



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 25 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1544, which enacts the Community Paramedicine or Triage to Alternate Destination Act of 2020, which permits local emergency medical services agencies, with approval by the Emergency Medical Services Authority, to develop programs to provide community paramedic or triage to alternate destination services.

AB 1544 will reduce emergency department overcrowding and improve access to critical mental health services. However, there is ambiguity in the definitions of "authorized mental health facility" and "authorized sobering centers" that may cause implementation issues. I am directing the Emergency Medical Services Authority to work with the Department of Health Care Services to clarify these definitions in future legislation.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

