

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY JOURNAL

RECESS JOURNAL NO. 26

INTERIM STUDY RECESS

Assembly Chamber, Sacramento
Monday, October 13, 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 communications were presented by the Chief Clerk and ordered printed in the Journal:

October 7, 2025

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

Dear Ms. Parker: Please be advised that I have appointed Assembly Member Diane Papan to the Select Committee on Housing Construction Innovation in the 2025–26 Regular Session.

Sincerely,

ROBERT RIVAS
Speaker of the Assembly

October 7, 2025

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

RE: Appointment of Chris Tapio to
the California Tahoe Conservancy Governing Board

Dear Ms. Parker: Please be advised that I have appointed Mr. Chris Tapio to the California Tahoe Conservancy Governing Board for a pleasure appointment effective October 7, 2025. Mr. Tapio will be replacing Mr. Acosta.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

ROBERT RIVAS
Speaker of the Assembly

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Select Committee on Biotechnology and Medical Technology, on Monday, October 27, 2025, at 2 p.m., at UC Berkeley Bakar BioGeniunity Hub, 2630 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 94704.

REPORTS

The following letter of transmittal was presented by the Chief Clerk and ordered printed in the Journal:

California State Auditor

2025-801
October 7, 2025

*The Honorable Speaker of the Assembly
The Honorable Members of the Assembly
of the Legislature of California
State Capitol, Room 319
Sacramento, California*

Members of the Assembly: This audit report updates the status of the cities of Calexico, Compton, and Richmond as high-risk entities as part of our office's high-risk local government agency audit program. Our prior audits of these cities identified areas of high risk related to the cities' financial conditions, financial stability, and administrative deficiencies, among other issues. For this statutory audit, we reviewed the extent to which each city has addressed recommendations from our prior audits, we assessed trends in the cities' financial conditions, and we determined whether we should continue to designate any of these cities as high-risk local government agencies.

This report concludes that the cities of Calexico and Richmond have taken satisfactory corrective action and addressed key deficiencies we identified in our previous reports. Therefore, we are removing their high-risk designations. We may subsequently reevaluate whether Richmond or Calexico should be identified as high risk if situations change and these cities appear to be at risk of not being able to meet their financial obligations or provide efficient and effective services to the public, among other concerns.

Although the city of Compton has taken steps to improve its overall operational health, we are not removing its high-risk designation at this time. We will continue to monitor Compton and the actions it takes to address the areas of high risk we have identified. When the city's actions result in sufficient progress toward resolving or mitigating such risks, we will remove its high-risk designation.

Respectfully submitted,

GRANT PARKS
California State Auditor

Above report referred to the Committee on Local Government.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

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

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 715

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 7, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 715 and Senate Bill 48.

Together, these bills establish the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) within the Government Operations Agency to enhance the available mechanisms to remediate instances of discrimination on school campuses. Within the OCR, these bills create distinct "discrimination prevention coordinators," including the Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator, in an effort to ensure students are free from all forms of discrimination.

Antisemitism is a historic scourge and needs to be addressed aggressively, which is why my Administration established the Golden State Plan to Counter Antisemitism in April 2024. Notably, in partnership with the Jewish Caucus and the Legislature, our combined efforts have led the Anti-Defamation League to recognize California as "a national leader in combating antisemitism." Relatedly, I have taken steps to ensure that California protects students from all forms of discrimination, including championing legislation to prohibit book bans so that students can learn about and debate different perspectives in our classrooms.

As AB 715 moved through the legislative process, representatives from the entire education ecosystem—including teachers, administrators, school boards, school staff, students, and civil rights organizations—expressed deep commitment to the goals of the bill, along with urgent concerns about unintended consequences. I appreciate the firm commitments made by the authors of AB 715 to work quickly on a follow-up measure next year to continue addressing these issues. Public schools play a foundational role in our democracy, and we must continue to make our schools safe learning environments for all students while fostering critical thinking skills in the context of challenging conversations.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 480

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 10, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 480.

This bill makes a technical change to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program by allowing taxpayers to sell the tax credit at any time before it is awarded. This adjustment provides added flexibility and value for recipients, and I commend the author for her leadership in championing state housing investments and advancing a more efficient housing finance system.

This measure reflects the kind of practical step that, paired with broader reforms, can move us toward a housing finance system that's simpler, faster, and cheaper to operate. Today, programs are scattered across multiple agencies with different rules and processes, creating delays and higher costs. Past efforts have moved us closer, but fully aligning our housing finance system will require more than half-measures and working groups.

With the creation of the state's first dedicated housing agency, California now has a rare opportunity to pursue long-term reforms and build a unified housing finance system that lowers costs, builds more houses faster, and delivers lasting benefits for all. A unified housing finance system means bringing key housing programs into the new cabinet-level housing agency and embedding them within an administrative framework that streamlines the front-end process for applicants seeking funding and the back-end oversight and compliance functions. The ultimate goal is lasting structural change that replaces today's patchwork of programs and acronyms with a system that is simple, stable, and built to last.

I encourage the Legislature and stakeholders to work with my Administration to seize this moment and turn today's momentum into lasting progress for years to come.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 1050

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 10, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1050, which expands the process for removing private covenants that block housing to cover the redevelopment of commercial properties, including covenants in reciprocal easement agreements, provided projects comply with state housing laws.

This bill removes outdated barriers that keep underutilized commercial properties from being converted into housing, strengthening our adaptive reuse strategy and accelerating progress toward our statewide housing goals.

This is the kind of practical reform we need to cut through red tape and deliver more housing for Californians.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 1261

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 12, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1261, which requires the state, subject to state funding and with consideration to federal funding, to provide legal counsel to certain noncitizen immigrant youth in California, and requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to allocate the funding and determine how awards of contracts will be allocated.

This population of youth is at greater risk of exploitation and trafficking due to their unique circumstances in the United States, and providing them with support for legal representation furthers their safety and stability in California. In that spirit, and in collaboration with the Legislature, we took action in January of this year to augment funding for civil proceedings, including immigration-related legal services, of which \$6.7 million was allocated to support legal representation for immigrant youth. This was followed by another \$10 million augmentation in the 2025–26 Budget to support immigrant youth, in addition to millions of dollars of ongoing annual funding for legal representation.

The state's recent augmentation and ongoing investments are critical as the Trump Administration repeatedly attempts to cut federal funding for legal services for unaccompanied children, escalate indiscriminate immigration enforcement and continues to take other actions that raise serious concerns about their commitment to the welfare of children. I urge the federal government to take actions that prioritize the safety, stability, and welfare of these children, including their due process rights.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 366

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 366, which extends California's Statewide Ignition Interlock Device (IID) Pilot Program until January 1, 2033. Without this extension, the program would expire at the end of this year and DUI licensing would revert to outdated provisions with no mandatory IID requirements.

