



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 05 2021

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 660 without my signature.

This bill prohibits a person from paying money or providing any other thing of value based on the number of signatures obtained on a state or local initiative, referendum, or recall petition. The bill permits the Attorney General or a private person, acting as a qui tam plaintiff, to bring a civil action for a violation of this prohibition and imposes a monetary penalty.

As I stated in a veto message on similar legislation in 2019, I appreciate the intent of this bill to incentivize grassroots support for the initiative, referendum, and recall process. However, payment per signature remains one of the most economical methods to qualify for the ballot. This measure could therefore make the qualification of many initiatives cost-prohibitive for all but the wealthiest interests, thereby having the opposite effect. For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract.

Gavin Newsom

