



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 13 2019

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 294 without my signature.

This bill would codify guidelines for state prison and county jail facilities to investigate the aggravated battery of "gassing" against both employees and inmates. It would require the facility to complete an investigation within six months of the violation, provide regular notice to employees and inmates of their rights if subject to a gassing incident, mandate that facilities document gassing incidents, and require training on these incidents and the provision of protective gear.

I support adoption of the author's concern for employee safety in correctional settings, and best practices that are already—or should already be—taking place at the state and local level. I encourage counties that are not already practicing this bill's tenets, to follow best practices for the sake of staff and inmate safety. This bill, however, would create a potentially significant state reimbursable mandate. I encourage the proponents to work with their counties to ensure employees are safe at work and protected from these types of violent incidents.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over the printed name.