The pilot program, established in 2016 and implemented statewide in 2019, requires IIDs for specified DUI offenders (such as repeat or injury-involved offenses), and authorizes installation for certain first-time offenders at the discretion of the courts. Earlier this year, the California State Transportation Agency submitted its report to the Legislature on program outcomes. The report confirmed that IIDs reduce impaired driving recidivism, as shown by declines in future DUI arrests, crashes, or crashes involving injury. This underscores the importance of pairing IIDs with license sanctions, DUI treatment, and supervision to achieve the best safety outcomes.

I commend the author for her work on this important issue. As reflected in the author's letter to the Assembly Journal, my Administration is committed to working together next year to develop a permanent framework that is effective, fiscally sustainable, and workable within the DMV's operational realities. While this measure provides much-needed continuity today, it is ultimately directed toward establishing a lasting program that strengthens public safety and delivers safer roads for Californians.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 692

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing AB 692, which makes it unlawful to include in any employment contract specified terms that require a worker to assume a debt if their employment concludes before the end of the contract's term. This bill also allows for limited exceptions to this prohibition.

I commend the author for advocating on behalf of workers who are trapped in employment contracts that impose significant financial repercussions for leaving their jobs. California has long been a national leader in adopting policies that promote competition for top talent. This includes the state's longstanding prohibition on noncompete clauses, a policy that has helped attract top talent. So-called "debt traps" in employment contracts appear to be a modern variation of noncompete agreements, keeping employees in their positions longer than necessary, stifling innovation, and preventing workers from reaching their full potential.

However, there is still more work to be done. I encourage the Legislature to enact follow-up legislation in 2026 to accommodate the collective bargaining process. Allowing these issues to be resolved through the collective bargaining process is appropriate because those agreements are tailored to the unique needs of workers and their employers.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 761

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly and Senate:

I am signing the following measures: Assembly Bill 761, Assembly Bill 1223, Senate Bill 63, and Senate Bill 333.

These measures will allow certain communities to consider, by a vote of the people, local tax measures to sustain and improve local transit. As Governor—and a former supervisor and mayor—I know how challenging it can be to manage local transit systems. The public's willingness to support repeated taxes cannot be assumed. Some transit systems fail to adequately demonstrate stewardship, accountability, and innovation. As such, the transit systems supported by these bills bear the responsibility of showing how the additional revenues, if approved by voters, will produce tangible outcomes and measurable results.

Not long ago, BART and Muni were among the nation's leading transit systems, demonstrating what is possible when performance meets expectations. The pandemic brought unprecedented disruptions, and our focus is now on resilience and strengthening transit statewide. This is especially true in the Bay Area, where decades of local investment have built one of the nation's largest networks, vital to California's economy, workforce, and climate goals. Meeting this moment requires us not just to match past performance, but to adapt and grow beyond it—with clear priorities, strong oversight, and a commitment to innovation.

This commitment builds on unprecedented investments: in 2023, we dedicated \$5.1 billion to stabilize major systems, including hundreds of millions for operators represented here. We have also recently reauthorized the cap-and-invest program, providing hundreds of millions annually through 2045 for transit capital and operations. These extraordinary levels of support demand extraordinary results.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 853

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 853, which strengthens the California AI Transparency Act to ensure that Californians can begin to reliably assess whether digital content is generated or modified using artificial intelligence (AI).

The proliferation of AI-generated content is having a profound effect on all of us, particularly as the rapidly evolving technology becomes increasingly easy to access and distribute, and the content itself becomes more and more difficult to distinguish from reality. This bill is a critical step in allowing us to clearly distinguish the real from the synthetic, and thereby enhance trust in the use of AI in our everyday lives.

As with the regulation of any nascent technology, some stakeholders remain concerned that provisions of the bill, while well-intentioned, present implementation challenges that could lead to unintended consequences, including impairment of user privacy. I encourage the Legislature to enact follow-up legislation in 2026, before the law takes effect, to address these technical feasibility issues without jeopardizing its intent to enhance the safety and security of all Californians.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 1043

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1043, which would establish a much-needed system of age verification for users of mobile devices and computers. Parents who allow their child to be the main user of a device will be able to configure the device to inform application developers of the child's age. This, in turn, will assist parents in ensuring that their children are downloading and using age-appropriate applications.

Streaming services and video game developers contend that this bill's framework, while well-suited to traditional software applications, does not fit their respective products. Many of these companies have existing age verification systems in place, addressing complexities such as multi-user accounts shared by a family and user profiles utilized across multiple devices. As this bill does not take effect until January 1, 2027, I urge the Legislature to enact legislation in 2026 to address these particular concerns.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 1223

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly and Senate:

I am signing the following measures: Assembly Bill 761, Assembly Bill 1223, Senate Bill 63, and Senate Bill 333.

These measures will allow certain communities to consider, by a vote of the people, local tax measures to sustain and improve local transit. As Governor—and a former supervisor and mayor—I know how challenging it can be to manage local transit systems. The public's willingness to support repeated taxes cannot be assumed. Some transit systems fail to adequately demonstrate stewardship, accountability, and innovation. As such, the transit systems supported by these bills bear the responsibility of showing how the additional revenues, if approved by voters, will produce tangible outcomes and measurable results.

Not long ago, BART and Muni were among the nation's leading transit systems, demonstrating what is possible when performance meets expectations. The pandemic brought unprecedented disruptions, and our focus is now on resilience and strengthening transit statewide. This is especially true in the Bay Area, where decades of local investment have built one of the nation's largest networks, vital to California's economy, workforce, and climate goals. Meeting this moment requires us not just to match past performance, but to adapt and grow beyond it—with clear priorities, strong oversight, and a commitment to innovation.

This commitment builds on unprecedented investments: in 2023, we dedicated \$5.1 billion to stabilize major systems, including hundreds of millions for operators represented here. We have also recently reauthorized the cap-and-invest program, providing hundreds of millions annually through 2045 for transit capital and operations. These extraordinary levels of support demand extraordinary results.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Signing Message—Assembly Bill No. 1455

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1455, which would revise and recast the defensible space requirements within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) in the Local Responsibility Area (LRA). This bill also would specify that "Zone Zero" regulations adopted by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) may be adopted as emergency regulations and that the Board may subsequently readopt regulations that are substantially equivalent to the initial regulations.

Over the past year, my Administration has heard directly from Californians in every corner of the state about the importance of safeguarding our communities against wildfire, while also protecting the character and livability of the neighborhoods we call home. This is a complex and challenging endeavor, and I remain committed to striking a balance between these shared desires. This is why I support the principle of Zone Zero—designing the critical space around our homes and structures to reduce wildfire risk. However, this principle must be implemented in a way that balances wildfire resilience with practicality.

In addition to signing this bill, I am directing the Board to advance Zone Zero regulations that balance wildfire resiliency with practicality, reduce wildfire risk to life and property, and align with local preferences in partnership with local governments, insurers, and communities.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

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

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 512

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 6, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 512 without my signature.

This bill would shorten the required response times for health plans and insurers for prior authorization (PA) requests submitted by providers. For standard requests submitted electronically, the timeline would be shortened from five business days to three business days. For urgent requests, the required response timeline would be 24 hours for requests submitted electronically and 48 hours for requests that are not submitted electronically.

I strongly support the goal of improving the PA process. Accordingly, I recently signed SB 306 (Becker), which seeks to ensure that enrollees receive timely responses to requests for care by taking a holistic approach to improve the PA process. Under this new law, health plans and health insurers are required to submit data to the California Department of Managed Health Care and the California Department of Insurance, respectively, regarding the types of health care services subject to PA requirements. The departments must analyze the data and then issue a list of services that should not be subject to a PA requirement by 2027.

I am concerned that this bill's significantly shortened deadlines may inadvertently increase the number of denials and force health care plans to make critical decisions with incomplete or inaccurate information. I believe SB 306 is a more balanced approach to improve the PA system as a whole, alleviate burdens for providers, and improve patient outcomes in the long term.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 527

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 6, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 527 without my signature.

This bill would create a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption through 2030 for qualifying geothermal exploratory projects when a county or the Department of Conservation's California Geologic Energy Management Division (Division) is the lead agency, if those projects meet specified requirements.

This bill also would require the Division to combine new regulations for "enhanced geothermal systems" (EGS) wells with a current geothermal rulemaking by January 1, 2029, and, until those regulations are in effect, operators would be required to provide specified technical information when filing a drilling Notice of Intention for EGS wells in CEQA-exempt projects.

In addition to delaying much-needed regulations that are already in process, the Division would need to substantially increase fees on geothermal operators to implement the new requirements imposed by the bill. While I support the expansion of the geothermal energy industry in California as a much-needed source of baseload clean power, the increased fees caused by this bill could disincentivize geothermal development in California beyond any incentive provided by a CEQA exemption for one part of a project's permitting process.

Additionally, I signed Assembly Bill 1359 (Papan) last year, which made a series of targeted reforms to the review and approval of geothermal exploration projects. It is prudent that we understand the effects of these changes before granting wholesale CEQA exemptions with costly and complicated conditions.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 574

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 6, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 574 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit health plans or insurers from requiring prior authorization (PA) for the initial 12 physical therapy visits for a new condition.

Prior authorization, when applied appropriately, is a crucial tool for containing healthcare costs, protecting patients from unanticipated billing, and ensuring patients receive medically necessary care. Further, existing law requires health plans to provide appointments within a timely access minimum standard, even when prior authorization is required.

I support the author's goals of improving the PA process and ensuring that enrollees receive timely responses to requests for physical therapy. To this end, I recently signed SB 306 (Becker), which provides a more comprehensive solution to improve the PA process. This new law will require health plans and health insurers to submit data to the California Department of Managed Health Care and the California Department of Insurance, respectively, regarding the types of health care services subject to PA requirements, and require the departments to analyze the data and then issue a list of services that should not be subject to a PA requirement. This approach strikes a reasonable balance that will lead to improved transparency in the PA system as a whole, alleviate burdens for providers, and ultimately enhance patient outcomes. It would be premature to establish limitations on the use of PA, as proposed by this bill, until SB 306 is fully implemented.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 615

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 6, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 615 without my signature.

This bill would require battery energy storage facilities seeking a site certification permit from the California Energy Commission (CEC), in coordination with local emergency planning agencies, to develop an emergency response and action plan and require the CEC to confirm the project's compliance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 855 Standards.

I support the goal of ensuring the safety of battery energy storage facilities, which is why my Administration launched the California Battery Safety Collaborative in September 2024 to examine battery storage technologies and safety practices, particularly as California ramps up deployment of battery energy storage facilities. I remain committed to advancing additional measures to improve the safety of these facilities. That is also why I signed Senate Bill 38 (Laird) last year, which requires battery energy storage facility owners to develop emergency response plans in coordination with local agencies and to comply with the latest NFPA standards.

To that end, this bill is largely duplicative of existing requirements and mandates a new procedural requirement that risks delaying critical clean energy projects applying for permits through the CEC's site certification permitting programs, without providing the intended additional safety benefits.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 682

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 6, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 682 without my signature.

This bill would require health plans and insurers to publish certain prior authorization (PA) data on their websites, and to report specified claim information to the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) and the California Department of Insurance (CDI).

I support ensuring the transparency of health plan PA and claims data, which is why I recently signed SB 306 (Becker). This new law will require health plans and health insurers to submit data to the DMHC and the CDI, respectively, regarding the types of health care services subject to PA requirements, and require the departments to analyze the data and then issue a list of services that should not be subject to a PA requirement by 2027.

This bill creates duplicative and conflicting health plan reporting requirements, which increases the risk for confusion and inconsistency in implementation, and could ultimately hinder the very transparency efforts the author intends to advance.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 738

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 6, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 738 without my signature.

This bill would exempt, until January 1, 2028, minimum solar photovoltaic (PV) requirements for residential buildings damaged or destroyed because of a disaster from the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards.

The minimum solar PV requirement is an innovative and forward-leaning policy that has been in place for five years, requiring new residential buildings to include cost-effective solar PV systems to reduce long-term homeowner energy costs, improve energy resiliency, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Codifying the broad exemption in this bill would permanently nullify these positive outcomes for homeowners while failing to consider the unique circumstances that influence rebuilding costs and efforts in different communities following disasters.

In July 2025, I issued Executive Order (EO) N-29-25, which provided a targeted, one-time exemption from the minimum solar PV and associated battery storage requirements for areas in Los Angeles recovering from the historic, catastrophic wildfires earlier this year. This EO, along with others I issued this year, recognized the scale of devastation and the need to accelerate and support local recovery efforts by providing limited and targeted exemptions from a variety of state requirements. These EOs were carefully coordinated and calibrated to facilitate rebuilding, while maintaining key safety requirements and environmental considerations. Importantly, EO N-29-25 did not exempt rebuilt structures from specified solar PV ready requirements to ensure that homes rebuilt following the fires are equipped to support future solar PV system installation. The balanced approach enshrined in these EOs has been pivotal in delivering the expeditious recovery and rebuild of resilient and safe residential buildings and structures, and should be retained.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1074

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 6, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1074 without my signature.

This bill would expand eligibility for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Family Reunification (FR) program by authorizing the program's cash aid period for longer than six months, if needed; no longer requiring that all children be removed from the home to be eligible for CalWORKs FR; and no longer requiring that all parents be receiving cash aid to be eligible for CalWORKs FR cash aid and services.

While I support the author's intent to remove barriers in CalWORKs Family Reunification, this bill results in ongoing costs that were not accounted for in the 2025 Budget Act.

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. 1210

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 6, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1210 without my signature.

This bill requires the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to notify a county probation department 90 days prior to the discharge of a person on post-release community supervision, instead of 30 days prior.

While well-intentioned, the practical implications of this bill would result in significant, ongoing costs to the state with limited benefit to public safety. There are numerous factors that trigger recalculations of an incarcerated person's release date, such as changes in workgroup assignments, program credit earnings, credit losses or restorations, and modifications to sentencing terms or case credits. Any one of these factors could lead to changes to the incarcerated person's release date, thereby triggering multiple recurring notifications to a county prior to the individual's release. Additionally, the requirements of this bill would result in significant impacts on the General Fund not included in the 2025 Budget Act.

