

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

2019–20 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY JOURNAL

RECESS JOURNAL NO. 25

FINAL RECESS

Assembly Chamber, Sacramento
Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 59, the following Assembly Journal for the 2019–20 Regular Session was printed while the Assembly was in Final Recess.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was presented by the Speaker, and ordered printed in the Journal:

September 21, 2020

Sue Parker

*Chief Clerk of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3196
Sacramento, California*

Dear Ms. Parker: Please be advised that I have established the Select Committee on Police Reform for the 2019–20 Regular Session and have appointed the following membership:

Assemblymember Mike Gipson, Chair
Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Assemblymember Rob Bonta
Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham
Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel
Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez
Assemblymember Tom Lackey
Assemblymember Evan Low
Assemblymember Chad Mayes
Assemblymember Eloise Reyes
Assemblymember Blanca Rubio
Assemblymember Shirley Weber

Sincerely,

ANTHONY RENDON
Speaker of the Assembly

ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT REPORTS

Assembly Chamber, September 14, 2020

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to your instructions, the Chief Clerk has examined:

Assembly Bill No. 69	Assembly Bill No. 639
Assembly Bill No. 107	Assembly Bill No. 713
Assembly Bill No. 168	Assembly Bill No. 826
Assembly Bill No. 323	Assembly Bill No. 831
Assembly Bill No. 331	Assembly Bill No. 838
Assembly Bill No. 434	Assembly Bill No. 841
Assembly Bill No. 465	Assembly Bill No. 846
Assembly Bill No. 545	Assembly Bill No. 890

And reports the same correctly enrolled, and presented to the Governor on the 14th day of September, 2020, at 4 p.m.

SUE PARKER, Chief Clerk

Assembly Chamber, September 14, 2020

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to your instructions, the Chief Clerk has examined:

Assembly Bill No. 896	Assembly Bill No. 1304
Assembly Bill No. 913	Assembly Bill No. 1327
Assembly Bill No. 995	Assembly Bill No. 1470
Assembly Bill No. 1066	Assembly Bill No. 1506
Assembly Bill No. 1124	Assembly Bill No. 1512
Assembly Bill No. 1185	Assembly Bill No. 1561
Assembly Bill No. 1196	Assembly Bill No. 1657
Assembly Bill No. 1299	Assembly Bill No. 1731

And reports the same correctly enrolled, and presented to the Governor on the 14th day of September, 2020, at 4 p.m.

SUE PARKER, Chief Clerk

Assembly Chamber, September 14, 2020

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to your instructions, the Chief Clerk has examined:

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 97
 Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 107
 Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 112
 Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 119
 Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 120
 Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 124
 Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 127
 Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 128
 Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 139
 Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 147
 Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 165
 Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 173

And reports the same correctly enrolled, and presented to the Secretary of State on the 14th day of September, 2020, at 11 a.m.

SUE PARKER, Chief Clerk

Assembly Chamber, September 15, 2020

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to your instructions, the Chief Clerk has examined:

Assembly Bill No. 1775	Assembly Bill No. 1906
Assembly Bill No. 1788	Assembly Bill No. 1989
Assembly Bill No. 1845	Assembly Bill No. 2004
Assembly Bill No. 1864	Assembly Bill No. 2112
Assembly Bill No. 1869	Assembly Bill No. 2118
Assembly Bill No. 1872	Assembly Bill No. 2165
Assembly Bill No. 1876	Assembly Bill No. 2199
Assembly Bill No. 1885	Assembly Bill No. 2273

And reports the same correctly enrolled, and presented to the Governor on the 15th day of September, 2020, at 3 p.m.

SUE PARKER, Chief Clerk

Assembly Chamber, September 15, 2020

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to your instructions, the Chief Clerk has examined:

Assembly Bill No. 2342	Assembly Bill No. 2731
Assembly Bill No. 2345	Assembly Bill No. 2746
Assembly Bill No. 2386	Assembly Bill No. 2800
Assembly Bill No. 2426	Assembly Bill No. 3005
Assembly Bill No. 2471	Assembly Bill No. 3070
Assembly Bill No. 2542	Assembly Bill No. 3074
Assembly Bill No. 2658	Assembly Bill No. 3075
Assembly Bill No. 2699	Assembly Bill No. 3182

And reports the same correctly enrolled, and presented to the Governor on the 15th day of September, 2020, at 3 p.m.

SUE PARKER, Chief Clerk

Assembly Chamber, September 15, 2020

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to your instructions, the Chief Clerk has examined:

Assembly Bill No. 3214	Assembly Bill No. 3308
Assembly Bill No. 3216	Assembly Bill No. 3330
Assembly Bill No. 3234	Assembly Bill No. 3336
Assembly Bill No. 3242	Assembly Bill No. 3369

And reports the same correctly enrolled, and presented to the Governor on the 15th day of September, 2020, at 3 p.m.

SUE PARKER, Chief Clerk

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following veto messages from the Governor were received and ordered printed in the Journal, and the bills ordered to the unfinished business file:

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 545

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 24, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 545 without my signature.

