



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 13 2019

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 184 without my signature.

This bill would lower the minimum age at which a judge who is a member of the Judges' Retirement System (JRS) II can retire from judicial service and still maintain eligibility for full pension benefits. Specifically, SB 184 would allow a judge to leave the bench at age 60, retire, and defer receiving a monthly defined benefit allowance until the judge reaches age 65 (with at least 20 years of service) or age 70 (with at least five years of service) – as long as all other current requirements for receiving retirement benefits are met.

The costs of modifying the current rules on judicial retirement as proposed in SB 184 are steep and would in some cases result in a judge receiving more generous benefits than what the same judge can currently receive. These concerns are not new and have been raised in previous iterations of this bill. It is also difficult to overlook the possibility that current rules may in some cases incentivize judges who are in poor health to prolong their service rather than retire and care for themselves or others.

I encourage the Legislature to work collaboratively with my Administration as well as the California Public Employees' Retirement System on a more narrow solution to these issues.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, overlapping the printed name "Gavin Newsom".