



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 25 2020

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1207 without my signature.

SB 1207 would require Skilled Nursing Facilities to have an alternative source of power for no less than 96 hours during any type of power outage.

Skilled Nursing Facilities are a central part of our system of care for vulnerable individuals. As such, it is important that they have sufficient emergency backup power in the event of a power interruption. However, this bill relies on an unclear federal standard as justification. Moreover, the timeline for implementing this bill is unfeasible given the need for significant renovations that facilities would need to complete to comply with this bill.

I am directing the California Department of Public Health and the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to convene a stakeholder group to ensure that relevant experts can fully assess alternatives and develop recommendations to appropriately address resident and staff safety in the event of a power shut-off by April 1, 2021. This approach will identify recommendations regarding an emergency power standard that protects patients and allows facilities to make necessary upgrades in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

