

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY JOURNAL

RECESS JOURNAL NO. 25

INTERIM STUDY RECESS

Assembly Chamber, Sacramento
Friday, October 3, 2025

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 Interim Study Recess.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was presented by the Chief Clerk and ordered printed in the Journal:

October 1, 2025

Sue Parker
Chief Clerk of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 319
Sacramento, California

Dear Ms. Parker: Please be advised that I have created the Select Committee on Housing Construction Innovation in the 2025–26 Regular Session and have appointed the following membership:

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assemblymember David Alvarez
Assemblymember Jessica Caloza
Assemblymember Juan Carrillo
Assemblymember Sade Elhawary
Assemblymember Mark González
Assemblymember Heather Hadwick
Assemblymember Matt Haney
Assemblymember John Harabedian
Assemblymember Josh Hoover
Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva
Assemblymember Rhodesia Ransom
Assemblymember Lori Wilson

Sincerely,

ROBERT RIVAS
Speaker of the Assembly

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

By unanimous consent, the following committees were permitted to meet:

Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism, on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 10 a.m., at the KPBS Community Engagement room, at San Diego State University;

Economic Development, Growth, and Household Impact, to convene jointly with Agriculture, on Friday, October 24, 2025, at 9 a.m., at 2625 East Matoian Way, SH 124, Fresno, 93740;

Select Committee on Child Care Costs, on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at Burbank City Hall in the Council Chambers, 275 East Olive Ave., Burbank, 91502;

Select Committee on Regulatory Authority, on Thursday, November 6, 2025, 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. 44

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 44 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Energy Commission, in consultation with load-serving entities and resource aggregators, to develop and publish methodologies for “electric load modification protocols” to adjust electric demand forecasts.

While I support expanding electric load flexibility, this bill does not align with the California Public Utility Commission's Resource Adequacy framework. As a result, the requirements of this bill would not improve electric grid reliability planning and could create uncertainty around energy resource planning and procurement processes.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 86

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 86 without my signature.

This bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt instructional materials for health education for kindergarten and grades 1 to 8, inclusive, by July 1, 2028, in alignment with the Health Education Framework adopted by the SBE in 2019.

The Budget Act of 2025 authorized a Curriculum Guidance Study to evaluate and improve the current state-level curriculum guidance adoption process to improve efficiency and consistency across all content areas. Proposals like AB 86 should only be considered after this study is complete and changes to the process are adopted. In the meantime, local governing boards continue to have the authority to evaluate and select a range of materials that align with the state standards and the associated curriculum framework.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 255

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 255 without my signature.

This bill would create a new category of “supportive recovery residences,” allow up to 10 percent of state homelessness funds to support them, and set up a new certification and oversight system.

Recovery-focused housing is an essential part of a comprehensive homelessness response, and California recognizes the value these programs provide individuals seeking support and stability. Current law already permits local jurisdictions to receive funding within the Housing First framework, and recent guidance allows support for recovery housing without creating a duplicative and costly new statutory category. Establishing a separate certification and oversight process wrongly suggests incompatibility with Housing First, while imposing fees that would not cover implementation costs.

California remains committed to advancing recovery housing within Housing First. I encourage the author and stakeholders to continue working with my Administration to strengthen these options in ways that complement, rather than complicate, the state's approach. Any broader programmatic changes, if warranted, should be considered holistically through the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 399

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 399 without my signature.

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

California is a global leader in advancing nature-based carbon capture and sequestration solutions, having built and expanded our portfolio of actions over decades. In fact, between 2020 and 2024 alone, the state invested approximately \$9.6 billion in nature-based solutions. Additionally, my Administration developed and released achievable carbon removal targets for natural and working lands as a result of Assembly Bill 1757 (C. Garcia) in 2022. That same year, the Natural and Working Land Climate Smart Strategy cataloged over 350 efforts across state agencies to deliver meaningful nature-based solutions for climate action.

While I share the author's desire to accelerate novel nature-based climate solutions, this bill creates a new, unfunded program. In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that 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. 400

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 400 without my signature.

This bill would require the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to study and issue recommendations to the Legislature regarding the use of canines by law enforcement.

