



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 02 2019

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 551 without my signature.

This bill would require county coroners to perform testing for specified drugs on individuals killed in motor vehicle accidents, and to report on those findings.

County coroners currently have the authority to conduct the tests required by this bill, as well as for other substances not covered by this legislation, such as cannabis. Instead of creating a state mandate for some drugs—and not other impairing substances—I believe it is best to allow coroners to exercise their professional judgement and determine when any such testing should occur.

Sincerely,


Gavin Newsom