



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2020

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 741 without my signature.

This bill would allow a person, as part of a judgment recognizing a change of name and gender, to also seek an order to revise a California marriage certificate of the petitioner and/or the California birth certificates of the petitioner's children. Upon court order, this bill requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) or the applicable County Registrar to replace the vital record certificates with one that does not reveal that the petitioner obtained a name and gender change.

I strongly support the overall policy of changing vital records to accurately reflect gender identity. Unfortunately, this bill fails to give the State Registrar, which is within CDPH, clear authority to issue a new marriage certificate. As a result, CDPH would only be able to amend the marriage certificates under other applicable amendment statutes, resulting in the original gender, and the fact that there was a change to the listed gender, visible and open to the public. I am concerned that this would shine a spotlight on any individual who has changed their gender and I believe that this runs contrary to the intent of this legislation.

This is an important policy and I am committed to working with the Legislature and sponsors during the next legislative session to protect individual privacy.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