AB 545 would sunset the Bureau of Cannabis Control and subject the Bureau to review by the Joint Sunset Review Committee.

The Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA) divides regulatory authority over commercial cannabis activity among the Bureau of Cannabis Control, the Department of Food and Agriculture and the State Department of Public Health. My Administration has proposed consolidating the regulatory authority currently divided between three state entities into one single department, which we hope to achieve next year in partnership with the Legislature.

Therefore, this bill is premature, and I am returning it without my signature.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1066

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 24, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1066 without my signature.

This bill would conclusively presume that a claimant is entitled to the maximum benefit amount for the purposes of unemployment insurance if an employer does not furnish requested wage information for the Employment Development Department (EDD) within 10 days after receiving notice.

Current law already entitles a claimant to the maximum benefit amount if the employer does not provide documents responding to a claim within a reasonable time frame.

By conclusively presuming an individual is entitled to the maximum benefit amount after 10 days, this bill will result in significant new borrowing of federal funds to the Unemployment Insurance fund, increasing interest costs borne by the state General Fund. These costs are not included in the 2020 Budget Act and will add cost pressures on state funds that are already strained because of the pandemic.

Therefore, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 3053

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 24, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 3053 without my signature.

This bill would require the Labor Commissioner to create an online portal that would allow wage claimants to file unpaid wage claims, track those claims and submit requested documents regarding those claims. This bill is aimed at reducing the backlog in administering wage claims that results in unacceptable delays.

I fully support measures to improve outcomes for workers who have been denied their hard-earned wages. The Labor Commissioner's Office has already launched a low-wage industry initiative to address lasting backlogs. The goal of this initiative is to build industry-specific expertise among wage enforcement deputies dedicated to those industries. This initiative will improve outcomes for workers and help cut through the backlog of claims, through enforcement deputies and hearing officers who understand industry-specific practices and commonly alleged violations.

We should allow time for these existing efforts at the Labor Commissioner's Office to show some results.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt of Bills

I acknowledge receipt this 24th day of September, 2020, at 2:56 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 Emily Patterson:

Assembly Bills Nos. 545, 1066, and 3053.

HUGH R. SLAYDEN

Assistant Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2004

Governor's Office, Sacramento

September 25, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2004 without my signature.

This bill would require the Government Operations Agency to establish a working group to explore the use of verifiable health credentials to communicate COVID-19 or other medical test results, and to report on best practices by July 1, 2022.

I appreciate the innovative spirit of this bill. However, the California COVID-19 Testing Task Force is already able to convene stakeholders and experts to discuss innovation in testing and reporting as needed. Currently, the state has multiple ongoing efforts and investments around COVID-19 testing.

As an avenue to capitalize on California's innovation economy to meet government needs, last year I established the Request for Innovative Ideas (RFI²) process as a competitive procurement approach that seeks to engage innovators, entrepreneurs, scientists, vendors, and experts to collaborate on designing leading-edge solutions. Just this month, my Administration utilized the RFI² process to request new solutions for how to collect COVID-19 test specimens, transport them to processing labs, and deliver test results.

At a time when California is facing fiscal constraints and unprecedented challenges, the millions of dollars this bill would cost would be better spent on timely solutions to meet our most pressing needs.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2164

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 25, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2164 without my signature.

This bill would authorize a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and Rural Health Center (RHC) to establish a relationship with a patient who is located within their service area by synchronous or asynchronous (store-and-forward) telehealth. AB 2164 would sunset 180 days after the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency has been terminated by the state of California.

While I am supportive of utilizing telehealth to increase access to primary and specialty care services, the Department of Health Care Services is currently in the process of evaluating its global telehealth policy to determine what temporary flexibilities should be extended beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Changes to FQHC and RHC telehealth is better considered within the context of a global assessment around telehealth in the state of California. Further, the cost of these changes is also more appropriately considered alongside other policy changes in the budget process next year.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2360

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 25, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2360 without my signature.

This bill would require health care service plans, including Knox-Keene licensed Medi-Cal managed care health plans, to provide access to a provider-to-provider telehealth consultation program for providers who treat children and pregnant and postpartum persons.

While I appreciate the author's intent to expand mental health services for children and pregnant and postpartum persons, the bill would create costs that would be more appropriately addressed through the annual budget process.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2387

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 25, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2387 without my signature.

This bill would authorize counties to perform the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) reassessment using telehealth, including video conference or telephone, subject to continuing federal approval, if certain conditions are met.

The California Department of Social Services has permitted counties and other entities to use video conference or telephone to perform duties that would otherwise be done in-person during the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill would extend flexibilities that were made in response to a public health emergency.

It is premature to make statutory changes to these policies until the Department has had the opportunity to assess their impact on consumers and alignment with overall program goals and processes. Moreover, although this bill may provide counties greater case management flexibility, it may also impede social workers' ability to directly and accurately assess IHSS recipients' abilities, limitations, living conditions, health and safety.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt of Bills

I acknowledge receipt this 25th day of September, 2020, at 3:09 p.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 Emily Patterson:

Assembly Bills Nos. 2004, 2164, 2360, and 2387.

SUE PARKER
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 69

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 28, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 69 without my signature.

This bill would establish the Help Homeowners Add New Housing Program within the State Treasurer's Office to finance the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs) and would require the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) to issue revenue bonds to fund the program.

ADUs and JADUs are a critical tool for increasing the housing supply in California, and access to construction financing remains one of the major hurdles in unlocking their full potential. I was proud to sign three bills last year that built on the state's strongest-in-the-nation ADU streamlining laws.

Access to ADU financing—especially for lower-income California homeowners—is an issue that should be addressed, but the financial structure proposed in this bill would negatively impact affordable housing production, as it could harm CalHFA's credit ratings.

Therefore, I am directing the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency to continue departmental efforts to provide increased access to capital markets and opportunities to encourage broader adoption of ADUs and JADUs.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt of Bills

I acknowledge receipt this 28th day of September, 2020, at 1:53 p.m., of the following Assembly bill without the Governor's signature, together with a statement of his objections thereto, signed by the Governor, delivered to me personally by Emily Patterson:

Assembly Bill No. 69.

SUE PARKER
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 515

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 28, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 515 without my signature.

Assembly Bill 515 would authorize the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to reduce the interest rate assessed against any unrecovered overpayment to less than seven percent when a provider enters into a repayment agreement.

However, AB 515 fails to distinguish between overpayments due to provider fraud and abuse and those caused by Medi-Cal policy changes or DHCS error that are not the fault of a billing provider. In addition, it does not make the option for DHCS to waive interest subject to the availability of federal funding. As written, AB 515 would make it difficult for DHCS to protect California taxpayers from fraud, abuse, or improper billing.

I encourage the author to work with DHCS on future legislation that will specify the circumstances under which interest may be waived, and make those conditions subject to the availability of federal funding, in order to protect the State General Fund.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1845

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 28, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1845 without my signature.

This bill would establish the Office to End Homelessness within the Office of the Governor and realign several of the state's ongoing efforts related to homelessness.

I sincerely appreciate the author's leadership on this issue and the intent of this bill, but I do not support this particular vision of organizational restructuring at this time.

Homelessness has been and remains one of my top priorities, commanding the dedicated attention of a Senior Counselor on Homelessness and Housing in the Governor's office and the dedication of senior members of my Administration including multiple Agency Secretaries. Since taking office in January 2019, we have invested over \$2 billion in new, direct aid for homelessness. I am also proud of our work to implement Project Roomkey and Homekey, which help to protect homeless Californians from COVID-19 during this pandemic.

These initiatives and investments demonstrate our commitment to prioritizing this vulnerable population, no matter what other challenges we confront. And they serve as a proof point of the interagency coordination we have led to develop and implement them successfully.

Homelessness must not be considered in a vacuum.

Our Administration has taken a demonstrably integrated approach to preventing and ending homelessness by empowering leaders in the health care and housing space to work together on coordinated solutions.

Separating policy development on homelessness from that on health care or housing will lead to more fragmentation, not less. Looking at

homeless spending through a separate lens, divorced from our health care and housing budgets, will lead to more duplication and inefficiency.

There are certainly ways in which we can improve upon state government's collective work in this area. However, I am not convinced that the approach outlined in this bill is the best path forward.

I am committed to partnering with the author and the Legislature next year to continue making progress on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2040

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 28, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2040 without my signature.

This bill would require the Madera County auditor-controller to allocate additional funds over a period of nine years to the county and cities to correct property tax allocation errors.

I recognize the unique circumstances that led to this mistake and how it was exacerbated over time. However, correcting this situation must be done in a manner that does not negatively impact school funding.

Therefore, I urge the Legislature to work with my Administration to resolve this issue through the budget process.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2046

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 28, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2046 without my signature.

This bill seeks to limit the amount of child support arrears that may be garnished via an income withholding order from a low-income disabled veteran to no more than five percent of their monthly Veterans Administration (VA) disability payments.

While the intent of this bill is laudable, I am concerned that there is confusion about if and when VA disability benefits can be garnished and that adding a new state law will only increase that confusion. Federal law currently prohibits VA disability payments from several types of garnishment, including for child support enforcement, and we comply with federal law. Given this confusion, I am directing the Department of Child Support Services to make information about the existing federal law available on its website.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2092

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 28, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2092 without my signature.

This bill would require private entities providing emergency ground ambulance services to establish a voluntary program that allows employees of private ambulance providers to purchase employer-subsidized multithreat body protective gear.

Existing regulations impose an affirmative obligation on employers to evaluate workplace hazards and provide PPE as appropriate at no cost to employees. This bill would hold employers responsible for only part of the multithreat body protective gear which conflicts with long-standing law requiring employers to furnish and providers safety devices and safeguards necessary to protect their employees.

I support efforts to maximize the safety of all of California's life-saving EMS personnel, especially those that would prevent life-threatening injury. However, it is unclear how these provisions would effectively contribute toward that goal.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2405

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 28, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2405 without my signature.