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. 1224

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 6, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1224 without my signature.

Through January 1, 2029, this bill increases the time substitute teachers can serve in general education or special education classrooms to up to 60 days, doubling or tripling current caps.

Research demonstrates that substitute teachers tend to serve classrooms with a disproportionate number of students with disabilities, English learners, and students from low-income families. While this bill requires local educational agencies to offer mentorship, training, and support to substitute teachers, it does not mandate their participation in these programs. As such, this bill would allow individuals to serve our highest-need students for as much as a third of a school year without minimally required training or mentorship.

I recognize the author's goal of providing more continuity in challenging staffing situations. As such, I encourage the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to utilize its existing authority to engage stakeholders and expeditiously reexamine and amend its short-term staffing pathways to support continuity of instruction, and to address the minimum levels of preparation and support required.

Alternatively, the author could introduce legislation that addresses the lack of required training and support for long-term substitute teachers.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1324

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 6, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1324 without my signature.

This bill would expand eligibility for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program; require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), in collaboration with key stakeholders, to determine the Expanded Subsidized Employment (ESE) funding allocation; and require CDSS to conduct a CalWORKs expansion feasibility study by January 1, 2028.

While I support the author's goal of expanding eligibility for working families in poverty, this bill creates significant, ongoing cost pressures not accounted for in the 2025 Budget Act. 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. 1378

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 6, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1378 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to enter into agreements with tribes, at their request, to prevent entries into foster care, specifying that such agreements would be made solely for the purpose of administering prevention services funded by the federal Family First Prevention Services Act. The bill would also require CDSS to provide funding to tribes to support the cost of legal representation for a child and their parent in foster care proceedings.

I recognize the long-standing disparities faced by tribal children and their families, especially by governmental entities, and sincerely appreciate the author's intent to provide prevention services to at-risk tribal families. However, the specific approach proposed by this bill contains significant fiscal, legal, and programmatic issues. It is unclear whether the types of agreements proposed by this bill can be used to access federal funds. Requiring CDSS to enter into such agreements would create significant uncertainties about how these agreements could be implemented and how funding would be provided.

Acknowledging the volatility of the current political and fiscal landscapes, my Administration proposed an alternative approach, consistent with the intent of this bill, that could have substantially benefited some of the most vulnerable tribal children and families. Unfortunately, this alternative was not accepted, leaving this bill deeply flawed.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1430

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 6, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1430 without my signature.

This bill would increase county recording base fees and make various changes to the allocation of these fees. Specifically, this bill would increase the record and indexing fee to \$15 for the first page, and \$4 for each additional page. For documents dealing with the ownership of land in counties—including payments of taxes or fees, deeds, mortgage documents, easements—and any documents that affect the ownership of any given property, this bill would increase the recorder fee from \$1 to \$3 for each additional page. Californians realizing the dream of property ownership rely on recorder offices to handle important documents with care, making these offices critical points of interaction between residents and their government. I appreciate the author's intent to improve the efficiency of California's land title system, for both the public and county recorders, to ensure expeditious processing of real property records. However, raising these fees on Californians will disincentivize efforts to think innovatively about how to deliver recording services at a lower cost, faster, and with better customer service. I encourage the author and counties to consider ways to achieve that goal without solely relying on fee increases.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt of Bills

I acknowledge receipt this 6th day of October, 2025 at 5:12 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 Kimberly Moran Fuentes:

Assembly Bills Nos. 512, 527, 574, 615, 682, 738, 1074, 1210, 1224, 1324, 1378, and 1430.

SUE PARKER
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 15

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 11, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 15 without my signature.

This bill requires law enforcement agencies to review case files regarding open unsolved homicides, upon application of a victim's immediate family member, to determine if reinvestigation would result in probative investigative leads.

I strongly support the author's goal of resolving these cases and ensuring justice and peace for survivors. However, unsolved cases are more often the result of a lack of evidence than a lack of diligence. To meet the timelines mandated under this bill, most law enforcement agencies would have to hire new personnel for case file review. Those that could not afford to do so would have to divert law enforcement personnel away from investigating active cases, including active homicides, to instead review case files. Diverting resources from active cases could lead to more unsolved crimes, not fewer, inadvertently undermining the intent of this bill.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 81

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 11, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 81 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to fund an academic study of mental health among women veterans in California and, by June 30, 2029, submit a report to the Legislature summarizing the findings and recommendations.

I support the author's goal of furthering research into the mental health of women veterans in our state, but this bill would lead to significant fiscal costs outside of the budget. When I vetoed a similar measure last year, I encouraged the author to secure funding for this measure within the annual budget process.

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

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 93

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 11, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 93 without my signature.

This bill requires data centers, when applying for an initial business license, to provide to their water supplier an estimate of expected water use. It further requires data centers, when applying for a renewal of a business license, to provide their water supplier with a report on annual water use.

The widespread adoption of artificial intelligence technologies is driving an unprecedented demand for data center capacity throughout the nation. As the global epicenter of the technology sector, California is well positioned to support the development of this critically important digital infrastructure in the state.

While I appreciate the author's intent, I am reluctant to impose rigid reporting requirements about operational details on this sector without understanding the full impact on businesses and the consumers of their technology.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 265

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 11, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 265 without my signature.

This bill establishes an unfunded program within the Office of the Small Business Advocate to provide competitive grants to small businesses and eligible nonprofit organizations directly affected by a declared state of emergency.

I wholeheartedly support the author's intent to assist small businesses in disaster-affected areas in their rebuild and recovery efforts. Just two weeks after the deadly Los Angeles wildfires began in January, I signed legislation providing over \$2.5 billion in disaster relief to immediately help bolster emergency response and jumpstart recovery efforts. In the months since, the state has also administered over \$3 billion in federal small business assistance, including more than \$325 million in loans to repair or replace physical property, and more than \$235 million in economic injury disaster loans to help businesses meet their financial obligations.

While well-intentioned, an unfunded grant program is of little use to small businesses and nonprofits without dedicated resources provided through the budget process. In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 632

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 11, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 632 without my signature.

This bill would allow a local agency, upon the exhaustion of administrative and judicial appeals and specified noticing procedures, to obtain a final judgment and impose liens to enforce administrative fines and penalties for violations of specified cannabis laws, housing laws, and fire hazard laws.

I recognize the challenges local governments face in enforcing code violations for illegal cannabis grows, which is why I signed AB 1684 (Maienschein, Chapter 477, Statutes of 2023) to strengthen local penalty and enforcement authority for unlicensed cannabis activity.

However, I am concerned about expanding local authority to place liens on private property. Balancing the due process rights of homeowners with a local government's authority to levy nuisance abatement fines is crucial. I believe existing law strikes the right balance.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 696

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 11, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 696 without my signature.

This bill requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Office of the State Fire Marshal to convene a Lithium-Ion Car Battery Advisory Group by December 31, 2026.

Last year, I established the California Battery Safety Collaborative (Collaborative) to examine battery energy storage technologies and safety considerations, which includes the Office of the State Fire Marshal and several other state agencies and departments.

The establishment of a new advisory group, as required by this bill, would be uncoordinated with the work being done through the Collaborative and it is largely duplicative of the work already completed by the Lithium Ion Car Battery Recycling Advisory Group. In furtherance of my commitment to improve the safety of these technologies, I am directing the Collaborative to expand its state agency membership and scope to assess and address the safety risks of not just stationary, but also mobile, battery energy storage technologies.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 823

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 11, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 823 without my signature.

This bill would expand the 2015 Plastic Microbeads Nuisance Prevention Law, which bans plastic microbeads in personal care products that are rinsed off, to also ban the sale of non-rinse-off products, certain cleaning products, and personal care products containing plastic glitter.

I support efforts to protect California's waterways, ecosystems, and public health from the real and significant harms caused by the prevalence of microplastics in our environment. However, I am not supportive of the approach this bill takes to ban specific ingredients, such as glitter, which may incidentally result in a prohibition on biodegradable or natural alternatives.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1042

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 11, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1042 without my signature.

This bill would allow the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to establish the Managed Honeybee Health Program to fund health interventions for managed honeybees according to priorities set by CDFA.

I appreciate the author's interest in protecting our honeybee population, but this bill would create an unfunded grant program and, therefore, should be considered as part of the annual budget process.

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

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1200

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 11, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1200 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to biennially convene key personnel and agencies to participate in a tabletop exercise and require Cal OES, in cooperation with California Volunteers, to annually conduct community disaster preparedness training in vulnerable regions of the state.

I appreciate the author's commitment to disaster readiness. However, this bill is duplicative of existing preparedness measures already in place to enhance disaster readiness. Cal OES already conducts targeted, multi-jurisdictional, and tabletop exercises that are strategically aligned with existing plans and capabilities. The exercises envisioned in this bill are overly broad and lack clarity. As a result, requiring these exercises would unintentionally undermine the effectiveness of California's current emergency preparedness efforts. Additionally, this bill would result in new ongoing costs in the millions of dollars to implement.

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

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1225

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 11, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1225 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Department on improving accessibility throughout the State Park System.

While I support enhancing accessibility to recreational opportunities in state parks, this bill would be duplicative of the Department's existing Accessibility Division. Moreover, the Department has completed hundreds of projects throughout the state park system, removing architectural and programmatic access barriers and constructing accessible trails pursuant to a court-approved timeline under a long-standing consent decree.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1326

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 11, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1326 without my signature.

This bill states an individual has the right to wear a mask in public spaces and workplaces for the purpose of protecting their health or the public's health, except under specified situations.

I appreciate the author's goal of ensuring Californians may wear a mask for public health reasons, but I am not convinced this measure is necessary. Existing law appears sufficient to allow a person to wear a mask for health reasons in most public situations. This bill creates a sweeping new policy with numerous exceptions, and may create confusion about the application of existing state and federal legal protections.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1332

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 11, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1332 without my signature.

This bill would authorize a limited number of cannabis microbusinesses to ship certain medicinal cannabis products directly to patients using a common carrier.

While I appreciate the author's goal of expanding patient access to medical cannabis, the proposed direct-shipping program would be burdensome and overly complex to administer. The Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) will need to revamp the California Cannabis Track-and-Trace System, which will take significant resources and time. Moreover, this measure includes numerous restrictions on eligible products—many of which are unclear, overly narrow, or unworkable, adding to the implementation challenge. Given that this measure allows just two businesses to ship medical cannabis directly to patients, the costs of administering this program far outweigh the possible benefits to patients.

I remain open to working with the Legislature on strategies to effectively advance equitable access to safe and regulated cannabis. However, this measure would not achieve that goal while shifting limited resources away from DCC's other priorities.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1373

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 11, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1373 without my signature.

This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to hold a public hearing at least 21 days prior to acting on an application for a water quality certification for a license to operate a hydroelectric facility.

While well-intentioned, this bill is unnecessary. The Board's certification process already includes opportunities for input by members of the public and Board members, including a mechanism for Board members to reconsider decisions initially delegated to staff. I am, however, directing the Board to work with the relevant stakeholders to explore ways to make this process more efficient, consistent with the intent of this bill.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt of Bills

I acknowledge receipt this 11th day of October, 2025 at 4:44 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. 15, 81, 93, 265, 632, 696, 823, 1042, 1200, 1225, 1326, 1332, and 1373.

HUGH R. SLAYDEN

Assistant Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 7

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 7 without my signature.

This bill clarifies, to the extent permitted by federal law, that California public and private postsecondary educational institutions may consider providing a preference in admissions to an applicant who is a descendant of slavery.

I thank the author for his deep commitment to addressing disparities in education stemming from the legacy of slavery. These institutions already have the authority to determine whether to provide admissions preferences like this one, and accordingly, this bill is unnecessary. I encourage the institutions referenced in this bill to review and determine how, when, and if this type of preference can be adopted.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 57

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 57 without my signature.

This bill would require that at least 10 percent of the California Dream for All Program's funds be reserved for descendants of formerly enslaved individuals, contingent on the enactment of Senate Bill 518 and the associated certification process created and administered by a new Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery.

I appreciate the author's leadership on this important issue. However, creating an ancestry-based set-aside presents legal risks and could jeopardize CalHFA's access to federal mortgage markets that are critical to providing housing assistance for thousands of Californians each year.

California has made historic investments to expand equitable access to homeownership, including through the Dream for All Program, which provides downpayment assistance to first-time buyers where at least one borrower is a first-generation homebuyer. In the last fiscal year, CalHFA data across all downpayment assistance programs show encouraging results, with Black or African American borrowers represented at rates well above their share of California homeowners.

Building on this progress, the upcoming funding round for new Dream for All applicants will include a programmatic set-aside designed to address long-standing inequality. In addition to the program's core eligibility criteria, 10 percent of Dream for All funds will be reserved for borrowers in Qualified Census Tracts, as defined by area median income, helping direct resources to areas where residents are more likely to face systemic inequities in lending, wealth-building, and housing access. This approach advances the equity goals of this measure while minimizing legal risks and protecting California's continued access to resources essential for expanding affordability and opportunity.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 62

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 62 without my signature.

This bill would require the Civil Rights Department (CRD) to establish a process through which a victim of racially motivated eminent domain, or their descendants, could obtain restitution for the value of the property wrongfully taken from them.

I thank the author for seeking to right these historic injustices. My administration shares the commitment to dismantle systemic racism, including by addressing the wealth gap. However, CRD lacks the crucial expertise and immense resources required to successfully implement this bill. CRD, a prosecutorial agency, would need to establish an entirely new adjudicatory structure, inclusive of administrative law judges, in order to adjudicate property disputes between governmental entities and individuals. These determinations would be complex, involve multiple parties, competing interests, and the gathering of historical evidence that would be difficult to obtain or verify. Given the substantial resources this would require, this bill would limit CRD's ability to fulfill its core mission of maintaining and strengthening civil rights protections for Californians—a vital mission that grows more necessary every day.

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. 76

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 76 without my signature.

