



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2018

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1449 without my signature.

This bill would require the testing of all sexual assault forensic evidence kits within a specified period of time.

The state budget that I signed this year includes a one-time total of \$7.5 million General Fund to test rape kits—\$1 million to begin conducting an audit of untested kits and \$6.5 million to help test the existing known backlog.

While I fully support the goal of this bill, I believe that we should allow for the completion of the audit mandated by AB 3118 (Chiu)—which I am signing today—as well as for the Department of Justice to further reduce the existing backlog using the recently approved significant funding increase. I would like to allow time for this year's legislative actions to take effect so we can gauge the appropriate next steps and budget accordingly.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.