This bill would declare a state policy that every individual in California has the right to safe, decent, and affordable housing. The bill also requires state departments and agencies to consider this policy when revising or adopting policies, regulations, and grant criteria.

This is a laudable goal that I share, and undoubtedly, California must continue to do more to address homelessness. Regrettably, however, I cannot support this bill considering the cost implications of such a policy, estimated at over \$10 billion annually.

Moreover, I have always maintained that our efforts must come with greater accountability and better results. Although well-intentioned, this bill is duplicative of existing efforts and may ultimately force us to expend resources without commensurately creating new housing or services for people experiencing homelessness.

I am committed to working with the Legislature and local government partners on a detailed strategy to improve behavioral health outcomes and increase housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. To make progress, we need more than policy goals. We need tangible funding strategies and legal requirements—this means challenging accepted norms and rejecting the status quo and identifying necessary revenues.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt of Bills

I acknowledge receipt this 28th day of September, 2020, at 4:56 p.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 Emily Patterson:

Assembly Bills Nos. 515, 1845, 2040, 2046, 2092, and 2405.

SUE PARKER

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 826

Governor's Office, Sacramento

September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 826 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Social Services to contract with a Feeding America partner state organization or other appropriate nonprofit entity to provide a food assistance benefit to those who self-attest that they are eligible for state or federal nutrition assistance or immigration legal services.

It has been my firm commitment that my Administration would support all Californians during the COVID-19 crisis. To that end, my Administration has advanced efforts to provide relief that is both inclusive of and directed to undocumented Californians.

As we continue to address the needs of Californians during the pandemic, it is prudent to consider the most appropriate and responsible means to offer support to those in need. Given the significant General Fund impact annually that this bill would have, I am unable to sign this measure.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 995

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 995 without my signature.

This bill would create the Board of Environmental Safety within the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to provide policy direction to and oversight of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

I applaud the author's diligence in seeking to increase transparency and accountability in DTSC. However, the bill as written falls short of the goals we have previously set for needed changes to better protect public health and safety. Without necessary funding, DTSC will be unable to deliver on the promise of this legislation—cleaning up too many abandoned sites adversely impacting the health of low-income communities across our state and better protecting Californians from dangerous chemicals going forward.

Understanding that governance and fiscal changes are both necessary and inextricably tied to achieving the mandates DTSC is currently responsible for, my 2020 Budget proposed a comprehensive approach to achieve a more transparent decision-making process through the creation of a board and restructured fees to adequately fund this Department.

AB 995 seeks to impose changes to governance but lacks necessary fiscal reform.

To accomplish comprehensive change and make progress on the more than 150,000 brownfield sites where no responsible party exists, we will need comprehensive fiscal reform to support adequate revenues. Over the last year, we were able to reach agreement with the Legislature on many of the key elements of DTSC reform. I am confident that in the upcoming legislative session we will achieve the much needed fiscal and governance reforms to better protect communities across our state.

Therefore, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1138

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1138 without my signature.

This bill would require the operator of a social media website or application to prohibit a person known to be under 13 years old from creating an account unless consent is obtained from the person's parent or guardian.

As a parent of four, I understand and care deeply about the importance of protections for safe consumption of media and technology by children.

Existing federal law requires operators of internet websites or online services to obtain parental or guardian consent before collecting personal information from a child known to be under 13 years old. States have the ability to enforce this law.

Given its overlap with federal law, this bill would not meaningfully expand protections for children, and it may result in unnecessary confusion.

As I agree with the spirit of this bill, my Administration is open to exploring ways to build upon current law to expand safeguards for children online.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1327

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1327 without my signature.

This bill would remove the requirement that reimbursement rates for clinical lab or laboratory services in Medi-Cal shall not exceed 80 percent of the lowest maximum allowance established by the federal Medicare program for similar services.

This bill would result in costs more appropriately addressed through the annual budget process. For this reason, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1470

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1470 without my signature.

AB 1470 would provide that cannabis goods do not have to be in final retail packaging when being tested by laboratories to ensure compliance with current health and safety standards.

This bill conflicts with current regulations promulgated by cannabis licensing authorities that prevent contaminated and unsafe products from entering the retail market. While I support reducing packaging waste, allowing products to be tested not in their final retail form could result in consumer harm and have a disproportionate impact on small operators.

I have directed my Administration to consolidate the state regulatory entities that currently enforce cannabis health and safety standards to pursue all appropriate measures to ease costs and reduce unnecessary packaging. This proposal should be considered as part of that process.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2100

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning AB 2100 without my signature.

This bill would allow the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to provide a disease management or similar payment to pharmacies for the costs and activities that are associated with dispensing specialty drugs; require DHCS, commencing January 1, 2021, to establish an Independent Prescription Drug Medical Review (IPDMR) process for the Medi-Cal outpatient pharmacy fee-for-service benefit; require DHCS to allow a Medi-Cal beneficiary to continue use of a prescription drug for a minimum of 180 days if that drug is no longer covered when DHCS implements its Medi-Cal Rx proposal; and, require DHCS to include detailed and specific Medi-Cal Rx information when submitting the semi-annual budget assumptions and estimates for the Medi-Cal program.