This bill reduces the affordable housing requirements for the University Innovation District (UID) in Chula Vista to qualify as exempt surplus land under the Surplus Land Act (SLA). Current law requires that at least 25 percent of all units be affordable to lower-income households. This measure instead excludes student, faculty, and university employee housing from those calculations—lowering the number of affordable homes required.

I support the vision of a University Innovation District in Chula Vista, as reflected in my signing of AB 662, which establishes a task force studying a mixed-use educational facility. But this effort should not come at the expense of the SLA's affordability framework, which since 2022 has been responsible for unlocking more than 34,000 homes—including 21,500 affordable units. Nor should it conflict with legislative efforts to expand affordable workforce housing by excluding faculty and staff units from affordability requirements.

With the AB 662 task force work set to begin, it is premature to alter this exemption before the task force completes its evaluation. Any subsequent proposal must ensure affordability requirements are maintained and the underlying use is consistent with the SLA's purpose of delivering broad public benefit.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 239

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 239 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to convene a state-led County of Los Angeles disaster housing task force to coordinate and streamline efforts to rebuild housing in the communities impacted by the 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires.

I appreciate the author's intent to provide a strong and coordinated recovery in Los Angeles County. However, California already has a robust disaster housing coordination structure that delivers on this very goal. Following the Eaton and Palisades Fires, HCD and Cal OES created a Housing Task Force within the Joint Field Office, regularly convening state, federal, and local partners to accelerate delivery of resources and provide technical assistance in rebuilding efforts. That task force has launched resiliency centers, held rebuild workshops, and is actively advancing housing recovery for affected communities. This same framework has guided recovery from countless disasters—from the Camp Fire to the North Complex Fire and beyond—consistently showing that California has the tools and partnerships needed to drive recovery.

This bill would duplicate longstanding work already underway, create additional costs and reporting requirements, and limit the flexibility that has proven essential in disaster response.

My Administration remains fully committed to supporting Los Angeles County's wildfire recovery, and we will continue to build on the progress achieved through the existing task force framework by pursuing efforts that are additive to, rather than duplicative of, this proven structure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 432

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 432 without my signature.

This bill would require certain health plan and health insurer contracts to cover the costs of evaluation and treatment options for symptoms of perimenopause and menopause, as deemed medically necessary by a health care provider without utilization management (UM).

Last year, I vetoed a substantially similar bill, stating that it would limit the ability of health plans to engage in practices that have been shown to ensure appropriate care while limiting unnecessary costs. That is still the case with this bill—despite my call for a more tailored solution. This bill's expansive coverage mandate, in conjunction with a prohibition on UM, is too far-reaching. Health plans use UM to ensure enrollees receive the right care at the right time, which is especially important when there are new and emerging treatments.

I strongly support the author's goal of ensuring quality care and access to evaluation and treatment of perimenopause and menopause symptoms. However, these factors, along with a lack of clarity in AB 432 regarding undefined terms, still raise significant cost and implementation concerns. The Legislature has twice now sent me a bill that does not strike the important, and achievable, balance between expanding access to this essential treatment and the affordability of care. This is especially important as consumers are facing double-digit rate increases in their health care premiums across the nation.

As such, I am directing the California Health and Human Services Agency to identify additional policy changes or investments to address perimenopause and menopause evaluation and treatments for consideration as part of next year's budget process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 449

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 449 without my signature.

This bill requires the Civil Rights Department (CRD) to create and implement statewide and regional campaigns utilizing radio, social media, and television to combat hate violence against specific communities, and discourage discrimination based upon, but not limited to, disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation.

I thank the author for his ongoing commitment to combating discrimination and hate, a commitment I share. My Administration has devoted significant efforts and implemented a comprehensive strategy to fight hate violence, including through “Stop the Hate,” a multi-year grant program that has provided over \$100 million for services, including outreach and prevention, to support communities impacted by acts of hate. We also established the Commission on the State of Hate within the Civil Rights Department, and launched California vs. Hate, a statewide hotline and network to report hate acts and connect victims with services.

While implementation of this bill requires an appropriation by the Legislature, it will result in General Fund cost pressures to fund the campaigns and working group. 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.

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 546

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 546 without my signature.

This bill would require large group health plans to cover, with a prescription, one portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) purifier for an enrollee or insured who is pregnant or diagnosed with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) if they reside in or are displaced from a county where a local or state emergency has been declared due to wildfires.

I appreciate the author's intent to ensure victims of wildfires have continuous access to devices that enable cleaner air, such as purifiers. However, this bill's coverage mandate could have the unintended consequence of creating disparities and inequities for individuals who suffer from other health conditions. Further, a mandate to cover air purifiers sets a precedent that goes beyond coverage for basic health care services.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 554

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 554 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit nongrandfathered health plans established by the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) and insurance policies from imposing any costsharing for antiretroviral drugs, devices, or drug products that are approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

I wholeheartedly support efforts to ensure affordable and accessible prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, and I share the author's desire to address politically motivated changes to long-standing preventive services requirements by the current hostile federal administration. This year's budget specifically codified the January 1, 2025 recommendations made by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force for no-cost preventive services—ensuring the prior federal administration's guidelines are a matter of state law. As a result, the California Department of Public Health now has the explicit authority to modify or supplement these baseline guidelines based on recommendations and guidance from medical and scientific organizations.

However, certain components of this measure raise concerns about affordability. By exceeding the cost-sharing provisions under the ACA, this bill would result in increased costs to health plans, which would then be passed on to consumers. At a time when individuals are facing double-digit rate increases in their health care premiums across the nation, the state must weigh the potential benefits of all new mandates against the comprehensive costs to the entire health care delivery system.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 650

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 650 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), if it finds that a draft housing element is deficient, to provide the specific analysis and the draft text that should be included in the jurisdiction's housing element.

I share the author's interest in improving the housing element process. In partnership with the Legislature, we have enacted numerous reforms to strengthen this process by demanding more rigorous site inventories, enforceable rezoning, and stronger accountability mechanisms to uphold state law.

Although intended to build on these recent efforts, I am concerned that this bill would inappropriately shift responsibility for preparing housing elements from local jurisdictions to HCD. While HCD provides technical assistance when requested and in response to inadequate housing elements, that support is no substitute to the local government's fundamental responsibility to plan for its share of housing needs. Further, shifting these duties to the state would add at least \$11 million in new annual costs.

Housing element law has advanced considerably through recent legislation, much of which is now being implemented in the current planning cycle. As these changes take hold, it is critical to preserve the fundamental structure of local planning responsibility under state oversight. However, I look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature on additional opportunities to further improve this process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 742

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 742 without my signature.

This bill would require boards and bureaus under the Department of Consumer Affairs to expedite applicants seeking licensure who are descendants of slaves, once a certification process for the descendants of American Slaves is implemented by the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery.

I appreciate the author's intent to increase diversity within the professional licensed population and improve licensure opportunities for historically underrepresented communities. However, as the number of applicants who qualify for expedited licensure increases, the benefits of mandated prioritization may start to diminish, creating negative impacts on other applicants. Additionally, licensing fee increases may result from this bill, as an increase in staff will be necessary to ensure expedited applications.

I vetoed two similar measures seeking to expedite licensure for specified populations last year for these same concerns, and I believe more data is needed on the effectiveness and consequences of expedited licensure before committing to similar frameworks.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 766

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 766 without my signature.

This bill would require agencies, departments, offices, or commissions under the Governor's authority to develop or update their strategic plans to more effectively advance racial equity and respond to identified disparities with changes to the organization's policies, programs, and operations. This bill would also require each entity to report to the Legislature and Governor, by April 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, on the steps taken to develop and adopt a strategic plan.

I share the author's goal to ensure equity is embedded within my Administration's actions and plans. In 2022, I signed EO N-16-22, which provided a framework towards helping make the California Dream a reality for every one of us. That EO also created the 11-member Racial Equity Commission to recommend tools, methodologies, and opportunities to address inequities facing historically underserved and marginalized communities across the state. Unfortunately, the bill's timelines for reporting on strategic plans, along with the additional information entities must include in their plan and uncertainty around which entities are required to comply, are unworkable. Lastly, expanding the reporting requirements to all entities under my purview with these accelerated timelines will lead to significant costs not accounted for in this year's final budget agreement.

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

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 797

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 797 without my signature.

This bill requires the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) to develop and administer a program that issues securities to support redevelopment to help stabilize property values in disaster-affected areas.

The intent of this bill is to ensure fair redevelopment of disaster-affected residential properties to help keep such properties in the hands of community members—an effort I wholeheartedly support. However, the administration of the IBank program proposed by this bill would result in significant, ongoing General Fund impacts in the tens of millions of dollars not included in the 2025 Budget Act.

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. 963

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 963 without my signature.

This bill would require owners or developers undertaking a project subject to state prevailing wage laws to make certain records, such as certified payroll records or final construction contracts, available to the Labor Commissioner's Office (LCO), a multi-employer Taft-Hartley trust fund, or a joint labor-management committee. This bill also would set compliance timelines and require the LCO to submit its own request for these records.

While I agree with the author's goal to ensure all parties comply with California's prevailing wage laws, this bill creates redundant processes that could undermine other enforcement priorities. Current law already grants parties the ability to request relevant payroll records from contractors, and the public may access such records through the LCO or the awarding entity. Moreover, this measure generates a significant new workload for the LCO. Given the LCO's limited capacity, the proposed record request process is not a prudent use of department resources. I encourage the author to introduce a bill in 2026 that takes a less burdensome and more streamlined approach to ensuring compliance with prevailing wage laws.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1032

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1032 without my signature.

This bill would require large group health care service plans and insurers to reimburse an eligible enrollee for up to 12 visits with a licensed behavioral health (BH) provider if the enrollee lives in a county where a local or state emergency is proclaimed due to wildfires and experienced a loss, trauma, or displacement because of the fire. This bill would prohibit these benefits from being subject to utilization review (UM) and would apply regardless of whether a licensed BH provider is a contracting provider.

While I share the authors' concerns regarding the increased need for behavioral health services following a wildfire disaster, all enrollees in commercial plans already maintain coverage for behavioral health visits, regardless of whether they live in a county where a local or state emergency is declared. Additionally, this bill creates a broad exception to UM practices, including out-of-network limits, which are standard managed care protocols that ensure appropriate care while limiting unnecessary costs. At a time when consumers are facing double-digit rate increases in their health care premiums across the nation, passing additional policies that would lead to further premium increases would be irresponsible.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1064

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1064 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit making a companion chatbot available to users under 18 years of age, unless the chatbot is not foreseeably capable of certain actions.

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to become more embedded in our daily lives, it is essential that widely used tools, such as chatbots, operate responsibly, transparently, and with user well-being in mind. These standards are especially important for users who are most vulnerable to AI's harmful impacts, particularly minors. A handful of disturbing instances of inappropriate—and in some cases, outright dangerous—interactions with conversational AI tools have been reported that we, as a society, have a responsibility to address.

This is why I recently signed SB 243 (Padilla), which requires chatbot platforms to establish protocols to detect, remove, and respond to instances of suicidal ideation, suicide, or self-harm expressed by users. That bill requires reporting on these protocols to the California Department of Public Health, to better equip policymakers and stakeholders to understand the potential impact of companion chatbot interactions on mental health. As for younger users, SB 243 further requires operators to disclose to minors that they are interacting with AI, provide periodic reminders to take a break and that the chatbot is artificially generated, and prevent chatbots from producing sexually explicit material.

While I strongly support the author's goal of establishing necessary safeguards for the safe use of AI by minors, AB 1064 imposes such broad restrictions on the use of conversational AI tools that it may unintentionally lead to a total ban on the use of these products by minors. AI is already shaping the world, and it is imperative that adolescents learn how to safely interact with AI systems. This extends far beyond knowing how to use technology tools, such as conversational chatbots, and includes an understanding of what AI is, how it functions, and how to critically evaluate AI-generated content for algorithmic bias, misinformation, and other risks. We cannot prepare our youth for a future where AI is ubiquitous by preventing their use of these tools altogether.

The types of interactions that this bill seeks to address are abhorrent, and I am fully committed to finding the right approach to protect children from these harms in a manner that does not effectively ban the use of the technology altogether. I will work with my partners in the Legislature to build on the framework established by SB 243 (Padilla) to develop a bill next year that ensures young people can use AI in a manner that is safe, age-appropriate, and in the best interests of children and their future.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1136

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1136 without my signature.

This bill would allow workers to take up to five days of unpaid leave to attend adjudications, legal proceedings, detainments, or other immigration-related matters. It also would require employers to reinstate employees who were terminated for failing to provide proof of work authorization if the employee presents valid authorization within 12 months of termination. In addition, the bill would require employers who are aware that an employee is detained or incarcerated due to a pending deportation or immigration proceeding to place the employee on unpaid leave for up to 12 months, during which the employee would have the same reinstatement rights as employees terminated for lacking work authorization.

I commend the author for her efforts to protect our most vulnerable workers amid the indiscriminate raids that have rounded up American citizens, people with legal status, and hardworking parents. However, this measure could cause significant confusion for both employees and employers, exacerbated by the shifting tactics of federal law enforcement. The bill duplicates existing discrimination protections and is inconsistent with other leave frameworks in state law, which will lead to compliance challenges and inefficiencies with enforcement.

This measure's 12-month rehire provisions also present logistical and compliance challenges that may undermine their effectiveness. For local education agencies, this measure interferes with existing rehire protections. Moreover, the 12-month window for these requirements, which can be extended even longer in some situations, is impractical for many employers and employees.

Finally, this measure imposes a significant but preventable burden on the Labor Commissioner that will undermine other enforcement efforts. As drafted, this bill will require the Labor Commissioner to undertake costly and time-consuming civil actions to enforce its requirements, resulting in annual costs exceeding \$10 million.

