



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 09 2019

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 927 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit a court from imposing fines, fees and assessments, without having first made a finding that the defendant has the ability to pay.

I support this bill's intent. We must tackle the issue of burdensome fines, fees and assessments that disproportionately drag low-income individuals deeper into debt and away from full participation in their communities. However, I do not believe that requiring a hearing on defendants' ability to pay is the best approach in every case.

There are many ongoing conversations about how we can build a fairer criminal justice system while ensuring adequate funding for courts and victims' compensation. I believe this issue needs to be tackled in a comprehensive manner, through the budget process, and I am committed to working with the Legislature and stakeholders on ensuring this gets done.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom