



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 13 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning AB 1919 without my signature.

This bill creates a five-year Youth Transit Pass Pilot program to provide grants to transit agencies to create or expand free fare transit programs for college and K-12 students.

Many of California's transit agencies provide reduced or free transit for certain populations, including students. While I agree with the intent of this bill to supplement and expand those existing programs, the bill requires the creation of a new grant program that was not funded in the budget. Instead, it requires a future appropriation from an unidentified fund source, which creates a significant cost pressure for either the General Fund or the redirection of existing state transportation resources. These costs will likely exceed \$115 million annually.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.



The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with several sharp peaks and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Gavin Newsom