### CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

AT SACRAMENTO 2023–24 REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE FILE

## **GOVERNOR'S VETOES**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024** 

Compiled Under the Direction of

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### **GOVERNOR'S VETOES**

1

S.B. No. 301—Portantino et al. An act relating to air pollution. Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 301 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to establish the Zero-Emission Aftermarket Conversion Project (ZACP) to provide an applicant with a financial rebate for converting a gasoline- or diesel-fueled vehicle into a zero-emission vehicle (ZEV).

California is showing the world what's possible - fostering innovation and creating space for an industry to flourish as the sale of ZEVs reach record highs, with over 1.8 million ZEVs now on California's roads. The state continues to invest billions of dollars in ZEV deployment and supporting infrastructure to achieve our ambitious climate and clean air goals.

While I share the author's desire to further accelerate the state's transition to ZEVs, this bill creates a new program at a time when the state faces a \$44.9 billion shortfall for the 2024–25 fiscal year. Additionally, there is no funding currently identified or available in the state budget to support this new program.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Jun. 14—Shall Senate Bill 301 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

2

S.B. No. 674—Gonzalez et al.

An act relating to air pollution.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 674 without my signature.

This bill would make several changes to the refinery fence-line air monitoring program, including expanding the program to include monitoring for biofuel refineries and additional pollutants, applying the program to contiguous or adjacent refinery-related facilities, increasing the standards for data quality, and providing new processes for notifying local communities.

California has some of the most stringent refinery air monitoring and pollution standards in the world. These standards have been developed and implemented by the state's local air quality management districts, and each of these districts possess the authority and technical expertise to update, expand and modify these standards according to the best available science.

While I share the author's desire to protect communities from air pollution, local air quality management districts are already carrying out the necessary action to do just that. Additionally, because this bill mandates these districts to implement highly prescriptive measures, it might be found to require state reimbursement of implementation costs at a time when we just recently closed a \$44.9 billion shortfall for the 2024–25 fiscal year. There is no state funding identified or available in the state budget to support these efforts.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Aug. 19—Shall Senate Bill 674 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

3

S.B. No. 1432—Caballero et al.
An act relating to health facilities.
Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1432 without my signature.

This bill would authorize any hospital to apply to the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) for a five-year extension of the 2030 seismic safety compliance deadline, extending full compliance up to January 1, 2035.

The magnitude 6.6 Sylmar Earthquake in 1971 caused the collapse of several hospitals, rendering many incapable of providing emergency care. As a result, the Legislature passed the Alfred E. Alquist Hospital Seismic Safety Act in 1972, requiring new hospitals to be constructed to ensure they can provide emergency services after a disaster. Later in 1994, this requirement was extended to include pre-1973 hospitals. As such, California hospitals have known for 30 years that they face a 2030 deadline to be fully compliant.

All Californians depend on the hospitals in their communities for reliable, high-quality health care services and emergency response in times of need. While most hospitals have taken the necessary steps to prevent full collapse in the event of an earthquake, many still have not met the higher standard of guaranteeing the continued ability to provide services. This is critically important. In the aftermath of an earthquake, not only would these hospitals be unable to provide emergency care to victims, but they would also require emergency response efforts to be diverted to rapidly evacuate and transfer patients to other facilities.

The question is not if California will experience a significant earthquake, it's when. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, Northern California faces a 72 percent chance of a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake by 2043. Any extensions that may be considered to the 2030 deadline must balance the increased risk for the patients, hardworking hospital staff and emergency responders, and people living in that community. Providing an extended deadline should be limited in scope, granted only on a case-by-case basis to hospitals with demonstrated need and a clear path to compliance, and in combination with strong accountability and enforcement mechanisms. This bill's proposal to allow any hospital a five-year compliance extension is too long. I encourage any hospitals at risk of non-compliance with the 2030 deadline to prioritize remaining work.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

#### 2024

Sep. 12—Shall Senate Bill 1432 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

4

S.B. No. 636—Cortese.

An act relating to workers' compensation.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 636 without my signature.

This bill would require, for private employers, that utilization review (UR) under the workers' compensation system be performed by medical professionals licensed under California law.

While I appreciate the author's intent to increase accountability in the UR process, I am concerned about the lack of data to warrant the changes proposed by this bill. Existing workers' compensation law already provides a regulatory structure that holds utilization review organizations and their utilization reviewers accountable for their decisions. Additionally, the bill would result in differential treatment for employees of private employers versus public employers while also narrowing the pool of utilization reviewers, causing potential delays in medical treatment and increased administrative costs to private employers.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

### 2024

Sep. 20—Shall Senate Bill 636 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

5

S.B. No. 804—Dahle.

An act relating to criminal procedure.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 804 without my signature.

This bill would allow law enforcement civilians to offer hearsay testimony at preliminary hearings, expanding an exception currently allowed for law enforcement officers.

While I appreciate the author's intent to conserve law enforcement resources, the bill raises concerns about the reliability of evidence presented at a critical stage of criminal proceedings, in which decisions are made regarding whether probable cause exists to charge defendants with felonies.

Proposition 115, the Crime Victims Justice Reform Act, created a narrow exception to the general prohibition on admissibility of hearsay testimony at preliminary hearings, largely to avoid forcing victims to appear multiple times through the criminal proceeding. This bill expands that exception to non-sworn employees of a law enforcement agency, which may reduce the reliability of the preliminary hearing process and diminish public trust in the fairness of our legal system.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 20—Shall Senate Bill 804 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

6

S.B. No. 892—Padilla et al.

An act relating to public contracts.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 892 without my signature.

This bill would task the California Department of Technology (CDT) to create an automated decision system procurement standard that complies with various requirements specified in the bill. Beginning on January 1, 2027, every state contract for an automated decision system would have to comply with these new regulations.

My administration shares the author's commitment to ensuring the safe deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) and automated decision systems. Last year, I signed AB 302 (Ward, 2023), requiring CDT to conduct a comprehensive inventory of all high-risk automated decision systems that state agencies use, develop, or procure. And last September, I issued Executive Order 12-23, which, among other provisions, requires state agencies and departments to develop guardrails and deploy AI ethically and responsibly throughout state government to protect against potential risks.

Unfortunately, several aspects of this bill disrupt that ongoing work, including existing information technology modernization efforts, which would lead to implementation delays and higher expenses for critical projects. Additionally, this bill creates new and ongoing General Fund costs not included in the 2024 Budget Act.

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

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 20—Shall Senate Bill 892 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

7

S.B. No. 972-Min.

An act relating to methane emissions.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 972 without my signature.

This bill requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to develop procedures for local jurisdictions to request technical assistance regarding the disposal of organic material in landfills. It also requires CalRecycle to consider providing technical assistance before exercising its enforcement authority, if a local jurisdiction has submitted a technical assistance request.

While I appreciate the author's intent to assist local jurisdictions in meeting California's organic waste reduction and diversion targets established in Senate Bill 1383 (Lara, 2016), this bill is unnecessary and duplicative of existing efforts. CalRecycle currently offers a suite of technical assistance materials and comprehensive staff assistance for all jurisdictions in the state specific to Senate Bill 1383. Further, the Local Assistance and Market Development branch within CalRecycle regularly meets with local jurisdictions, including monthly Senate Bill 1383 roundtables, and conducts annual site visits to provide customized assistance consistent with each jurisdiction's needs.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 20—Shall Senate Bill 972 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

8

S.B. No. 1319—Wahab et al.

An act relating to behavioral health.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1319 without my signature.

This bill would authorize a licensed skilled nursing facility (SNF) that applies to provide therapeutic behavioral health programs to submit an application and receive approval from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), the Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) simultaneously.

I share the author's goal to make the government review process more efficient for SNFs seeking to provide therapeutic behavioral health programs. However, a simultaneous application process, as proposed by this bill, would not shorten the application approval timeline as intended. HCAI, CDPH, and DHCS must sequence their reviews in the approval process. A facility must first meet the physical requirements for approval, then it can be reviewed for licensure, and only once licensed, may it be considered for Medi-Cal reimbursement. As such, requiring simultaneous review would result in the departments reviewing incomplete information, which could actually result in additional delays.

Though the simultaneous application process proposed in this bill is not feasible, I have directed HCAI, CDPH, and DHCS to identify any opportunities to improve communication and interaction during the review process.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

### 2024

Sep. 20—Shall Senate Bill 1319 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

9

S.B. No. 1463—Niello.

An act relating to developmental services.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1463 without my signature.

This bill would require the Governor to appoint a Director of Self-Determination within the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to oversee the implementation and operation of the Self-Determination Program.

The statewide Self-Determination Program provides individuals with developmental disabilities and their families with increased freedom, control, and responsibility in the decisions, resources, and services included in their Individual Program Plan. DDS currently has a Career Executive Assignment position leading the Self-Determination Program, which reports directly to the DDS Director. Therefore, a change in statute is not necessary to establish a new position appointed by the Governor to do this work.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

### 2024

Sep. 20—Shall Senate Bill 1463 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

10

S.B. No. 571—Allen et al.

An act relating to fire safety.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 571 without my signature.

This bill would require the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LUCI) to conduct a study, prepare recommendations, and produce a report that evaluates potential improvements to state standards for ingress and egress and evacuation routes for use in the event of a natural disaster.

My Administration understands and takes seriously the dangers that wildfires pose to our state. This is why I have worked with the Legislature, as well as through an Executive Order, to better prepare Californians against fire risk. I remain committed to advancing wildfire safety efforts; however, this bill requires ongoing funding and should be considered in the annual budget process.

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

In addition, the regulatory authority for wildfire ingress and egress requirements lies with the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, which only recently updated the Minimum Fire Safety Regulations.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 571 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

### 11

S.B. No. 936—Seyarto et al.

An act relating to transportation.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 936 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to complete a study identifying the 15 locations on the state highway system with the highest rates of vehicle collisions and to propose projects to improve road safety at each of these locations by January 1, 2026.

Caltrans is already implementing various initiatives to prioritize road safety improvements, including its Safe System Approach. This innovative approach aims to reduce fatal and serious injuries for all road users by taking a comprehensive view of safety, focusing on multiple layers of protection, from building safer roads to post-crash care. While I support efforts to expedite traffic safety enhancements, this bill conflicts with Caltrans' data-driven approach to identifying and developing a holistic traffic safety framework for its projects. Prioritizing locations based solely on overall collision rates, without considering crash severity and other associated collision factors, may fail to address the areas of greatest safety concern.

Existing safety planning efforts that proactively identify and implement safety projects, such as the California Strategic Highway Safety Plan, can already effectively achieve the goals that this bill seeks to accomplish. I encourage the Legislature to partner with Caltrans to advance the implementation of these efforts.

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

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 936 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

12

S.B. No. 983—Wahab et al. An act relating to energy. Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 983 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Energy Commission (CEC) to form the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Task Force to conduct a study with information and recommendations on existing fueling infrastructure and how it might be used in conjunction with alternative fuels infrastructure at retail gasoline fueling stations.

This bill's implementation would result in additional cost pressure on the CEC's primary operating fund. Additionally, many provisions of this bill are duplicative of existing law, which requires the CEC, in consultation with various state entities, to prepare a transportation fuels transition plan.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 983 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

### 13

S.B. No. 1108—Ochoa Bogh.

An act relating to mobilehome parks.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1108 without my signature.

This bill would extend certain mobilehome park enforcement responsibilities and increase the time for mobilehome owners to correct non-imminent health and safety violations from 60 to 90 days. It also requires enforcement agencies to exhaust all administrative and legal remedies against a mobilehome owner before holding the park owner responsible for corrective action.

While this bill seeks to provide mobilehome owners more time to address violations, it could lead to unintended consequences. Extending the compliance period risks prolonging substandard living conditions in mobilehome parks, which could jeopardize the health and safety of residents. The ambiguities in the bill's provisions also may create confusion regarding enforcement authority and due process, complicating efforts to ensure timely resolution of violations.

Moreover, the bill would impose ongoing costs on the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) that were not accounted for in the 2024 Budget Act. In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

### 2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1108 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

### 14

S.B. No. 1118—Eggman.

An act relating to electricity.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1118 without my signature.

This bill would, under specified conditions, exempt property owned by a tribe from the "deed restriction" requirement in the existing Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program.

California has world-leading clean energy policies and dozens of programs advancing the deployment of clean energy technologies. While I support efforts to improve existing programs to deliver their intended outcomes, the SOMAH program continues to be severely underutilized. The lack of interest in this program comes despite numerous modifications in recent years, including an increase in the solar photovoltaic project incentive levels and the expansion of program eligibility.

In addition, this program has diverted hundreds of millions of dollars of funding from electric customers that would otherwise be returned to customers as part of the California Climate Credit - a bill credit that provides cost relief for electric and gas customers throughout most of California.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

### 2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1118 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

### 15

S.B. No. 1133—Becker.

An act relating to bail.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1133 without my signature.

This bill would require courts to automatically review nonmonetary conditions of release at each regularly scheduled court hearing after a defendant has complied with the conditions for 60 days. It would also establish a rebuttable presumption, to be overcome only through clear and convincing evidence, that the conditions are no longer necessary and must be removed.

I commend the author for seeking to ensure judicial review of the ongoing necessity for nonmonetary conditions of pretrial release. But a rebuttable presumption that these conditions are no longer necessary deprives judges of vital discretion to balance the removal of these conditions against other constitutional and statutory considerations.

Moreover, as a practical matter, this bill would require courts to devote significant additional time to review during thousands of hearings, clogging dockets and imposing delays throughout the court system. As a result, this bill would create millions in ongoing costs to the state General Fund for the Judicial Council to implement.

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

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

### 2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1133 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

### 16

S.B. No. 1170—Menjivar et al.

An act relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974. Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1170 without my signature.

This bill would allow campaign funds to be used for mental health care expenses to address mental health issues that arise during a campaign or for candidates who have been adversely impacted by campaign-related activities, under specific conditions.

Under current statute, the Political Reform Act prohibits the use of campaign funds for health-related expenses. This bill would create new exceptions to that prohibition and open the door for new expansions that go beyond what a reasonable donor would expect.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1170 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

### 17

S.B. No. 1182—Gonzalez et al.

An act relating to school facilities.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1182 without my signature.

This bill requires the California Energy Commission (CEC), in consultation with multiple state entities, to develop a specified Master Plan for Healthy, Sustainable, and Climate-Resilient Schools on or before March 31, 2026.

This bill would result in costs in the multiple millions of dollars not accounted for in the 2024 Budget Act. While I support the author's goal of making our schools more climate-friendly and climate-prepared, this proposal should be considered as part of the annual budget process. Notably, last year I vetoed a substantially similar bill based on the same concerns.

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

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

### 2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1182 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

18

S.B. No. 1220—Limón et al.

An act relating to public contracts.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1220 without my signature.

This bill prohibits state and local agencies from using public benefit-related call center services that use artificial intelligence (AI) or automated decision-making systems (ADS) that eliminate or automate the core job function of a worker. This bill also extends to local governments an existing state requirement that public benefit-related call center services be performed solely by workers employed in California.

Technology can and should enhance the experience of the workforce – by making work more efficient and pushing us to attain new heights of achievement and innovation. At the same time, we must consider appropriate guardrails and control the risks posed by this technology.

On September 6, 2023, I signed Executive Order (EO) N-12-23 to underscore our commitment to developing a responsible process for the evaluation and deployment of AI within state government. Through the implementation of this EO, the state will soon issue criteria to evaluate the impact of AI on the state workforce, as well as guidelines on how state agencies and departments can support their employees.

Further, thanks to legislation enacted last year, my Administration is developing a comprehensive inventory of high-risk ADS that assist or replace human decision-making and significantly impact individuals. Analyzing these systems will help guide future actions and policies regarding the use of AI across the state, including in call centers for public benefit programs.

Given that my Administration is actively undergoing efforts to identify, inventory, and analyze these systems, in addition to the efforts underway in my EO, imposing a prohibition on AI or ADS at this stage would be premature.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

### 2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1220 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

19

S.B. No. 1292—Bradford.

An act relating to electricity.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1292 without my signature.

This bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to evaluate the implementation and impact of the recently adopted income-graduated fixed charge (IGFC) for residential electricity rates. The bill requires the CPUC to submit a detailed report to the Legislature by January 1, 2028, with the earliest submission date being May 2026, and prohibits the CPUC from authorizing any new residential fixed charges until 30 days after the report has been provided to the Legislature.

In 2022, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 205, directing the CPUC to, following certain guidelines, develop an IGFC as part of the default residential rate tariff in private electric utility territories by July 1, 2024. The IGFC was carefully designed to allocate the costs of developing and maintaining electric infrastructure that benefits all customers more equitably, while lowering the volumetric rate for electricity. This is a rate design feature common in many California publicly-owned utility territories throughout the state and for many electric utilities throughout the country. Once fully implemented, the IGFC will improve electric bill affordability and encourage further electrification of the state's building and transportation sectors, which are increasingly powered by clean electricity.

While I support this bill's requirement for the CPUC to evaluate the impact of the IGFC, I am concerned about placing unwarranted limitations on the CPUC's authority to adjust it once fully enacted. In addition, the CPUC already established a process for the evaluation of the IGFC as part of its May 2024 Decision.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1292 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

20

S.B. No. 1369—Limón.

An act relating to health care coverage.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1369 without my signature.

This bill would require dental plans to default to a non-fee-based method of payment to providers, and to remit with each payment the associated claims and claim details, beginning April 1, 2025.

Currently, a dental provider and a plan determine the method of reimbursement during contract negotiations. A provider may opt into direct payments or payments through a contracted vendor. While I appreciate the author's intent to increase dental providers' reimbursements through changing the default payment method, this should be addressed during contract negotiations.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1369 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

### 21

S.B. No. 1375—Durazo.

An act relating to workforce development.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1375 without my signature.

This bill establishes the Equity, Climate Resilience, and Quality Jobs Fund and requires one percent of all qualified monies from the federal jobs acts to be transferred into the fund for specified purposes, including the development of poverty-reducing programs and labor standards.

California has long led the nation with strong worker protections, from robust health and safety standards to requiring livable wages to ensuring protections against discrimination in the workplace. For public works projects, state standards include both prevailing wage and minimum apprentice-to-journeyperson requirements to protect and promote these high-quality jobs. The state has also made historic investments in pre-apprenticeship programs to further reduce barriers. This structured pathway builds partnerships between the state, building and construction trades, local workforce boards, community colleges, and community-based organizations to recruit and support individuals from disadvantaged communities on their path to an apprenticeship program.

When the Biden-Harris Administration launched historic federal infrastructure investments, I issued an Executive Order creating an Infrastructure Strike Team within my Administration to coordinate work across all state agencies. This year, we launched www.build.ca.gov to highlight the state's key investments and issued guidelines for programs to embed equity in project development. Additionally, in March, my Administration established the California Jobs First Council to focus on streamlining the state's key economic and workforce development programs and create more jobs, faster.

I strongly support efforts to maximize state and federal funding opportunities to deliver high-quality jobs that increase opportunities for all communities and decrease disparities in historically disadvantaged areas. However, creating a memorandum of understanding process with potentially 200 independent agreements and establishing an entirely new regulatory framework, as envisioned by this bill, is unnecessary to accomplish this goal. Significant coordination between state agencies is well underway to build upon the state's existing strong workforce development programs and worker protection laws.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1375 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

22

S.B. No. 1383—Bradford.

An act relating to telecommunications.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1383 without my signature.

This bill would limit the low-income communities that are eligible for the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Broadband Public Housing Account (BPHA) program. Additionally, this bill would allow applicants to provide low-cost broadband service, instead of no-cost broadband service, and authorize the use of program funds for devices that enhance existing broadband services, such as broadband range extenders.

Though most low-income communities have access to broadband service for a fee, many families cannot afford even low-cost service offers. This is why in 2021, I signed Senate Bill 156, which revitalized the BPHA program by expanding eligibility for no-cost broadband service offerings to all low-income communities. This resulted in more investments in low-income communities the following year - and every year since - than the previous five years combined. This program is one of our state's essential tools for supporting digital equity and improving broadband affordability for the state's most disadvantaged communities.

(CONTINUED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE)

While I support funding services and devices that enhance existing broadband service, modifying the BPHA program's eligibility and authorizing fees for the provision of broadband service to low-income communities receiving a public grant through the program undermines its primary intent and purpose.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1383 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

**23** 

S.B. No. 1411—Ochoa Bogh. An act relating to curriculum.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1411 without my signature.

This bill requires the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC), when it revises a curriculum framework in mathematics or science, to ensure representation from higher education faculty with relevant subject matter expertise on the associated Curriculum Framework and Evaluation Criteria Committee (CFCC). It also authorizes the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) to nominate two faculty from California public institutions of higher education for consideration to serve on the relevant CFCC.

Strong collaborations between higher education and K-12 regarding state curriculum guidance and decision-making, including requirements for secondary course offerings and university admissions, are consistent with the State's goal to ensure successful student transitions to college and career. However, this bill is unnecessary, as higher education content experts have been represented on the CFCC. Further, this bill seeks to insert a nomination process relating to committee selection that strays from the established competitive application process that provides equal opportunity for all qualified individuals, including representatives of ICAS, to apply for consideration.

(CONTINUED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE)

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1411 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

24

S.B. No. 1412—Ochoa Bogh.

An act relating to curriculum.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1412 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit curriculum vendors from being appointed to serve on a Curriculum Framework and Evaluation Criteria Committee (CFCC), or from being chosen as a member of a curriculum framework writing team, and codifies and expands the existing prohibition on communications between publishers and members of the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to include curriculum vendors.

The IQC is an advisory body to the State Board of Education (SBE) comprised of 18 Commissioners - at least half of whom are classroom teachers - that helps develop curriculum frameworks and makes recommendations for approval of instructional materials for use by California's school districts. Existing SBE regulations already prohibit publishers or their representatives from communicating with the Commissioners and others involved in the adoption of instructional materials during their tenure about anything related to the evaluation or adoption of instructional materials outside of publicly noticed meetings. As these existing regulations already carry the force of law, this bill is unnecessary. Additionally, this bill's new definitions and prohibitions are overly broad and would limit the ability of the most qualified individuals, particularly educators, to advise the IQC, and thus the SBE, on curriculum development.

(CONTINUED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE)

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1412 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

### 25

S.B. No. 1419—Rubio et al.

An act relating to food, and making an appropriation therefor.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1419 without my signature.

This bill would create, upon appropriation, the Food Desert Elimination Grant Program to provide grants to large and small-scale grocery store operators in food deserts.

While I support the author's goal to increase access to healthy foods in underserved communities, this bill creates a new, unfunded grant program and should be considered in the annual budget process.

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

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1419 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

26

S.B. No. 1423—Dahle et al. An act relating to Medi-Cal. Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1423 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to convene a Rural Hospital Technical Advisory Group in 2025 to analyze the fiscal viability of small, rural, and critical access hospitals under existing Medi-Cal reimbursement methodologies and to provide a report to the Legislature.

The viability of our state's hospitals, especially in rural communities, is of the utmost importance. For this reason, together with the Legislature, we authorized \$300 million for the Distressed Hospital Loan Program to offer zero-interest loans to eligible financially distressed hospitals. Further, DHCS is already examining how to address hospital financing in a manner that is greater in scope than what this bill proposes. Though well-intended, this bill would also result in new costs to implement an advisory body that is duplicative of ongoing efforts.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1423 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

### 27

S.B. No. 1443—Jones.

An act relating to homelessness.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1443 without my signature.

This bill would add a representative from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) to serve as a member of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH).

Cal ICH was created to coordinate an all-of-government approach to prevent and end homelessness in California. Cal ICH consists of 20 members, including the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Agency responsible for services for people with developmental disabilities and leading the Master Plan for Developmental Services. The Cal ICH Advisory Committee is also required to include a representative with a developmental disability who is currently or has formerly experienced homelessness.

Since Cal ICH already includes leaders from relevant state agencies and individuals with lived experience, the existing representation makes this bill unnecessary.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

### 2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1443 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

28

S.B. No. 1471—Stern et al.

An act relating to pupil instruction.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1471 without my signature.

The bill states that, in conformity with state and federal law, an employee may conduct a brief period of quiet reflection and prohibits this quiet reflection from being conducted or construed to be a religious service or exercise.

I thank the author for his commitment to the social-emotional well-being of California's students. Under the permissive Education Code, however, local school officials can already offer time for quiet reflection if they determine such practice would be helpful for their students.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1471 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

29

S.B. No. 1509—Stern et al.

An act relating to vehicles.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1509 without my signature.

This bill would create a new violation for driving 26 miles per hour over the posted speed limit on highways with speed limits of 55 miles per hour or less and impose increased penalties for repeat violations.

Under current law, many non-commercial drivers can attend Traffic Violator School to avoid point accumulation, making the application of the proposed two-point penalty less frequent. Moreover, this bill introduces an additional point only if the prior violation is for the exact same offense - excessive speeding - and not for other speeding offenses, such as those under the Basic Speed Law or speeding on highways. Consequently, this bill may have less of an overall deterrent effect than intended.

Implementing this bill would also require the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to modify its information technology systems. The DMV is currently undergoing a comprehensive IT modernization effort, and the additional mandate would disrupt these critical projects. Additionally, this bill provides no cost recovery mechanism to offset the associated costs.

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

I encourage the Legislature to consider alternative measures that could effectively deter dangerous speeding without imposing further financial or administrative strain on the DMV.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 22—Shall Senate Bill 1509 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

**30** 

S.B. No. 26—Umberg et al.

An act relating to health professions.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 26 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to create and administer the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Scholarship Program, to increase the number of culturally competent licensed marriage and family therapists, clinical social workers, professional clinical counselors, and psychologists.

While I support the author's goal to advance the CARE Act and address behavioral health provider shortages, this program is duplicative of the existing scholarship and loan forgiveness programs under HCAI, such as the Behavioral Health Scholarship Program. Additionally, this bill would result in General Fund cost pressures in the millions of dollars and should be considered in the annual budget process.

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

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 25—Shall Senate Bill 26 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

### 31

S.B. No. 37—Caballero et al.

An act relating to homelessness.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 37 without my signature.

This bill requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to develop the Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Pilot Program in up to five geographic regions or counties, starting January 1, 2025, to provide competitive grants for housing subsidies aimed at older adults or adults with disabilities who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

While the goal of addressing housing instability among vulnerable populations is commendable, this bill would establish a new grant program that was neither planned for nor funded in the 2024 Budget. Since 2019, California has invested substantially in programs that provide grants for flexible housing subsidies. To that end, we must focus our collective efforts on leveraging existing programs and resources that can be used to address housing instability without adding new fiscal pressures.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

### 2024

Sep. 25—Shall Senate Bill 37 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

32

S.B. No. 366—Caballero et al. An act relating to water. Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 366 without my signature.

The bill would require the Department of Water Resources (DWR), as part of the 2033 update, to revise the contents of the California Water Plan to, among other provisions, focus on developing a long-term water supply planning target for 2050 to identify and create plans for future water needs of various water sectors.

The California Water Plan (Plan), updated every five years, is the state's guidance document for sustainably and equitably managing, developing, and stewarding the state's water resources. My Administration recently released the 2023 Plan to lay out a statewide vision promoting climate resilience across regions, water sectors, and natural and built infrastructure. This Plan update includes clear goals, watershed-based climate resilience planning, and regional and interregional infrastructure modernization strategies.

While I appreciate the author's intent, this bill would create substantial ongoing costs for DWR, the State Water Resources Control Board, and other state agencies and departments to assist in the development of water supply planning targets. A revision to the Plan of this magnitude, that creates such significant costs, must be considered in the context of the annual budget.

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

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 25—Shall Senate Bill 366 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

33

S.B. No. 954—Menjivar et al.

An act relating to sexual health.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 954 without my signature.

This bill, on or before the start of the 2025–26 school year and contingent upon an appropriation, requires public schools to make condoms available for free to all students in grades 9 through 12, place condoms in a minimum of two locations on school grounds, and provide specified sexual health notices, and requires that one employee at each school site be designated to implement the provisions of the bill.

I thank the author and sponsors for their commitment to the health and safety of California's youth. While this bill is contingent on an appropriation, it creates significant ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures in the millions and these ongoing costs were not accounted for in the 2024 Budget Act. I vetoed a similar bill last year, conveying that the bill created an unfunded mandate that should be considered as part of the annual budget process. While the author successfully championed \$5 million for a similarly aligned purpose in this year's budget, one-time funding does not adequately address the fiscal concerns associated with this bill.

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

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 25—Shall Senate Bill 954 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

# 34

## S.B. No. 1020—Bradford.

An act relating to law enforcement agency regulations.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1020 without my signature.

This bill would require that law enforcement agencies and instructors adopt policies prohibiting the use of "ethnic shooting targets."

Law enforcement training should not reinforce ethnic biases. But the definition of "ethnic shooting target" in this bill is so broad that it could effectively ban targets with any realistic facial features, undermining efforts by law enforcement to train officers effectively.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

#### 2024

Sep. 25—Shall Senate Bill 1020 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

35

S.B. No. 1050—Bradford et al.

An act relating to state government.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1050 without my signature.

This bill would establish a procedure by which a former owner, or their descendants, of property taken as a result of racially motivated eminent domain could apply for the return of the property if still in the possession of the responsible public entity, other publicly held property of the same value, or financial compensation.

I thank the author for his commitment to redressing past racial injustices. However, this bill tasks a nonexistent state agency to carry out its various provisions and requirements, making it impossible to implement.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

### 2024

Sep. 25—Shall Senate Bill 1050 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

**36** 

S.B. No. 1058—Ashby et al.

An act relating to public employment.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1058 without my signature.

This bill expands an existing enhanced paid leave of absence provision, commonly referred to as 4850 time, to park rangers employed by counties and special districts.

While I appreciate the author's intent and do not take lightly the important public service provided by park rangers, this bill would significantly expand 4850 benefits that can be negotiated locally through the collective bargaining process. Many local governments face financial stress, and the addition of a well-intentioned but costly benefit should be left to local entities, particularly given the potential fiscal impact on counties and special districts that employ park rangers.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

### 2024

Sep. 25—Shall Senate Bill 1058 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

37

S.B. No. 1337—Gonzalez.

An act relating to elections.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1337 without my signature.

This bill modifies what must be included in state referenda petitions, including a requirement to list the top five contributors on the actual petition. The bill further requires that this list be updated, and the petition reprinted, within five business days any time there is a change to the top five contributors.

While I share the author's goal of increasing transparency in our elections system, these changes are overly burdensome and may have the unintended consequence of making our state referendum process less accessible.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 25—Shall Senate Bill 1337 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

38

S.B. No. 254—Skinner.

An act relating to correctional facilities. Vote required: 27

vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 254 without my signature.

Beginning January 1, 2027, this bill would require the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to permit representatives of the news media to interview incarcerated people in person, including both pre-arranged interviews with specified incarcerated people and individuals encountered by a representative of the news media while covering a facility tour, activity, event, or program.

While I appreciate the author's intent to provide greater media access to the state prison system, this bill's expansive provisions risk significant unintended consequences for public safety and victims of crime. Existing CDCR regulations already enable access by the media and state officials to tour facilities and take photos and video. Regulations also allow incarcerated persons to participate in media interviews under appropriate conditions. By removing nearly all discretion to limit media interviews of specific incarcerated individuals, this bill could have the unintended consequence of creating or elevating the celebrity status of certain incarcerated individuals through repeated media appearances, including on television and social media, which could glorify their actions and hurt victims and their families.

