



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 12 2019

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 284 without my signature.

This bill increases the annual rate that a county must pay to the state to commit a juvenile to the Division of Juvenile Justice.

I applaud the author's commitment to promoting effective rehabilitation for the youth in our criminal justice system. I disagree, however, that a financial disincentive to counties is necessarily the right approach to managing our state-level population.

I have initiated the transfer of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to the California Health and Human Services Agency, and the Administration is working on the creation of a new Department of Youth and Community Restoration (DYCR). This new department will, as DJJ does now, serve a specific cohort of high-need youth who have often times have been unable to receive needed services at the county level. It is important that any re-evaluation of what type of population is served at DYCR be done with this global shift in mind, and in a manner that does not enact a blanket financial disincentive when there may be more targeted ways to meet the author's goals.

I am committed to working with the Legislature on ensuring that the transformation of DJJ into DYCR is a success and that we manage this population of young Californians appropriately and with great care.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom