



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 3074, which establishes an ember-resistant zone within five feet of a structure as part of the defensible space requirements for structures located in specified high-fire hazard areas. This bill also requires removal of material from the ember-resistant zone based on the probability that vegetation and fuel will lead to ignition of the structure by ember.

Defensible space is the front line for defending a property against wildfire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase a home's chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending a property. Defensible space, in combination with home hardening, will make a home ignition resistant from embers, radiant heat and flame impingement. Development and significant compliance with zero to five-foot zone requirements would assist CALFIRE in meeting long-term defensible space goals and assist local communities in meeting their Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

While its goals are laudable, this bill creates a costly unfunded mandate that will reduce resources to fund other important fire prevention and mitigation priorities. Now is not the time to crowd out important wildfire mitigation and prevention investments. I ask that the Legislature send me legislation next year to amend this provision to ensure the statute does not create significant new costs.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