Further, this bill would require significant, ongoing resources for CDCR to manage the influx of media requests, ensure the safety of media representatives and incarcerated people while interviews are conducted, prevent the introduction of contraband into facilities, and secure an area in which these interviews would be conducted.

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

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 27—Shall Senate Bill 254 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

**39** 

S.B. No. 895-Roth et al.

An act relating to postsecondary education.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 895 without my signature.

This bill requires the California Community Colleges (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 degree.

I appreciate the author's commitment to expanding access to baccalaureate nursing degree programs for community college students. 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 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) partnerships with higher education institutions. These types of 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 should continue to focus on building these programs together, and I am concerned this bill could inadvertently undermine that collaboration.

Additionally, in recent years, both the CCC and the CSU have been provided with expanded authority to offer independent programs. Given these major changes, a pause should be taken to understand their full impact before additional authorities are granted.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 27—Shall Senate Bill 895 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

40

S.B. No. 1067—Smallwood-Cuevas et al. An act relating to healing arts. Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1067 and Assembly Bill 2442 without my signature.

These bills would require specified Department of Consumer Affairs boards to create an expedited licensing process for a subset of applicants based on the type of care they intend to provide or the geographic area where they intend to provide care.

I commend the authors' commitment to addressing healthcare gaps in the state, but I am concerned about the aggregate effect of legislation that seeks to expedite licensure. As the number of applicants who qualify for expedited licensure grows through legislation, the benefits of mandated prioritization may start to diminish, at the expense of potential negative impacts to other applicants. Additionally, the increase in staff needed to ensure expedited applications may lead to licensing fee increases.

It would be prudent to allow time for the current expedited licensure processes to continue so that we can gather data on their effectiveness. This will allow the state to be well informed on the efficacy of this practice before pursuing additional frameworks for expedited licensure and confirm these processes do not lead to unintended consequences on the broader healthcare workforce.

For these reasons, I cannot sign these bills.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

## 2024

Sep. 27—Shall Senate Bill 1067 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

## 41

S.B. No. 1213—Atkins et al.

An act relating to health care programs.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1213 without my signature.

This bill would increase the income eligibility limit from 200 to 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level for services provided through the Every Woman Counts Program and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program, beginning July 1, 2026.

I am supportive of the intent of this bill, which is to increase eligibility for no-cost, breast and cervical cancer screenings, diagnostic services, and treatment. However, while I commend the author for her continued work to increase access to women's health care, this bill would require ongoing expenditures of millions of dollars from the General Fund that should be considered in the annual budget process.

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

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

### 2024

Sep. 27—Shall Senate Bill 1213 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

42

S.B. No. 1374—Becker et al.
An act relating to energy.
Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1374 without my signature.

This bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), by July 1, 2025, to revise electric rate tariffs for customers in multi-unit residential and non-residential buildings and public schools with solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on their property to allow for account-level netting.

California has provided policy and financial support for the customer solar PV market over the last two decades. Support that created the largest customer solar PV market in the country. Given the market's exponential growth and significant cost declines in solar PV systems, it is appropriate and prudent to realign the subsidies provided to customers who choose to install these systems at the expense of customers without solar PV systems. This is why the CPUC facilitated a robust, public decision-making process over the last several years to revise the applicable electric rate tariffs that provide these rate subsidies to customers with solar PV systems. The revisions adopted by the CPUC from this process focused on aligning these rate subsidies with the measurable value these systems provide to the electric grid and towards furthering the state's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. This endeavor stems from the growing need to address the affordability of electric bills for all customers.

While I support the continued growth of the customer solar PV market, this bill would compound the challenge of electric bill affordability by overturning a key component of a recent CPUC decision adopting these alignment changes. Specifically, this bill would increase the amount that most customers would pay for their own electric service to provide a rate subsidy to certain customers, and public schools, that install solar PV systems on their property.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

## 2024

Sep. 27—Shall Senate Bill 1374 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

43

S.B. No. 1391—Rubio et al. An act relating to teachers. Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1391 without my signature.

This bill would require the Office of Cradle-to-Career (C2C) to create a teacher training and retention dashboard that would provide specified trends on California's teacher workforce by January 1, 2026.

I appreciate the author's commitment to better understanding the teacher workforce at each segment of the educator pipeline, but this bill is unnecessary and its prescriptive requirements around data elements are problematic. The C2C is already creating a teacher training and retention dashboard in collaboration with the relevant data providers, and the dashboard will include many of the elements specified in this bill. Under the existing process, however, data providers retain sole control over their data provided to C2C, and there are some elements in the bill for which C2C does not currently receive data.

The Cradle-to-Career Data System has been created through careful negotiation and collaboration. Each year, there is a process that includes public engagement to develop a strategic work plan adopted by the Governing Board, which includes a member of the Senate and Assembly, as well as members appointed by each house, at a public meeting. This process ensures data quality and usability, that the C2C is responsive to public and legislative input, and that the C2C can produce informative data. Respecting this carefully negotiated balance will ensure the long-term success of the C2C Data System.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

#### 2024

Sep. 27—Shall Senate Bill 1391 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

44

S.B. No. 85—Wiener et al.

An act relating to immigration.

Vote required: 27

To the members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 85 without my signature.

This bill allows the Department of Social Services (DSS) to allocate state funds for refugee social services programs, and extends the duration of services available for refugees, after they have exhausted their federally funded services, by an additional 90 days.

I appreciate the intent of this bill and thank the Legislature for its commitment to assist refugees with resettlement in this state. California is one of the most welcoming states in the nation and works in partnership to support an array of services to help refugees resettle in California. This includes legal services, management of federal funds, technical assistance with local partners, programs for young refugees, expedited professional licensing, and more. The state also supports people seeking humanitarian protections through an immigration process different from federally managed refugee resettlement.

However, providing extended case management services to refugees beyond the three months of services provided by the federal government would create significant, ongoing cost pressures on the state General Fund.

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

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 28—Shall Senate Bill 85 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

## 45

S.B. No. 227—Durazo et al.

An act relating to unemployment.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 227 without my signature.

This bill would require the Employment Development Department (EDD), on or before March 31, 2025, to develop a detailed plan to establish a permanent Excluded Workers Program, which would provide cash assistance that resembles unemployment benefits for individuals ineligible for the Unemployment Insurance program due to their immigration status.

California has taken important steps to advance inclusion and equity for undocumented workers and mixed-status families who contribute significantly to California's economy and local communities - all while battling fear and uncertainty due to decades of inaction by Congress and cruel and false anti-immigration narratives. Most undocumented workers have lived in the U.S. and contributed for over a decade. Congress must not abandon its responsibility to advance solutions that provide an earned pathway to citizenship for long-standing residents who have contributed significantly and seek the opportunity to work and live without constant fear and uncertainty. We can have a fair immigration system that works for families, U.S. workers, and employers, and also have a safe border. However, this bill sets impractical timelines, has operational issues, and requires funding that was not included in the budget.

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

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 28—Shall Senate Bill 227 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

46

S.B. No. 278—Dodd et al.

An act relating to elder abuse.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 278 without my signature.

This bill would require financial institutions to take specified actions, including establishing an emergency financial contact program and delaying transactions reasonably suspected to be the result of financial abuse, with the aim of preventing financial abuse of elder and dependent adult account holders.

While the intent of this bill is commendable, it raises several concerns. The mandatory three-day hold on transactions suspected of abuse could lead to unintended consequences, such as delaying legitimate transactions and restricting access to funds, thereby undermining the financial independence of affected account holders. Furthermore, the proposed enforcement provisions need further review to ensure they are legally sound and minimize the risk of costly litigation - a burden that would ultimately fall on taxpayers and diminish the overall effectiveness of the bill.

I encourage the Legislature to continue refining this concept to ensure it is both implementable and strikes a better balance between consumer protection and individual rights.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 28—Shall Senate Bill 278 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

## 47

S.B. No. 357—Portantino et al. An act relating to vehicles. Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 357 without my signature.

This bill would make physician reporting of medical conditions characterized by lapses of consciousness to local health officers and, subsequently, the Department of Motor Vehicles discretionary rather than mandatory.