I share the author's goal of ensuring the safe and unbiased use of canines by law enforcement. However, this bill is unnecessary. POST has provided guidelines regarding the use of police canines since 1991. It recently updated these guidelines after convening meetings with a variety of subject matter experts in canine use, including employees of urban and rural sheriff's offices and police departments, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Highway Patrol, and California State Parks. The makeup of these convenings reflected the many situations in which canines are relied upon by law enforcement statewide. As to bias in canine deployment, the POST Use of Force guidelines already begin with the directive: "Officers shall carry out their duties, including use of force, in a manner that is fair and unbiased."

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 474

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 474 without my signature.

This bill would exclude income from nonprofit home-sharing arrangements when determining eligibility for certain state-administered public benefit programs, effectively allowing participants to retain more of their benefits while earning modest income. This bill also would create a new exemption under the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) for these programs, shielding them from certain state housing discrimination laws in order to facilitate their operations.

The intent of this measure is commendable, but further work is needed to address two fundamental issues. First, the provision establishing a categorical exemption under FEHA raises significant concerns. By exempting nonprofit home-sharing programs from long-standing FEHA protections, the bill risks creating inconsistencies in California's fair housing framework and causing legal uncertainty for both program operators and participants.

Second, the bill would exclude income from nonprofit home-sharing arrangements only for state-administered benefit programs, creating inherent inconsistencies with federal benefit rules. While California should not refrain from extending support simply because federal programs remain unchanged, any state-level adjustment must be designed to minimize administrative complexity and costs so that assistance can be delivered effectively and equitably.

I encourage the Legislature to work with my Administration to refine the FEHA provisions with greater precision to avoid unintended consequences and to develop approaches that reduce administrative complexity while continuing to provide meaningful support to Californians most in need.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 524

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 524 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Conservation, in collaboration with the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force, to establish the Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Program to improve land access and tenure for socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, tribal producers, and beginning farmers and ranchers.

Land access is a critical issue for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and I support the intention of this bill to assist those groups. While this bill would authorize the program to receive funds from Proposition 4—The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024—recent budget action by the Legislature did not explicitly appropriate funding to support this program and there is no sustained funding to support the ongoing cost pressure this program would create.

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. 689

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 689 without my signature.

This bill establishes a statewide Child Welfare Disaster Response Fund and a Child Welfare Disaster Response Program to support the needs of 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 during a disaster, this bill would create a new, unfunded grant program. Without an identified funding source, this bill will create significant, ongoing General Fund cost pressures to fund local assistance costs annually.

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 cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 699

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 699 without my signature.

This bill would allow a local elections official to include on the ballot label, for certain local tax or bond measures, a statement directing voters to the county voter information guide for required tax rate information in lieu of providing the information directly on the ballot label.

While I appreciate the author's intent to provide local agencies with the flexibility to select an alternative tax rate disclosure option, I am concerned that this bill, as drafted, will reduce transparency for local tax and bond measures.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 734

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 734 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Energy Commission (CEC) to publicly release granular biological resources data used in the completion of Environmental Impact Reports, unless the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) determines that releasing such data would pose a significant risk of harm to individuals of a species.

Currently, the CEC receives both detailed biological resource maps generated by a project applicant and similar maps that the applicant obtains from CDFW, as part of the environmental impact assessment for proposed energy projects moving through the CEC's site certification permitting programs. The resolution of these maps is governed by data-use guidelines publicly developed by CDFW to protect the precise location of sensitive species and biological resources, as higher resolution maps risk increasing poaching, collection and habitat disturbance in these locations.

Though this bill is well-intended, the risks associated with this divulgence of information and the added procedural requirement of a CDFW determination on whether to divulge such information, if found harmful, are unnecessary, add additional process complexity, and likely won't yield additional mitigations or safeguards for species impacted by proposed energy projects.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 843

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 843 without my signature.

This bill would add detailed language access requirements from federal law onto existing state law.

Although well-intentioned, this bill is unnecessary. California already has comprehensive language assistance laws, including a detailed all-encompassing language assistance program regulation, that fulfills the intent of this bill. As a result, this bill would impose duplicative requirements, create unnecessary confusion, and add costs to the state's health care system without commensurate benefit.

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. 915

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 915 without my signature.

This bill would exempt from state dam safety requirements and oversight, as well as specified fees, any water storage facilities associated with an energy storage system project that uses compressed air technology.

While I support the development of novel, long-lead-time, and large clean energy resources, it is imperative that we do so with safety at the forefront. Additionally, it is essential that the costs incurred by state agencies overseeing the safety of these facilities are recovered from project developers to adequately ensure compliance with applicable safety requirements.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 975

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 975 without my signature.