I encourage the author to introduce a measure next year that takes a more surgical approach to protecting workers and our economy, which are now under attack by the federal government. In the meantime, I am directing the Department of Industrial Relations, the Labor Commissioner's Office, Cal/OSHA, and the Civil Rights Department to aggressively fulfill their commitment to protect all California workers, regardless of their immigration status, against labor or civil rights violations. These departments will work closely with community partners to advance strategies, informed by the Rural Strategic Engagement Program and the California Workplace Outreach Project, that reinforce trust that even in the face of this assault on our communities by federal actors, California's labor and civil rights laws still protect every worker in the state, regardless of their immigration status. This helps keep all workers safe and supports a fair playing field for law-abiding employers. That vital work will not stop.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1143

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1143 without my signature.

This bill would require the Office of the State Fire Marshal's Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee within the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to develop a home-hardening certification program by January 1, 2027.

At a time when Californians are grappling with rising insurance costs due to natural disasters exacerbated by climate change, the state has launched multiple efforts to expedite proven and cost-effective home-hardening practices, aiming to improve insurability for millions of homeowners. CAL FIRE currently administers California's Wildfire Mitigation Program, established in 2019 to strengthen community-wide resilience against wildfires. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and CAL FIRE, working side-by-side with counties and cities, have launched a statewide wildfire home-hardening playbook that at-risk communities can lift straight off the shelf. In 2022, CDI introduced its "Safer from Wildfires" framework, a first-of-its-kind regulation that requires insurance companies to offer discounts to homeowners and businesses that take specific wildfire mitigation steps. These are just a few examples that demonstrate the state's commitment to tackling this important issue.

This year, the Legislature sent me multiple bills with the intention of building upon this ongoing work. Unfortunately, rather than providing a coordinated approach, these measures are in conflict with one another, tasking different state entities with similar objectives. The lack of harmony between these efforts will not only result in conflicting outcomes but also confusion for consumers, insurance companies, local governments, and emergency responders.

I encourage the Legislature to revisit this important issue next year and work collaboratively to navigate the different approaches to setting hardening standards, including determining the responsible state entity. In the meantime, California will continue to aggressively implement the multiple initiatives underway to mitigate wildfire risk, encourage cost-effective structure hardening and retrofitting, facilitate vegetation management, and address the availability and cost of insurance.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1336

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1336 without my signature.

This bill would establish a presumption, for purposes of a workers' compensation claim, that a worker's heat-related injury arose out of their employment if their employer failed to comply with the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA)'s heat illness prevention standards.

Last year, I vetoed a nearly identical bill, stating that creating a presumption in the workers' compensation system is not an effective way to protect California farmworkers from the risk of heat-related illnesses. Current laws establishing, regulating, and enforcing heat illness prevention standards fall under the jurisdiction of Cal/OSHA, not the Division of Workers' Compensation. The workers' compensation system is not equipped to make determinations about employers' compliance with Cal/OSHA standards. This tension will lead to excessive delays and dilute the bill's potential benefits to workers.

I share the author's goal of protecting workers from the dangers of excessive heat. Cal/OSHA recently established a dedicated Agricultural Enforcement Task Force and Outreach Unit, which has opened more than 250 proactive inspections. Moreover, Cal/OSHA's Consultation Services Unit, which provides free assistance to employers to help them comply with health and safety standards, has addressed heat illness at 395 worksites since May 2025. I remain committed to working with the Legislature, workers, and worker advocates to explore how to bolster and complement Cal/OSHA's ongoing efforts to improve working conditions for agricultural workers.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Veto Message—Assembly Bill No. 1348

Governor's Office, Sacramento

October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1348 without my signature.

This bill adds immigration enforcement activity to the list of emergencies that may justify a waiver of average daily attendance losses for school funding purposes until July 1, 2029.

Current law already provides opportunities for local educational agencies to utilize attendance recovery and independent study programs to recoup lost attendance-based funding, while also ensuring students receive instruction and support. AB 1348 does not include sufficient safeguards to ensure that students who miss school due to immigration enforcement activities will receive alternative instructional opportunities. Additionally, this bill creates substantial cost pressures when state law is already designed to buffer school districts' budgets from attendance fluctuations by allowing them to use a three-year rolling average of attendance when calculating school funding.

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. 1400

Governor's Office, Sacramento
October 13, 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1400 without my signature.

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

Last year, I vetoed a nearly identical bill, citing two primary reasons that continue to persist.

First, the 2024 Budget Agreement included \$60 million per year, from 2025–26 to 2028–29, for the Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Grant Program, which may be used to develop or expand BSN partnerships with UC, CSU, and independent nonprofit higher education institutions. These partnerships have proven successful in expanding BSN access for community college students and increasing the number of BSN degree recipients. All segments of higher education must continue to collaborate on building these programs, and returning this bill will ensure those collaborative efforts are not undermined.

Second, in recent years, both the CCC and the CSU have been authorized to offer independent programs outside of their traditional roles, provided they do not duplicate degree offerings of other public segments. I encourage the CCC system to focus on implementing this expanded authority and to ensure that it can continue to make progress on the unique and vital role the CCC plays in serving its students and the state. Given these significant changes, a pause should be maintained to understand their full impact before additional authorities are granted.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM

Receipt of Bills

I acknowledge receipt this 13th day of October, 2025 at 3:50 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. 7, 57, 62, 76, 239, 432, 449, 546, 554, 650, 742, 766, 797, 963, 1032, 1064, 1136, 1143, 1336, 1348, and 1400.

SUE PARKER
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

ROBERT RIVAS, Speaker

DANIEL ALVAREZ, Assistant Minute Clerk

INDEX—MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

Messages from the Governor were printed on this day relative to the following bills:

<i>Assembly Bill</i>	<i>Journal Page</i>
715 Signing	3569
480 Signing	3570
1050 Signing	3571
1261 Signing	3571
366 Signing	3572
692 Signing	3573
761 Signing	3574
853 Signing	3575
1043 Signing	3575
1223 Signing	3576
1455 Signing	3577
512 Veto	3578
527 Veto	3579
574 Veto	3580
615 Veto	3581
682 Veto	3582
738 Veto	3583
1074 Veto	3584
1210 Veto	3585
1224 Veto	3586
1324 Veto	3587
1378 Veto	3588
1430 Veto	3589
15 Veto	3590
81 Veto	3590
93 Veto	3591
265 Veto	3592
632 Veto	3593
696 Veto	3593
823 Veto	3594
1042 Veto	3594
1200 Veto	3595
1225 Veto	3595
1326 Veto	3596
1332 Veto	3596
1373 Veto	3597
7 Veto	3597
57 Veto	3598
62 Veto	3599
76 Veto	3600
239 Veto	3601
432 Veto	3602
449 Veto	3603
546 Veto	3604

<i>Assembly Bill</i>	<i>Journal Page</i>
554 Veto	3605
650 Veto	3606
742 Veto	3607
766 Veto	3608
797 Veto	3609
963 Veto	3610
1032 Veto	3611
1064 Veto	3612
1136 Veto	3613
1143 Veto	3614
1336 Veto	3615
1348 Veto	3616
1400 Veto	3617

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