While I understand the intent to provide physicians more discretion in reporting, I am not convinced that transitioning to a discretionary reporting system would be equally effective in protecting patient and public safety. Additionally, the proposed immunity from liability for physicians raises concerns about accountability. Any changes to these reporting requirements must be carefully evaluated to maintain proper safeguards for public safety.

Lastly, this bill introduces costs not accounted for in the 2024 Budget Act and adds financial pressure to the Motor Vehicle Account. In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 28—Shall Senate Bill 357 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

48

S.B. No. 907—Newman et al.

An act relating to county boards of education.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 907 without my signature.

This bill requires the Orange County Board of Education (OCBOE) to be increased from five to seven members and requires an election for the OCBOE to be consolidated with the statewide general election in November of each even-numbered year.

I appreciate the author's intent to increase representation on the OCBOE. However, there are local processes for altering the number of members on a county board of education and changing when local elections are held. State circumvention of these local procedures, especially with respect to a single county board of education, should be avoided absent extraordinary circumstances. Unfortunately, I am not convinced those circumstances exist in the context of this legislation.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 28—Shall Senate Bill 907 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

49

S.B. No. 961—Wiener et al.
An act relating to vehicles.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 961 without my signature.

This bill would require, beginning with the 2030 model year, that every new passenger vehicle, motor truck, and bus sold or leased in California be equipped with a passive intelligent speed assistance system to alert drivers when they exceed the speed limit by more than 10 miles per hour.

While I appreciate the intent to improve traffic safety, this bill presents several challenges. Federal law, as implemented by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), already regulates vehicle safety standards, and adding California-specific requirements would create a patchwork of regulations that undermines this longstanding federal framework. NHTSA is also actively evaluating intelligent speed assistance systems, and imposing state-level mandates at this time risks disrupting these ongoing federal assessments.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 28—Shall Senate Bill 961 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

**50** 

S.B. No. 966—Wiener et al.

An act relating to pharmacy benefits.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 966 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to establish a licensing and oversight structure for Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and require PBMs and health plans to report additional data on prescription drugs.

The costs of many prescription drugs — brand name and generic — are too high, and these prices continue to trend upwards. Together with the Legislature, we have taken action to address this problem. We created CalRx to bring in-demand pharmaceutical products to the market with low, transparent pricing, starting with biosimilar insulin and naloxone. We also worked together in 2022 to establish the Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) to collect, analyze, and publicly report data on total health care expenditures with the goal to achieve California health care that is accessible, affordable, equitable, high-quality, and universal.

Without a doubt, the public and the Legislature need a clearer understanding of how much PBM practices are driving up prescription drug costs. I commend the author for working to further tackle this issue through regulating PBM participation in the pharmacy delivery system. Currently, PBMs manage all aspects of prescription drug services for California's commercial health care market. I believe that PBMs must be held accountable to ensure that prescription drugs remain accessible throughout pharmacies across California and available at the lowest price possible. However, I am not convinced that SB 966's expansive licensing scheme will achieve such results.

My Administration is committed to increasing access and lowering the costs of prescription drugs. As such, I am directing the California Health and Human Services Agency to propose a legislative approach to gather much needed data on PBMs next year, which can be considered in conjunction with data from our entire health care delivery system. There is some existing transparency regarding prescription drug prices provided through the reporting required by SB 17 (Hernandez, Chapter 603, Statutes of 2017) and the establishment of the Healthcare Payments Database. However, we need more granular information to fully understand the cost drivers in the prescription drug market and the role that PBMs play in pricing. Specifically, California should collect comprehensive information from the pharmacy delivery system about the total cost of care for providing individual prescription drug products, including but not limited to wholesale acquisition costs, fees, payments, discounts, and rebates paid to and received by PBMs.

These next steps, together with the CalRx program and the Office of Health Care Affordability's work, will offer a multi-pronged approach to improving affordability of prescription drugs in California.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 28—Shall Senate Bill 966 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

51

S.B. No. 971—Portantino.

An act relating to community colleges.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 971 without my signature.

This bill allows Glendale Community College District and the Contra Costa Community College District to exempt up to 75 full-time equivalent, low-income students from nonresident tuition fees who are residents of a region impacted by war or regional conflict.

I appreciate the author's commitment to college affordability for individuals living in his district. However, this bill creates both Proposition 98 General Fund and non-Proposition 98 General Fund costs that were not accounted for in the 2024 Budget Act and could generate potentially significant future cost pressures. Notably, individuals impacted by war or conflict may already qualify for one or more of the existing exemption categories.

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

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 28—Shall Senate Bill 971 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

52

S.B. No. 1119—Newman et al.

An act relating to hospitals, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1119 without my signature.

This bill would provide an extension to seismic safety compliance deadlines for four Providence hospitals: St. Joseph Hospital and General Hospital in the City of Eureka, St. Jude Medical Center in the City of Fullerton, and Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center in the City of Tarzana.

The magnitude 6.6 Sylmar Earthquake in 1971 caused the collapse of several hospitals, rendering many incapable of providing emergency care. As a result, the Legislature passed the Alfred E. Alquist Hospital Seismic Safety Act in 1972, requiring new hospitals to be constructed to ensure they can provide emergency services after a disaster. Later in 1994, this requirement was extended to include pre-1973 hospitals, following the Northridge earthquake.

The law set a January 1, 2008 deadline by which general acute care hospitals must be retrofitted or replaced so that they do not pose a risk of full collapse, and a January 1, 2030 deadline by which they must be capable of remaining operational. The vast majority of California hospitals have taken the necessary steps to prevent a full collapse in the event of an earthquake, and are now working to meet the higher standard of remaining operational.

The Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) categorizes the probable seismic performance of a building's structural systems and risk to life into five Structural Performance Category (SPC) ratings. An SPC-1 category building has the lowest rating, indicating a significant risk of building collapse in a major earthquake. The law that required all SPC-1 buildings to be retrofitted or replaced by 2008 — to avoid a full collapse — has been extended multiple times, most recently through a final January 1, 2025 deadline. It is this deadline, for the most dangerous and highest-risk

hospital structures, that the bill proposes to extend again. This bill requests an additional extension for ten buildings at significant risk of collapse in a major earthquake (SPC-1) located across the four named hospitals in parts of California known for seismic activity.

All Californians depend on the hospitals in their communities for reliable, high-quality health care services and emergency response in times of need. We trust our hospitals with our own lives and the lives of our loved ones. I cannot in good faith support a further extension to the 2008 SPC-1 deadline, knowing that these buildings may collapse in the event of an earthquake. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, Northern California faces a 72 percent chance and the Los Angeles region faces a 60 percent chance of a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake by 2043. The question is not if California will experience a significant earthquake, it's when.

Without the deadline extension proposed in this bill, the four hospitals will be faced with the reality of fines or being unable to renew their license under the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), leading to a potential loss of hospital care in their communities. As such, I encourage the named hospitals at risk of non-compliance with the 2025 SPC-1 deadline to prioritize the remaining work, and I am directing HCAI and CDPH to provide technical assistance as needed.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 28—Shall Senate Bill 1119 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

53

S.B. No. 1246—Limón et al.

An act relating to state government administration.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1246 without my signature.

This bill would extend Prompt Payment Act requirements and penalties to all grants to nonprofit organizations and delete the \$500,000 threshold on contracts or grants with nonprofits eligible for late payment penalties.

Nonprofit organizations play a critical role in supporting our state's communities, and I commend the author's continued effort to support these organizations. I also understand the goal of ensuring that our nonprofit partners are receiving payments in a timely manner; however, this broad expansion will have a significant impact across all state agencies that are currently working to decrease administrative costs.

I believe a more focused evaluation of this issue is warranted, to help ensure nonprofits are provided the financial stability they need while taking into account the unintended consequences when broad requirements are placed across the state's disparate range of programs. I encourage the author and stakeholders to continue working with my administration on an approach to advance the goals of this bill while considering the current fiscal environment and the totality of the impacts.

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

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 28—Shall Senate Bill 1246 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

54

S.B. No. 1299—Cortese et al.

An act relating to workers' compensation.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1299 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.

There is no doubt that climate change is causing an increase in extreme temperatures and that California farmworkers need strong protections from the risk of heat-related illness. However, the creation of a heat-illness presumption in the workers' compensation system is not an effective way to accomplish this goal. Current laws establishing, regulating, and enforcing heat illness prevention standards fall under the jurisdiction of Cal/OSHA, not the Division of Workers' Compensation, and the workers' compensation system is not equipped to make determinations about employers' compliance with Cal/OSHA standards.

My administration is protecting Californians from the perils of extreme heat. Our Extreme Heat Action Plan is a comprehensive multi-year strategy to strengthen community resiliency through partnerships and investments in equitable solutions to protect all Californians – especially vulnerable populations such as farmworkers and other outdoor workers. Two years ago, I signed AB 1643 (Rivas) which brings together labor, business, academic, and government stakeholders to study the effects of heat on California's workers, businesses, and the economy. The AB 1643 advisory committee began meeting last June to study the underreporting of heat illnesses and injuries among low-income employees, and methods for minimizing the effect of heat on workers. I also recently signed SB 1105 providing for use of accrued paid sick leave for outdoor agricultural workers to avoid smoke, heat, or flooding conditions created by a local or state emergency.

Cal/OSHA also prioritizes protections for vulnerable workers, especially farmworkers. To bolster enforcement, Cal/OSHA is establishing a new Agricultural Unit that specializes in worker protections and hazards found at agricultural worksites and is opening three new district office locations in Fresno, Santa Barbara, and Riverside. This dedicated unit will increase Cal/OSHA's reach to farmworker communities throughout the Central Valley, where the largest number of farmworkers and their families reside.

Cal/OSHA and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency continue their efforts to increase public awareness to ensure that workers, especially farmworkers, have access to critical and timely information on how to protect themselves from heat illness. Through the California Workforce Outreach Project, our state's labor agencies have partnered with community-based organizations to

inform workers of their rights under California labor laws. This program is in its fourth year and has reached tens of thousands of workers through labor rights clinics, door-to-door canvassing, and multilingual messaging.

Finally, through the Rural Strategic Engagement Program, we are creating spaces in farmworker communities where agricultural workers will be able to obtain information about their rights, file claims or complaints, and get access to legal assistance. This is part of our commitment to engage local partners, including labor and community-based organizations, to reduce obstacles in reporting violations by agricultural workers.

I stand firmly committed to continuing to work with the Legislature, and worker advocates, on strengthening safety and health enforcement strategies to ensure aggrieved workers can come forward without fear of retaliation. However, conditioning a workers' compensation presumption on compliance with standards set and enforced by another regulatory division is not an effective way to improve working conditions.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

#### 2024

Sep. 28—Shall Senate Bill 1299 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

55

S.B. No. 299—Limón et al. An act relating to voting. Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 299 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Secretary of State (SOS) to develop a new IT system for processing voter registration data based on citizenship and registration status. It would also require the DMV to determine if applicants for a driver's license or ID card are already registered to vote and require the DMV to assess voter registration eligibility documents. Additionally, the bill introduces a "pre-registration" system for individuals deemed eligible for future registration.

While the goal of streamlining voter registration is commendable, this bill raises several concerns. It would place the DMV in the role of determining voter eligibility, a function more suitable for elections officials. Additionally, the proposed system would capture those who have already declined to register, a decision that should be respected as a matter of personal prerogative.

Furthermore, the introduction of a "pre-registration" system would require costly and complex changes to the current Motor Voter system. These changes would result in significant ongoing costs, estimated in the tens of millions, which are not accounted for in the 2024 Budget Act. In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 29—Shall Senate Bill 299 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

**56** 

S.B. No. 336—Umberg.

An act relating to state grants.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 336 without my signature.

This bill requires a state agency administering a grant program to reimburse grantees for indirect costs related to the grant program at one of four rate structures, as requested by the grantee in its state grant application.

Nonprofits provide valuable resources and services, often to our most underserved communities, which is why I signed AB 590 last year to authorize advance payments to nonprofit organizations. While funding agencies understand the need to cover indirect costs, this bill could have unintended consequences by allocating a significant amount of grant funding toward indirect costs, rather than project implementation, which would create cost pressures to balance services to Californians. I encourage the Legislature to continue working on this issue to find a balance between funding indirect costs and project implementation.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 29—Shall Senate Bill 336 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

57

S.B. No. 542—Dahle et al.

An act relating to taxation, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 542 and Assembly Bill 1973 without my signature.

These bills would enact personal income and corporation tax exclusions for settlement payments related to specific wildfires occurring between 2020 and 2022.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of these bills. In 2022, I signed legislation that provided similar tax exclusions for settlement claims resulting from catastrophic wildfires that occurred in the preceding five years. In signing those bills, I stated future measures, like these bills, should be included as part of the annual budget process given the General Fund implications. The following year, the Legislature enacted an income tax exclusion for an additional wildfire in the 2023–24 Budget Act. As such, I strongly encourage the Legislature to include these proposals in next year's budget framework.

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

For this reason, I cannot sign these bills.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 29—Shall Senate Bill 542 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

58

S.B. No. 615—Allen et al.

An act relating to hazardous waste.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 615 without my signature.

This bill would require that all electric vehicle (EV) batteries in the state be reused, repaired, repurposed, or remanufactured, and eventually recycled at the end of their useful life. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) would be responsible for adopting regulations to implement and enforce the bill's requirements, and for establishing a method for EV battery suppliers, secondary users, secondary handlers, and qualified facilities to report EV battery transactions.

I agree with the intent of this bill and the need to responsibly manufacture, recycle, and reuse EV batteries. As California continues to lead the revolution toward a zero-emission transportation future, with a requirement that all new vehicles sold in the state be zero-emission by 2035, responsibly tracking the sale, use, and reuse of these vehicle batteries will be critical. Effective EV battery stewardship also presents an exciting opportunity to develop new innovative industries that use repurposed or recycled batteries.

California has successfully implemented many reuse and recycling systems. These market-based solutions significantly reduce waste and create jobs by turning a challenging product into a resource. However, this legislation places a significant burden on DTSC to implement the policy, instead of building on the success of existing producer responsibility models. I encourage the author to continue working with stakeholders to explore if a producer responsibility organization would yield more equilibrium among public agencies and industry in sharing the administrative burden required by this policy.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 29—Shall Senate Bill 615 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

**59** 

S.B. No. 782—Limón et al.

An act relating to state government.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 782 without my signature.

This bill would require the Governor's Office to annually publish a report on its website containing aggregate demographic information of individuals appointed by the Governor.

I am deeply committed to making appointments at every level of government that reflect California's diversity. My office affirmatively and intentionally engages with the Legislature, community partners, nonprofits, and other stakeholders to recruit and develop a diverse and qualified pool of candidates for appointed state positions. I am incredibly proud of the diverse group of Californians who now serve our state in senior, appointed leadership positions.

While I remain concerned about the accuracy of a report that relies on optional and self-reported data, I understand the author's goal to provide an additional layer of transparency and accountability regarding appointments for state positions through this report. Although my administration continues to be transparent in this space, I appreciate the additional accessibility a public report would help to ensure. However, that goal is only achieved with more comprehensive action that includes Legislative appointments. With that goal in mind, I am committed to legislation next year that includes the same transparency requirements for appointments by the Administration as well as the Legislature. This parity will ensure a complete picture of appointments throughout the state so we can continue to appoint a diverse group of Californians that reflect the makeup of the state.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 29—Shall Senate Bill 782 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

**60** 

S.B. No. 984—Wahab et al.

An act relating to public contracts.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 984 without my signature.

This bill would require, beginning January 1, 2027, the Judicial Council and the California State University (CSU) to each identify and select a minimum of three major construction projects and subject those projects to a Project Labor Agreement (PLA).

While I am generally supportive of PLAs as an option for public works projects, the new requirements proposed in this bill could result in additional cost pressures that were not accounted for in this year's budget.

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

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 29—Shall Senate Bill 984 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

# 61

S.B. No. 1022—Skinner et al.

An act relating to civil rights.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1022 without my signature.

This bill would clarify a number of unsettled procedural matters involving the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA).

I thank the author for introducing this measure, which intends to limit litigation and help resolve civil rights disputes quickly and more efficiently. However, I am concerned with specific provisions in this bill that provide the Civil Rights Department (CRD) with a seven-year period to file a group or class complaint under FEHA. This limitations period is significantly longer than the limitations period for similar civil matters, including class action litigation on behalf of employees.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

However, I encourage the Legislature to pursue legislation next year that enacts the other changes that this bill would make, together with a more reasonable period for CRD to initiate a group or class complaint.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

#### 2024

Sep. 29—Shall Senate Bill 1022 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

**62** 

S.B. No. 1047—Wiener et al.

An act relating to artificial intelligence.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1047 without my signature.

This bill would require developers of large artificial intelligence (AI) models, and those providing the computing power to train such models, to put certain safeguards and policies in place to prevent catastrophic harm. The bill would also establish the Board of Frontier Models – a state entity – to oversee the development of these models.

California is home to 32 of the world's 50 leading AI companies, pioneers in one of the most significant technological advances in modern history. We lead in this space because of our research and education institutions, our diverse and motivated workforce, and our free-spirited cultivation of intellectual freedom. As stewards and innovators of the future, I take seriously the responsibility to regulate this industry.

This year, the Legislature sent me several thoughtful proposals to regulate AI companies in response to current, rapidly evolving risks – including threats to our democratic process, the spread of misinformation and deepfakes, risks to online privacy, threats to critical infrastructure, and disruptions in the workforce. These bills, and actions by my Administration, are guided by principles of accountability, fairness, and transparency of AI systems and deployment of AI technology in California.

SB 1047 magnified the conversation about threats that could emerge from the deployment of AI. Key to the debate is whether the threshold for regulation should be based on the cost and number of computations needed to develop an AI model, or whether we should evaluate the system's actual risks regardless of these factors. This global discussion is occurring as the capabilities of AI continue to scale at an impressive pace. At the same time, the strategies and solutions for addressing the risk of catastrophic harm are rapidly evolving.

By focusing only on the most expensive and large-scale models, SB 1047 establishes a regulatory framework that could give the public a false sense of security about controlling this fast-moving technology. Smaller, specialized models may emerge as equally or even more dangerous than the models targeted by SB 1047 – at the potential expense of curtailing the very innovation that fuels advancement in favor of the public good.

Adaptability is critical as we race to regulate a technology still in its infancy. This will require a delicate balance. While well-intentioned, SB 1047 does not take into account whether an AI system is deployed in high-risk environments, involves critical decision-making or the use of sensitive data.

Instead, the bill applies stringent standards to even the most basic functions — so long as a large system deploys it. I do not believe this is the best approach to protecting the public from real threats posed by the technology.

Let me be clear – I agree with the author – we cannot afford to wait for a major catastrophe to occur before taking action to protect the public. California will not abandon its responsibility. Safety protocols must be adopted. Proactive guardrails should be implemented, and severe consequences for bad actors must be clear and enforceable. I do not agree, however, that to keep the public safe, we must settle for a solution that is not informed by an empirical trajectory analysis of AI systems and capabilities. Ultimately, any framework for effectively regulating AI needs to keep pace with the technology itself.

To those who say there's no problem here to solve, or that California does not have a role in regulating potential national security implications of this technology, I disagree. A California-only approach may well be warranted – especially absent federal action by Congress – but it must be based on empirical evidence and science. The U.S. AI Safety Institute, under the National Institute of Science and Technology, is developing guidance on national security risks, informed by evidence-based approaches, to guard against demonstrable risks to public safety. Under an Executive Order I issued in September 2023, agencies within my Administration are performing risk analyses of the potential threats and vulnerabilities to California's critical infrastructure using AI. These are just a few examples of the many endeavors underway, led by experts, to inform policymakers on AI risk management practices that are rooted in science and fact. And endeavors like these have led to the introduction of over a dozen bills regulating specific, known risks posed by AI, that I have signed in the last 30 days.

I am committed to working with the Legislature, federal partners, technology experts, ethicists, and academia, to find the appropriate path forward, including legislation and regulation. Given the stakes – protecting against actual threats without unnecessarily thwarting the promise of this technology to advance the public good – we must get this right.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 29—Shall Senate Bill 1047 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

63

S.B. No. 1066—Blakespear.

An act relating to hazardous waste.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1066 without my signature.

This bill would establish the Marine Flare Manufacturer Responsibility Act of 2024 and would require manufacturers of covered products to submit for approval a "manufacturer responsibility plan" to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) by January 1, 2026.

While I support the author's goal to provide boaters with a safe and responsible method to dispose of their marine flares, this bill lacks a comprehensive program scope to effectively achieve the goal of protecting human and environmental health and would not cover implementation costs incurred by DTSC. Additionally, this bill falls short in providing DTSC with the appropriate enforcement authority to effectively ensure compliance.

I encourage the author and stakeholders to work with DTSC next year to craft a more comprehensive framework that will ensure these products are managed responsibly and provide sufficient oversight for DTSC.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

## 2024

Sep. 29—Shall Senate Bill 1066 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

# 64

S.B. No. 1155—Hurtado.

An act relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1155 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit the head of a state administrative agency – defined broadly to include any appointed official who receives a salary based on their appointment – from lobbying any legislative or administrative action by any state administrative agency or the Legislature for one year after leaving their position.

This bill seeks to expand the existing "one-year ban," which prohibits certain officials from lobbying their former agency after leaving office, to include lobbying the Legislature or other state agencies. Notably, this bill would not extend these same restrictions to members of the Legislature.

I am supportive of efforts to increase transparency and accountability in our governmental institutions, but we need equivalent rules and restrictions across the branches of our government. I am committed to legislation next year that includes the same revolving door requirement for members of the Administration as well as the Legislature. Absent uniform requirements, this bill falls short of its stated intent to ensure integrity in the policymaking process.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

## 2024

Sep. 29—Shall Senate Bill 1155 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

**65** 

S.B. No. 1281—Menjivar et al.

An act relating to developmental services.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1281 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to establish standardized processes and procedures for the Self-Determination Program (SDP) by January 1, 2026, and require DDS to ensure that the state's regional centers are applying these new standards consistently.

The statewide Self-Determination Program provides individuals with developmental disabilities and their families with increased freedom, control, and responsibility in the decisions, resources, and services included in their Individual Program Plan. I share the author's intent to increase equitable access to the SDP and improve standards and consistency throughout the system. However, the California Health and Human Services Agency is currently leading the development of the Master Plan for Developmental Services, with active stakeholder participation and contribution to the vision. Part of this process includes making recommendations to improve the implementation of the SDP, and as such, this platform should be utilized to advance these conversations. I look forward to considering any future proposals that will make improvements to the SDP for the benefit of consumers and families.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

## 2024

Sep. 29—Shall Senate Bill 1281 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)

**66** 

S.B. No. 906—Skinner et al.

An act relating to collegiate athletics.

Vote required: 27

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 906 without my signature.

This bill would require any entity or person that provides compensation or any item of value or service to a student athlete, or to the student athlete's immediate family, over \$5,000 for athletic purposes, to disclose specific information to the student athlete's college or university. It also would require the institution to make that information publicly available and listed with the athletic sport and gender makeup of the team.

I appreciate the author's partnership on name, image and likeness (NIL). Since signing SB 206 (Skinner) in 2019, we have seen student athletes benefit from NIL across the nation. However, college sports are in a period of transition as many schools are changing athletic conferences and relevant issues are currently pending in the courts. As Governor, I want to ensure California's colleges continue to be competitive with other states. Further changes to this dynamic should be done nationally.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

2024

Sep. 30—Shall Senate Bill 906 become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? (Must be considered pursuant to Joint Rule 58.5.)