



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2014

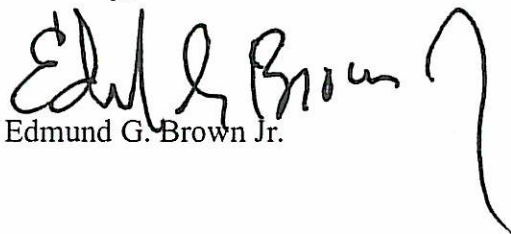
To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 194 without my signature.

This bill amends the Ralph M. Brown Act to allow individuals who attend local agency meetings to speak before and during an agenda item, a common practice. The bill restates that local agencies shall not prohibit public criticism at meetings. Finally, the bill prescribes how time should be allotted to each speaker.

California has robust policies and longstanding laws in place that promote an open and transparent government and guarantee public decision making. This bill adds certain procedures to the Brown Act, which at best will elongate but in no way enhance the quality of debate at the local level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edmund G. Brown Jr." with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.