



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SEP 29 2022**

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1685 without my signature.

This bill requires processing agencies to forgive at least \$1,500 in parking tickets for individuals who are verified to be homeless if the processing agency uses the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to place a registration hold on vehicles as a means of enforcement.

I am sympathetic to the author's intent to provide financial relief to extremely low-income Californians, but a statewide requirement for parking ticket forgiveness may not be the best approach.

Under current law, processing agencies are already required to take several steps prior to asking DMV to collect the unpaid debt from indigent individuals, including establishing a payment program and waiving late fees and penalty assessments. Under this bill, there would be no limit to the number of times a person could ultimately seek relief from the program.

Local governments should provide support to people living in cars in other manners, while continuing with parking enforcement to manage their public rights-of-way. Some jurisdictions have already taken it upon themselves to link people living in cars with housing and services, for example by establishing safe parking programs. These efforts have shown promise for both people living in their cars, as well as the surrounding communities. Safe parking strategies are an eligible use of discretionary funding from programs such as the Homeless



Housing Assistance & Prevention (HHAP) – of which \$1 billion has been allocated to cities and counties this year alone.

In recent years, we have made record investments in the budget to produce affordable housing and address homelessness, but it is still not enough to make the progress we all wish to see. I remain committed to continuing the state's leadership to address this critically important issue and I look forward to working with the author and the Legislature on proposals in the budget next year demonstrating this shared commitment.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', is written over the printed name. The signature is highly fluid and abstract, with many loops and sharp angles.