First, it is premature to consider a disease management payment for Medi-Cal specialty drugs. DHCS is processing the results of a recent survey of specialty drug acquisition costs to determine what types of services are provided in association with the dispensing of specialty drugs. Until the results of the survey have been analyzed, DHCS will not know whether reimbursement for disease management services, or other supplemental services, are medically necessary for certain beneficiaries, and under what circumstances.

Second, while I am supportive of additional transparency efforts regarding the implementation of the Medi-Cal Rx program, the requirements of this bill are too prescriptive. I am instead directing DHCS to post additional information on its website regarding implementation of Medi-Cal Rx to enable the public and stakeholders to assess the transition of the Medi-Cal prescription drug benefit from managed care to fee for service.

Third, while I am supportive of efforts to enhance Medi-Cal beneficiary protections, issues regarding consumer protections under Medi-Cal Rx can be addressed administratively with input from the Legislature and stakeholders, to ensure that appropriate protections and reporting requirements are in place when Medi-Cal Rx is implemented. I am directing DHCS to convene stakeholders no later than July 1, 2021, to explore options and approaches for additional public reporting of administrative hearing decisions pertaining to outpatient prescription drug benefits, which will help assess whether additional changes to the grievance and appeals process are warranted.

Finally, DHCS has developed a Pharmacy Transition Policy for Medi-Cal Rx to allow Medi-Cal beneficiaries to continue receiving their existing prescription medications without having to get additional prior authorizations for 180 days after the transition begins. As we work toward a health care delivery system that provides coverage and access through a unified financing system, we must also align policies and processes across our public and private delivery systems to provide California's health care consumers with a consistent experience and minimal side effects. Such efforts should be considered as part of those conversations.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2114

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2114 without my signature.

This bill would require certain higher education employers to provide an arbitration or hearing officer process to challenge a termination of employment or a disciplinary action for medical and dental interns and residents. The bill excludes disciplinary actions and terminations based on academic or clinical matters, making arbitration available only for matters within the scope of representation.

These residents and interns represent our State's pipeline of medical professionals, and they have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. They deserve an opportunity to challenge a disciplinary action or termination of employment that may be wrongful and that could potentially jeopardize their professional career. However, I believe that the definition of "academic" and "clinical" in this bill is too narrow and does not fully consider the various criteria used in determining a resident's readiness to safely practice.

I encourage the affected parties to agree upon a definition that both protects employees' due process rights and patient safety.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2296

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2296 without my signature.

This bill would authorize Local Primacy Agency (LPA) counties to elect to participate in a funding stabilization program, administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), to fund regulatory oversight of small public drinking water systems.

The goal of stabilizing the funding that is needed to assist LPA's with providing proper regulatory oversight of small water systems is laudable and fits into the state's overarching goal of achieving clean drinking water for every Californian. However, to the extent that LPA counties choose to participate in the new funding stabilization program authorized by the bill, the State Water Board would need to raise fees to cover the costs of the program. If participation among LPAs is high, the total funding needed from the Safe Drinking Water Account to administer the funding stabilization program would almost certainly exceed the statutory funding cap and as a result the State Water Board would be unable to implement the program.

For this reason, I am returning AB 2296 without my signature.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2483

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2483 without my signature.

This bill would require, from January 1, 2023 to January 1, 2027, the sheriff in each county to annually compile and submit the following data to the Board of State and Community Corrections: (1) data on each of the anti-recidivism programs they provide inmates in their county jail facilities; and (2) their success rates in reducing recidivism in each of those programs.

Data collection on recidivism is important. Unfortunately, the broad nature of this bill leaves too much discretion to local governments to decide what is and what is not a recidivism program, and it could lead to a significant and costly mandate. For this reason, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2746

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2746 without my signature.

This bill would require recipients of state funding for the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program, the Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program, and the Whole Person Care pilot programs to submit annual data reports regarding the use of program funds to the Department of Social Services and the Department of Health Care Services, respectively.

My Administration is exploring ways to increase transparency in our homeless assistance programs and improve the efficiency in the delivery of those services to those who most need the help. This is important work, and we are dedicated to this effort. Unfortunately, the requirements of this measure are duplicative of existing requirements and would create additional, unnecessary data collection costs. For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 3005

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 3005 without my signature.

This bill would modify contracting requirements and prescribe expedited California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review and regulatory processes for various state agencies to facilitate projects for the Leroy Anderson Dam and Reservoir.

Notwithstanding the importance of completing projects at the Anderson Dam, the bill sets unrealistic timelines for state entities to expedite deliverables. This will require staff to be diverted away from other critical projects throughout the state that are going through the CEQA process. Although the Anderson Dam projects are a key element of dam safety, it is problematic to set a precedent for a special process and timeline for one project that may undermine the quality of review by departments.

Furthermore, a public works project of this magnitude will have significant environmental impacts, and therefore, review through the full CEQA process is necessary.

For these reasons, I am returning Assembly Bill 3005 without my signature.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 3164

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 3164 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to work with stakeholders and other governmental entities to develop a wildland-urban interface wildfire (WUI) risk model based on wildfire hazard severity information and a number of other local mitigating factors to determine fire risk to individual parcels and communities.

I am committed to aggressive fire prevention measures that will reliably and quickly reduce California's vulnerability to catastrophic wildfires. I commend Assemblymember Friedman for looking for creative ways to effectively study California's risk in order to advise local and state fire prevention.

Data-driven decisions and leveraging technology are critical to making our communities more resilient to the threat of wildfire. However, the amount of granular information that would be needed to provide an accurate representation of risk at the parcel level would be a significant workload for the State and local jurisdictions eventually assigned to gather the necessary data. Unlike CAL FIRE's existing fire hazard severity models, fire risk is dynamic and changes based on any number of variables such as whether rain gutters have been cleared of pine needles or dried out grasses have been trimmed away from a structure. As drafted, the bill prescribes mitigation factors and does not provide adequate flexibility for CAL FIRE to determine the appropriate factors for the dynamic risk the model is meant to evaluate.

I am therefore directing CAL FIRE to work with the Legislature to develop a strategy that would support the deployment of a wildfire risk model that allows for adequate discretion in the development of the model.

For this reason, I am returning Assembly Bill 3164 without my signature.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt of Bills

I acknowledge receipt this 29th day of September, 2020, at 4:50 p.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 Emily Patterson:

Assembly Bills Nos. 826, 995, 1138, 1327, 1470, 2100, 2114, 2296, 2483, 2746, 3005, and 3164.

SUE PARKER
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 331

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 331 without my signature.

This bill would require a course that incorporates ethnic studies as its primary content as a high school graduation requirement starting in the 2029–30 school year.

I value the role ethnic studies plays in helping students think critically about our history and understand the experience of marginalized communities in our state. This academic discipline will help prepare our young adults to become civically engaged and participate fully in our democracy. For these reasons, I already signed AB 1460, which will mandate ethnic studies as a graduation requirement for the California State University system.

I appreciate the amendments the author accepted to ensure that any ethnic studies coursework is free of bias and discrimination. I am also pleased that many more schools and districts have recently joined the hundreds of schools across our state that have adopted ethnic studies courses, and we intend to support these schools with professional development resources.

This bill, however, would require ethnic studies to be taught in high school at a time when there is much uncertainty about the appropriate K–12 model curriculum for ethnic studies. I have been closely monitoring the progress of the development of the K–12 ethnic studies model curriculum. Last year, I expressed concern that the initial draft of the model curriculum was insufficiently balanced and inclusive and needed to be substantially amended. In my opinion, the latest draft, which is currently out for review, still needs revision.

I am directing staff in my Administration to work with State Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond to ensure that the draft ethnic studies model curriculum achieves balance, fairness, and is inclusive of all communities.

In California, we don't tolerate our diversity. We celebrate it. That should be reflected in our high school curriculum. I look forward to our model curriculum achieving these goals.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1161

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1161 without my signature.

This bill would exempt wave basins and other artificial wave attractions from all laws and regulations governing public swimming pools and aquatic attractions, and instead, would establish its own standards for the operation and maintenance of wave basins.

While I strongly support the development of new entertainment and sporting venues, this bill lacks necessary public health and safety protections. It would exempt wave basins from a number of health and safety regulations, including worker protections overseen by the Department of Industrial Relations. I encourage the Legislature to work with the Department of Industrial Relations and the Department of Public Health to ensure that regulatory changes to address emerging artificial wave technologies include appropriate safety standards and oversight.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1299

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1299 without my signature.

This bill would require an agency that employs specified peace officers to provide a notification to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) when a peace officer is terminated, or if an officer leaves the agency with a complaint, charge, or investigation of a serious nature. This bill would also require said agency to complete the investigation as specified, within one year, and notify POST of its findings. The bill would require POST to make that information available to any law enforcement agency conducting a preemployment background investigation of the subject of the profile.

I agree with the intent of this legislation—officers with a history of misconduct should not be able to resign in lieu of termination and simply move to a different department without a completed investigation or file of misconduct. But this bill does not go far enough. I am concerned this bill will slow momentum for broader decertification measures in future legislative sessions. The Legislature has signaled that it will continue its work on decertification, and I support the development of legislation with a broader approach.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1457

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1457 without my signature.

This bill would require the Employment Training Panel to establish a pilot project to enhance a regional business training center network of community college contract education centers to partner with other assistance providers servicing small businesses.

While I am highly supportive of training programs that lead to quality jobs and support businesses, particularly in the midst of our current economic climate, this bill does not have the dedicated funding to support the pilot program and could divert funding from other core workforce training programs.

Moreover, this bill is duplicative of current planning efforts by the California Community Colleges and Workforce Development Boards to create a better integrated workforce development system. I look forward to working with these partners, and the Legislature, on achieving that shared goal.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1835

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1835 without my signature.

