To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1220 without my signature.

This bill would require each prosecuting agency to maintain a Brady list, which is a list containing the names of peace officers whose personnel files are likely to contain evidence of dishonesty or bias. This bill requires state and local law enforcement agencies to annually, or upon request, provide a list of names and badge numbers of officers employed by the agency in the preceding five years who have sustained findings of certain misconduct, are facing criminal prosecution, or are on probation to specified prosecuting agencies beginning January 1, 2022.

This bill would impose a significant state mandate and, because of the costs associated with this mandate, I cannot sign this bill. However, I share the author’s goal of ensuring that our criminal justice system provides transparency and due process for criminal defendants. I am thereby directing the California Highway Patrol and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to develop a process in which they proactively provide information in the form of a list containing officer names and badge numbers to the 58 California district attorneys’ offices in order to assist them to fulfill their prosecutorial discovery obligations.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom