



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2021

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 872 without my signature.

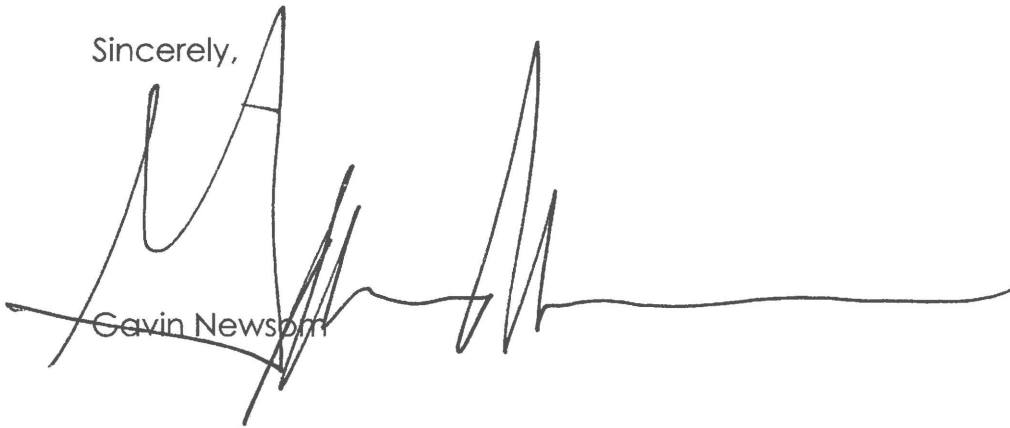
This bill would extend a special form of workers' compensation, "4850 time", to rank-and-file and supervisory firefighters at the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. This bill would result in these employees receiving higher take home pay than they would have if not injured by raising disability payments from full net to full gross salary.

Currently, state firefighters have access to Enhanced Industrial Disability Leave (EIDL) which provides full net salary for one year for any industrial injury or illness or up to three years if the injury is burn related.

State firefighters' importance to California is only growing because of the increasing prevalence of wildfires they fight each year. I have and will continue to devote more resources to this workforce to ensure they have the benefits and equipment they need to carry out their critical task.

However, an extension of "4850" time to this class of employees should be addressed through the bargaining process where consideration of how best to allocate limited resources for this crucial state function is viewed holistically. My Administration looks forward to this discussion and working on this issue at the bargaining table.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom