



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 13 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1820 without my signature.

This bill would establish a Labor Trafficking Unit within the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE), to coordinate enforcement action with sister agencies to combat labor trafficking. The bill would require the unit to receive and investigate complaints alleging labor trafficking and to take steps to prevent labor trafficking and follow protocols to ensure survivors of labor trafficking are not further victimized by the prosecutorial process and are informed of services available to them.

While I am strongly supportive of efforts to combat labor trafficking, the California Civil Rights Department (CCRD) (formerly DFEH) is the appropriate state entity to take the lead in this effort per the amendments offered by my office. DLSE does not have authority to criminally or civilly prosecute these types of cases nor have the tools and resources necessary to assist labor trafficking survivors. CCRD is already active in this space and could seamlessly expand its efforts to more aggressively combat labor trafficking provided it is given new resources in the budget.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