I deeply support the underlying goal of this bill—to ensure that unspent Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) supplemental and concentration grant funds are expended on services for our most vulnerable students—and I applaud Dr. Weber for her continued leadership. However, I believe there are some fundamental flaws with the bill, and I am concerned that it cannot be implemented in a manner that is smooth or timely.

There is a simpler solution that allows us to address the objectives of AB 1835 much sooner and with more transparency. Therefore, I am directing the Department of Finance to propose language for your consideration as part of my budget in January.

As written, AB 1835 would necessitate that the State Board of Education initiate a lengthy rulemaking process to amend the LCFF spending regulations to add definitions and make other necessary changes to clarify the requirements of the bill. This process would likely delay implementation for two school years. This bill would also impose new and unnecessary procedural requirements on schools that are and will be managing unprecedented challenges related to COVID-19.

We all share the same goal, and it is critical that we act quickly to ensure that funding meant to support our state's most vulnerable students is used for that purpose. I look forward to working with Dr. Weber and the Legislature to implement this requirement in next year's budget.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1906

Governor’s Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1906 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), in consultation with the Department of Human Resources, to establish a policy permitting a pregnant peace officer to perform alternate, light duty assignments, as specified, and would require the policy to include specified elements.

CDCR is already implementing a policy allowing staff with medical limitations, including those related to pregnancy, to request light-duty assignments. Because this bill is duplicative of existing efforts, I am unable to sign it.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1993

Governor’s Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1993 without my signature.

AB 1993 would amend the definition of “employment” for the purposes of unemployment insurance coverage to include services performed by an individual in the employ of their parent, child, or spouse if that individual is a provider of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) or Waiver Personal Care Services (WPCS). As a result, it will result in significant new borrowing of federal funds to the Unemployment Insurance fund, increasing interest costs borne by the state General Fund that were not included in the 2020 Budget and cannot be considered in conjunction with the full home health care budget.

Expanding benefits and protections for home health care workers is critical, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic but these expansions must be developed through the budget process when new investments can be viewed through the lens of the state’s full home health care budget.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2054

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2054 without my signature.

This bill would establish a grant pilot program administered by the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to stimulate and support community involvement in emergency response activities that do not require a law enforcement officer.

Community organizations have a critical role to play in responding to our vulnerable neighbors and community members in crisis.

Many situations involving those who are unhoused, facing mental health challenges, have been exposed to violence, or are experiencing substance use issues may be better addressed with resources and pathways for long-term healing rather than a punitive approach. We must also address the reality that people of color and other marginalized members of our communities are disproportionately harmed by interactions with law enforcement, too often in instances where a badge and a gun are unnecessary.

The underlying goal of this legislation is important and implementing an effective solution will help our communities. Unfortunately, OES is not the appropriate location for the pilot program proposed in this legislation.

My Administration will work with the Legislature and stakeholders during the next legislative session on an implementable solution. Should a grant program be the consensus, such a pilot should be established through the State Budget process.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 2342

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2342 without my signature.

This bill would create parole reintegration credits, which would allow persons on parole to earn credits and reduce the length of their parole term.

I share the author's goal of reducing recidivism in California by incentivizing persons on parole to comply with the conditions of parole, pursue educational and vocational goals, and participate in rehabilitation programs for which they can earn credits to reduce their terms of supervision. To this end, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is currently in the process of implementing an amended earned discharge policy that provides an opportunity for early discharge from parole if the parolee is participating in community-based programming to address substance use disorder, education, and employment. This bill largely duplicates efforts that are currently underway at CDCR.

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

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 3216

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 3216 without my signature.

This bill would provide a right of recall and retention for specified employees previously laid-off due to a local, state, or federal declaration of a public health-related state of emergency. It would require specified employers to offer the same or similar jobs to laid-off employees or those which the laid-off employee could be trained to do, based on seniority. The bill additionally would require employers who hire an individual other than a laid-off employee to provide that laid-off employee with the name of the individual who was hired and all the reasons for that decision.

It would also require successor employers in these specified industries, regardless of the existence of a state of emergency, to give preference in hiring to employees of the incumbent employer by seniority.

I recognize the real problem this bill is trying to fix—to ensure that workers who have been laid off due to the COVID 19 pandemic have certainty about their rehiring and job security. But, as drafted, its prescriptive provisions would take effect during any state of emergency for all layoffs, including those that may be unrelated to such emergency. Tying the bill's provisions to a state of emergency will create a confusing patchwork of requirements in different counties at different times.

The bill also risks the sharing of too much personal information of hired employees. There must be more reasonable tools to effectively enforce the recall provisions.

Finally, the hospitality industry and its employees have been hit hard by the economic impacts of the pandemic. I believe the requirements of this bill place too onerous a burden on employers navigating these tough challenges, and I would encourage the legislature to consider other approaches to ensure workers are not left behind.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt of Bills

I acknowledge receipt this 30th day of September, 2020, at 7:48 p.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 Emily Patterson:

Assembly Bills Nos. 331, 1161, 1299, 1457, 1835, 1906, 1993, 2054, 2342, and 3216.