This bill exempts specified Sutter County projects and activities for bridges and culverts that have been damaged as a result of fire, flood, storm, earthquake, subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2024 from existing specified state requirements related to lake and streambed alteration.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is tasked with determining if bridge and culvert project activity would substantially and adversely impact fish and wildlife resources. If found to have such impacts, CDFW must draft a lake or streambed alteration agreement that identifies species present in the area and for the project developer to mitigate the adverse impacts in conjunction with the activity. CDFW also assesses an administrative fee to support the implementation of these agreements.

Though this bill is intended to expedite damaged bridge and culvert projects, CDFW would still be required to develop individualized fish and wildlife resource protections for exempt projects, creating unknown but potentially significant General Fund cost pressures because the number and scope of projects that meet this bill's exemption criteria are not fully known.

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 cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 986

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 986 without my signature.

This bill would add a “landslide” to the conditions under which the Governor may proclaim a State of Emergency and local authorities may proclaim a Local Emergency.

I appreciate the author's goal to clarify paths to emergency proclamations, but this bill is unnecessary. Under existing law, California's Emergency Services Act already grants the Governor broad authority to proclaim a State of Emergency in response to “conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property.” In addition to the enumerated list of exemplary events, this language encompasses comparable events such as landslides, mudslides, and related geologic hazards without the need for further statutory amendment.

My administration has exercised and will continue to exercise the authority to respond decisively to landslides and associated hazards; adding “landslide” as a separate enumerated condition in statute would not expand these powers or provide additional tools for communities or first responders. In fact, it could be interpreted to suggest that events not explicitly identified in statute are ineligible for an emergency proclamation, which would unduly limit a Governor's power to respond to disasters.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1273

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 1, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1273 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) from placing on its consent agenda a Decision in a rate-setting proceeding that significantly increases rates for certain electric customers. This bill also clarifies eligibility rules for local publicly owned electric utilities (electric POUs) in meeting compliance periods under the Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS).

The CPUC is currently bound by strict transparency, accountability, and public access requirements under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and several statutes enshrined in the agency's publicly developed Rules of Practice and Procedure. All these requirements provide ample opportunity for public input and comment, and provide the agency with flexibility to decide important matters before its full Commission.

While the clarification of eligibility for electric POUs under the RPS deserves attention, this bill's requirements on the CPUC's public decision-making processes risk delaying action on critical issues, including ones that the CPUC is often accused of not acting on judiciously and expeditiously.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt of Bills

I acknowledge receipt this 1st day of October, 2025, at 5:50 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. 44, 86, 255, 399, 400, 474, 524, 689, 699, 734, 843, 915, 975, 986, and 1273.

SUE PARKER
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 374

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 3, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 374 without my signature.

This bill, starting with the 2026-27 school year, requires public school employers and community college districts to provide specified, detailed itemized wage statements to classified employees. The bill also requires employers to maintain deduction records for three years and provide employees access to employment records within 21 days of request.

While the author's goal is laudable, the associated costs of implementation are estimated at tens of millions of dollars and are not accounted for in the state budget. The bill's sponsors have identified a problem with some employers not providing their classified employees with timely wage and leave information, and I encourage them to work with school employers to find a less costly solution.

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 cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 393

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 3, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 393 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Department of State Hospitals, before entering into a personal services contract for a specified physician or psychologist position, to compare the costs of the contract with those of an equivalent civil service position. If the analysis shows that contracting is more expensive, the departments would be required to use an available civil service position instead.

While I am supportive of ideas to reduce state reliance on contractors, this measure circumvents the collective bargaining process and limits the ability of these departments to deliver critical services. The matters contemplated by this bill are more appropriately handled through the budget and labor negotiations processes.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 620

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 3, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 620 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to consider, for any future regulation or amendment regarding the procurement or use of medium-and heavy-duty (MD/HD) zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) by a public or private fleet, that car rental customers are responsible for a car's miles driven and any associated emissions.

In 2020, I issued Executive Order (EO) N-79-20, which directed CARB, among other things, to develop strategies to transition in-state sales of new passenger vehicles and trucks to 100 percent ZEVs by 2035, where feasible. Following this EO, CARB developed the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation. While the United States Environmental Protection Agency did not grant a waiver to authorize the ACF regulation before the climate-change-denying Trump Administration took office, California remains committed to transitioning to zero-emission transportation. This is why I recently issued EO N-27-25 reaffirming California's leadership in promoting ZEVs to protect our future, health, and economy.

