



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2286 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit the operation of autonomous vehicles weighing 10,000 pounds or more on public roads for testing, transporting goods, or carrying passengers without a human safety operator physically present in the vehicle. In my veto of a nearly identical bill last year, I expressed that my Administration remains committed to working with the author, sponsors, and stakeholders in furthering our efforts to meet the needs of traffic safety, worker protections, and jobs as this evolving technology progresses in California.

As we continue to move forward, it is important to note that 35 jurisdictions — including Arizona, Nevada, Texas, Washington, and the District of Columbia — have already authorized the testing of heavy-duty autonomous vehicles. California remains the only state to actively prohibit these vehicles.

To this end, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), which has regulated autonomous vehicles over the last decade pursuant to authority granted to it by the Legislature, has issued three sets of regulations that create a framework allowing innovation, while also protecting public safety. A new set of draft regulations, currently open for public input until October 14, 2024, offers the nation's most comprehensive standards for heavy-duty autonomous vehicles. These draft regulations propose strict guidelines for heavy-duty AV operations, including limiting operations to roads with speed limits of 50 miles per hour or



higher and excluding certain uses, such as transporting passengers or hazardous materials. They also require a phased permitting process to ensure a gradual transition to driverless operations, along with specific testing periods, mileage requirements, and clear definitions of where and how these vehicles can operate. Finally, these regulations also require more robust reporting from companies testing or deploying AVs, and give DMV additional enforcement tools to place restrictions on permits to protect public safety.

Recognizing that our workforce is the foundation of our economic success, California leads the nation with some of the strongest worker protection laws. Our state also is renowned globally as a leader in technological innovation. We reject that one aim must yield to the other, and our success disproves this false binary. But advancing both priorities requires creativity, collaboration, and a willingness to work together to identify pragmatic solutions. Toward that end, my office offered multiple rounds of suggested amendments, which were unfortunately not accepted. While I cannot sign this legislation in its current form, my Administration stands ready to work with the legislature and stakeholders toward progress on this issue.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.