HUGH R. SLAYDEN

Assistant Chief Clerk of the Assembly

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

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

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 2112

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 25, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 2112 because I believe that the Department of Public Health, working with stakeholders, can help to advance our understanding of the causes of suicide in order to identify ways to prevent it, particularly among especially vulnerable populations. I believe it is vitally important that we reach out with sensitivity and understanding to help those most in need of assistance.

However, the bill fails to identify funding for this important work. I look forward to partnering with the Legislature to identify and secure funding so that this program can be successfully implemented.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 1544

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 25, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1544, which enacts the Community Paramedicine or Triage to Alternate Destination Act of 2020, which permits local emergency medical services agencies, with approval by the Emergency Medical Services Authority, to develop programs to provide community paramedic or triage to alternate destination services.

AB 1544 will reduce emergency department overcrowding and improve access to critical mental health services. However, there is ambiguity in the definitions of "authorized mental health facility" and "authorized sobering centers" that may cause implementation issues. I am directing the Emergency Medical Services Authority to work with the Department of Health Care Services to clarify these definitions in future legislation.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 1525

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1525, which affirmatively protects certain entities providing financial services to the legal cannabis industry and allows licensees to request that specific information about them be shared with financial institutions. This bill has the potential to increase the provision of financial services to the legal cannabis industry, and for that reason, I support it.

To ensure the State is appropriately protecting all licensee information subject to this bill, I hereby direct state commercial cannabis licensing authorities to promulgate regulations implementing these provisions in a manner that protects the confidential and proprietary nature of licensee data, ensures data is only being used for the provision of financial services to support licensees and further specifies how a licensee may withdraw their authorization.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 3012

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 3012 and Senate Bill 872.

AB 3012 and SB 872 expand several consumer protections related to additional living expenses, time to collect replacement value, contents coverage, and relocation after a loss.

The devastation caused by recent catastrophic wildfires in California has been exacerbated by the fact that entire neighborhoods and towns have been rendered inhabitable for months if not years. These conditions have intensified the strain on residents trying to rebuild their lives and communities. The new protections provided by this bill will alleviate some of that strain. However, we must do more.

I am directing the Governor's Offices of Planning and Research and Emergency Services and CAL FIRE to work with the Insurance Commissioner to evaluate and recommend ways that residents, communities and the insurance industry can work together to better mitigate wildfire risks. This work should inform the development of solutions for residents in wildfire prone areas who continue to face the threat of policy non-renewal and rising premium costs for those policies that are available.

Additionally, I ask the Insurance Commissioner to start a dialogue with the Legislature, insurers, and consumer groups to address the pressure that wildfire losses place on the ability to offer insurance products and the question of how to pay for risks. I look forward to working together to develop solutions to protect all Californians.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 3074

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 29, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 3074, which establishes an ember-resistant zone within five feet of a structure as part of the defensible space requirements for structures located in specified high-fire hazard areas. This bill also requires removal of material from the ember-resistant zone based on the probability that vegetation and fuel will lead to ignition of the structure by ember.

Defensible space is the front line for defending a property against wildfire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase a home's chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending a property. Defensible space, in combination with home hardening, will make a home ignition resistant from embers, radiant heat and flame impingement. Development and significant compliance with zero to five-foot zone requirements would assist CALFIRE in meeting long-term defensible space goals and assist local communities in meeting their Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

While its goals are laudable, this bill creates a costly unfunded mandate that will reduce resources to fund other important fire prevention and mitigation priorities. Now is not the time to crowd out important wildfire mitigation and prevention investments. I ask that the Legislature send me legislation next year to amend this provision to ensure the statute does not create significant new costs.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 1304

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1304 to establish the California Medically Assisted Treatment Re-Entry Incentive Program, which will make parolees, with specified exemptions, eligible for a reduction in the period of parole if they successfully participate in a substance abuse treatment program.

The implementation of this bill is contingent on appropriation to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) of funds received from a potential future federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant. Because the upcoming State Opioid Response 2 grant funding is already obligated, the appropriation of funds for this program will need to come from a future grant and would be subject to federal approval and grant-specific requirements. In addition, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation would be required to report all necessary information to the DHCS to maintain grant compliance.

It is vital that California continue to be a leader in establishing programs and policies that help combat the opioid epidemic and provide thoughtful rehabilitative care to those transitioning out of the criminal justice system and back into the community. For this reason, I am signing AB 1304.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 3234

Governor's Office, Sacramento
September 30, 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 3234, which would create a court-initiated misdemeanor diversion program and lower the minimum age limitation for the Elderly Parole Program to inmates who are 50 years of age and who have served a minimum of 20 years.

However, I am concerned that the crime of driving under the influence was not excluded from the misdemeanor diversion program. I will seek to expeditiously remedy this issue with the Legislature in the next legislative session.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

ANTHONY RENDON, Speaker

AMY LEACH, Minute Clerk

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