In my veto message to Assembly Bill 637 (Jackson) last year, I encouraged rental vehicle companies to work with CARB to explore the environmental and economic benefits of MD/HD ZEV rentals through existing regulatory processes. I continue to encourage rental vehicle companies to do so.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 695

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 3, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 695 without my signature.

This bill provides an exemption until January 1, 2030, from nonresident tuition for community college students who were deported on or after the specified date and later reenroll in either an online or in-person community college program, if the student was previously enrolled and was not paying nonresident tuition at the time of their departure.

I thank the author for his commitment to providing hope to students harmed by the Trump Administration's indiscriminate attack on our immigrant communities. I am proud of the actions and laws that we have adopted in this state to protect, educate, and recognize the value that our immigrant students and their families bring to California. Unfortunately, as drafted, this proposal only benefits immigrant students who voluntarily or involuntarily depart the U.S. and thus the state, and not also residents of other states, raising significant constitutional concerns.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 740

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 3, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 740 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Energy Commission (CEC) to adopt a virtual power plant deployment plan in the 2027 update of the Integrated Energy Policy Report. This bill would also require each electric investor-owned utility to annually report to the CEC its contribution toward meeting the state's load-shift goal.

California has enacted many policies over the past decade to facilitate the deployment of cost-effective distributed energy resources and seamlessly integrate them into our evolving and dynamic electric grid. These energy resources have the potential to lower customer electric bills, improve electric grid reliability and resiliency, and lower electric grid emissions. Virtual power plants represent one of the latest advances in coupling the output and controllability of solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage systems to deliver on these outcomes.

While I support efforts to realize the potential of these energy resources and others, this bill results in costs to the CEC's primary operating fund, which is currently facing an ongoing structural deficit, thereby exacerbating the fund's structural imbalance.

For this reason I cannot sign his bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 830

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 3, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 830 without my signature.

This bill requires Caltrans to pay for removing or relocating utility infrastructure owned by public utility districts in Mendocino County that serve 5,000 or fewer households when such work is needed for a future state highway improvement.

While I recognize the challenges that relocation costs and infrastructure constraints can pose for communities, this bill sets a concerning precedent by merely shifting those costs to the state, directly at odds with longstanding requirements for permittees to cover the cost of relocating or removing an encroachment when needed for a highway improvement. Creating a statutory exception for one utility in a single county undermines fiscal discipline and creates inequities across California.

Instead, comprehensive and sustainable solutions should be developed in coordination with Caltrans, rather than relying on one-off exemptions that set problematic precedents.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 833

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 3, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 833 without my signature.

This bill directs the State Board of Education to update California's teacher exchange program regulations to allow entities authorized by the U.S. Department of State to sponsor teacher exchanges with other countries, including Mexico.

This bill is unnecessary as there is no statutory barrier to expanding program sponsorship for teachers from other countries, including Mexico, to California. Federal law does not require a single exclusive sponsor. Further, the author's stated goal is to help fill persistent educator shortages, which is contrary to the program's purpose to promote cross-cultural understanding and short-term professional growth opportunities.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1026

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 3, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1026 without my signature.

This bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to direct the electric investor-owned utilities (IOUs) to adopt standardized customer connection and energization procedures for housing development projects.

The development and growth of the state's economy, as well as the achievement of our 2045 carbon neutrality goal, hinge upon the clean electrification of the state's building and transportation sectors. Timely access to electric service is foundational to achieving these outcomes, and it is why, in 2023, I signed Assembly Bill 50 (Wood) and Senate Bill 410 (Becker). These bills require the CPUC to develop criteria aimed at expediting the connection and energization of customers to the electric grid, as well as improving information sharing between the electric IOUs and local governments. These bills also require the CPUC to establish reasonable average and maximum target customer connection and energization time periods on the electric IOUs. The CPUC fulfilled these tasks in September 2024 and is actively exploring additional efforts to further the intended outcomes of both measures.

Although this bill is well-intended, it is largely duplicative of existing efforts and risks disrupting the current public decision-making processes at the CPUC, and worse, complicates the application process that customers use to request expedited electric grid connections and electric service from the state's electric IOUs.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1089

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 3, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1089 without my signature.

This bill authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to enter into an agreement with any city to delegate to the city the taking of a Western Joshua Tree associated with commercial and industrial projects. In addition, this bill revises CDFW's authority to issue a permit for the removal of a Western Joshua Tree around single-family homes.

The Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act (Act) of 2023 was carefully crafted to balance the need to develop housing and clean energy projects in the Mojave Desert region, while creating a robust but practical permitting process aimed at protecting one of California's most iconic species. The Act currently authorizes CDFW to enter into an agreement with any county or city and delegate limited authority to permit the taking of a Western Joshua Tree associated with developing single-family residences, multifamily residences, accessory structures, and public works projects.

While I recognize the desire to expand this delegated authority to include the taking of these trees where commercial and industrial projects are sited, this bill goes too far in authorizing the blanket removal of these trees near single-family homes that will ultimately undermine Western Joshua Tree protections and conservation requirements under the Act. Furthermore, this bill would increase the complexity and time required to manage the permitting process as modified by this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1309

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 3, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1309 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to pay firefighters within 15 percent of the average salary for corresponding ranks in certain local fire departments. This measure would also require an annual survey of the salaries and benefits for fire chiefs in five specified fire departments.

While I appreciate the author's intent, this bill would create significant cost pressures for the state and circumvent the collective bargaining process. State employee salaries, along with other components of compensation such as health and pension benefits, should be determined through collective bargaining. Establishing a statutory salary floor for employees of a single department undermines this process, to the detriment of both the state and other bargaining units.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1329

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 3, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1329 without my signature.

This bill would make assorted changes to the Subsequent Injury Benefit Trust Fund (SIBTF), a World War II-era program created to protect disabled veterans entering the workforce. Proposed changes include incorporating a Qualified Medical Evaluator (QME) process, excluding certain medical conditions from the definition of pre-existing disabilities, and adding a statute of limitations on claims.

I commend the author for identifying the SIBTF as needing significant reform. Over the past decade, SIBTF has expanded significantly beyond its original purpose. The number of claims has skyrocketed, leading to an unsustainable future for the program. The Department of Industrial Relations estimates that, without comprehensive reform, the annual assessment paid by all employers will increase from \$372 million in FY 2021-22 to \$1.5 billion in FY 2029-30. As the Legislative Analyst's Office noted in a July 2025 report, workers submitting SIBTF claims today could see processing delays of up to ten years unless we take comprehensive action. Notably, other states, facing similar pressures, have chosen to eliminate their programs rather than reform them. This situation is dire and the state must act immediately.

Unfortunately, AB 1329 does not contain the comprehensive reforms necessary to save SIBTF. While some of the changes, such as the proposed QME process and the statute of limitations, are important, other changes take the program in the wrong direction. For example, including the impact on the "activities of daily living" in the determination of a prior disability contradicts the concept that the prior disability must be labor-disabling. This change would increase SIBTF claims and liabilities.

To ensure this program continues to serve workers as intended, comprehensive SIBTF reform must be pursued next year. I am directing the Department of Industrial Relations and its Division of Workers' Compensation to develop a proposal for comprehensive reform to include in January's 2026-27 budget proposal. I look forward to working with the Legislature to ensure this program continues to serve California workers.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1408

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 3, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1408 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) to integrate “surplus interconnection” considerations into long-term transmission planning and enhance transparency around related opportunities. The bill further requires electric investor-owned utilities and local publicly owned electric utilities to evaluate and consider surplus interconnection options in their integrated resource plans, and to use available electric grid infrastructure through surplus interconnection service to maximize interconnection capacity.

Over the last several decades, the CAISO, the California Energy Commission (CEC), and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) have designed a highly technical structure of processes within and between each organization to thoughtfully plan the development, expansion, and upgrade of our state's electric grid. This complex planning system is constantly refined and updated to align with the dynamic and growing demands placed on our electric grid. This is especially true as we rely more on the electric grid to electrify everyday end-uses and power the fourth-largest economy in the world with clean electricity, which, as of the end of 2023, accounts for 67 percent of the state's total electric retail sales.

While I support existing efforts to maximize the existing electric grid to interconnect new and expanded energy resources, this bill risks constraining energy resource procurement and interconnection options, likely increasing customer electric costs and undermining electric grid reliability.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt of Bills

I acknowledge receipt this 3rd day of October, 2025 at 3:53 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. 374, 393, 620, 695, 740, 830, 833, 1026, 1089, 1309, 1329, and 1408.

SUE PARKER
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

ROBERT RIVAS, Speaker

DANIEL ALVAREZ, Assistant Minute Clerk

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