



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 28 2012

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1464 without my signature.

I applaud the author's continuing work to improve bicycle safety. This bill requires motor vehicles to pass bicycles at a distance of at least three feet and expressly permits the vehicle to cross a double yellow line to do so.

Crossing a double yellow line is an inherently dangerous act that increases the risk of head-on collisions. When a collision occurs, it will result in a lawsuit where the state is likely to be sued as a "deep pocket." By making it legal to cross a double yellow line, the bill weakens the state's defense to these lawsuits.

Caltrans proposed a solution to insulate the state from costly lawsuits, while still providing the three-foot safety buffer for bicyclists. Unfortunately the author declined to amend the bill.

I encourage the sponsors to work with my administration to resolve the liability problem.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.