidentiality procedures to review and evaluate the accuracy of all costs associated with contracts, utility-owned generation, and all other resources or value included in charges derived from these costs. The CPUC has worked with load serving entities to develop a process to access the requested information with proper guardrails to ensure confidentiality.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2122

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2122 without my signature.

This bill would, among other things, eliminate the misdemeanor offense for failing to appear in court on a Vehicle Code infraction and prohibit the issuance of a bench warrant for failing to appear in court for such an infraction.

I share the author's commitment to mitigate disparate punishment for minor offenses against low-income residents of the state. Throughout my administration, I have sought to tackle the issue of burdensome fines, fees, and assessments that disproportionately drag low-income individuals deeper into debt—signing numerous bills that repeal or reduce dozens of criminal fines and fees and discharging nearly \$7 billion in debt. In doing so, I strived to provide relief where possible, while also maintaining public safety. This bill, however, does not appropriately balance those twin goals.

Unsafe speed accounted for over 100,000 vehicle crashes last year, and the California Highway Patrol issued nearly 500,000 speeding citations. With few exceptions, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) does not receive information that a person has committed a vehicle offense, including most speeding infractions, until the matter is adjudicated in court. By eliminating misdemeanor liability and arrest authority for failures to appear, this bill could cause additional delays in the court processing of unsafe driving violations and communication of those violations to the DMV.

This year, the State Auditor conducted an audit to review the steps that superior courts and the DMV take to process a conviction. With findings and recommendations from the State Auditor on this issue forthcoming, it would be unwise to cause further delays in the processing of moving violations, which would result in more unsafe drivers on our roads.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2142

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2142 without my signature.

This bill creates a rebuttable presumption that a school district or community college district must replace a short-term employee position with a position in the classified service if specified conditions are met.

I support the author's goal of ensuring "short-term" employees are not hired for multiple years without providing them the benefits of permanent employment. However, by establishing a confusing calculation of thresholds and service days in statute, combined with a complex legal standard, this bill introduces significant implementation challenges for school and college officials. Further, this bill creates hundreds of millions of dollars in additional cost pressures and should be considered within the broader context of the annual state budget process.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we 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. 2164

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2164 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit future governors from recognizing a request for extradition of a person subject to criminal liability based on allegations that the person engaged in specified healthcare activities.

I am proud of the work done in partnership with the Legislature over the last eight years to produce numerous, important policies protecting the right of access to health care in this state. Together, we have passed into law the nation's strongest protections for people seeking and providing those services, including expanding privacy protections for providers, enacting safeguards against the enforcement of other states' laws that penalize individuals for obtaining care, and authorizing a party aggrieved by a violation of the Reproductive Privacy Act to bring a civil action against an offending state actor.

While I share the author's views on the importance of protecting these important healthcare services, extradition is an exclusively executive function. When discretionary, that discretion is appropriately placed with the Governor. I am troubled by the precedent that would be set if an outgoing administration agreed with the Legislature to erode the executive authority of an incoming Governor based on their shared policy preferences, regardless of how righteous and well-intended those actions may be.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2230

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2230 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit employees of a child daycare facility licensed by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) from providing voluntary consent to a law enforcement officer to enter a nonpublic area of the facility unless presented with valid documentation.

Immigration enforcement actions, coupled with anti-immigrant online rhetoric targeting providers, have created a climate of fear for childcare providers, and for the children and families for whom they provide care. In recognition of this cruel reality, I signed legislation last year (AB 495, Rodriguez) to strengthen protections, increase preparedness, and provide clear guidance for caregivers and daycare facilities. These resources are helping providers today become knowledgeable about how to respond to an immigration enforcement action.

While I appreciate the author's intent to further protect our children and providers, this bill takes the wrong approach. By broadly prohibiting employees of a licensed child daycare facility from providing voluntary consent to any law enforcement officer, this bill places an undue burden on providers to validate the legality of the officer's action or verify specific legal documents, likely in the middle of a frightening and overwhelming experience.

Further, this bill may have the unintended effect of hindering normal licensing investigation and enforcement operations. CDSS is responsible for protecting the health and safety of children in its licensed facilities and often works with law enforcement agencies to fulfill that duty. There could be a myriad of legitimate reasons for law enforcement to visit a facility completely unrelated to immigration enforcement, and this bill unnecessarily complicates those situations.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2337

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2337 without my signature.

This bill adds theft committed by a peace officer under color of authority to the definition of “serious misconduct” for purposes of ineligibility for, or revocation of, peace officer certification.

While I support the author's goal of holding peace officers accountable for illicit actions, this bill is duplicative of existing law. Serious misconduct is already defined as inclusive of, but not limited to, “abuse of power,” “dishonesty,” and “acts that violate the law and are sufficiently egregious or repeated as to be inconsistent with a peace officer's obligation to uphold the law or respect the rights of members of the public.” The existing definition of serious misconduct therefore already encompasses the use of peace officer authority to commit theft. Absent reports to the contrary, further particularizing of the definition is unnecessary and may be interpreted to suggest that other unspecified violations are not actionable.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2439

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2439 without my signature.

This bill would generally prohibit homeowners associations from restricting a member's use of public streets, establish new notification requirements when the recipient of assessment payments changes, and expand liability for specified violations of assessment-collection procedures.

I support protecting homeowners from improper collection practices and ensuring they know where to make their assessment payments. However, this bill would make an association liable for "any costs" a homeowner incurs because the association failed to follow assessment-collection procedures. The bill neither defines nor limits those costs. This broad standard could create uncertainty, invite disputes and litigation, and impose costs on associations and their members disproportionate to the underlying violation.

The bill also makes the board liable for a \$1,000 civil penalty when an association commits a third specified notice violation within five years. Existing law generally places this type of liability on the association. The bill does not explain how liability against "the board" would operate or how it would apply when board membership changes between violations. This uncertainty could discourage residents from volunteering to serve and make effective association governance more difficult.

In addition, the bill requires certificates of mailing and, in certain circumstances, certified mail with a return receipt. These prescriptive requirements could impose substantial administrative costs that would ultimately be passed on to homeowners.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2635

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 20, 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2635 without my signature.

This bill requires local air districts to implement a commercial voucher program to support the transition to zero-emission small off-road equipment.

Small off-road engines are a significant source of harmful air pollution, particularly in communities already burdened by poor air quality. While I share the author's goal of helping marginalized communities transition to zero-emission equipment, this bill duplicates existing state and local air district programs. Under my administration, in partnership with the Legislature, we provided \$30 million to incentivize the purchase of nearly 30,000 pieces of zero-emission landscape equipment. Additionally, zero-emission landscape equipment is now widely available from many manufacturers, which will further increase market competition.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt

I acknowledge receipt this 20th day of September, 2026 at 3:05 p.m., of the following Assembly Bills without the Governor's signature, together with a statement of his objections thereto, signed by the Governor, delivered to me personally by Kimberly Moran Fuentes.

Assembly Bills Nos. 306, 539, 605, 713, 917, 1328, 1383, 1595, 1602, 1761, 2122, 2142, 2164, 2230, 2337, 2439, and 2635.

SUE PARKER
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

ROBERT RIVAS, Speaker

RUSSELL C. TOMAS, Minute Clerk

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