



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 240 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to conduct an evaluation of the adequacy of local health department (LHD) infrastructure and make recommendations on workforce needs and resources to fund local public health in a report to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2025. The implementation of this bill is contingent upon sufficient funding from state, federal, or private sources to support the department's advisory group and the evaluation contract.

California is a model for the nation in our public health preparedness, response, and ongoing investment. My administration is committed to transforming our state's public health system to reduce health disparities and improve health equity – all reasons why the Budget includes \$300 million General Fund for public health infrastructure, which includes \$200 million for local health departments to build up core public health functions, while also helping to close workforce gaps.

I believe we should turn our focus to utilizing the resources received in the Budget for this transformation, which calls for immediate action on recruitment and hiring to support a modern and innovative public health system.



For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to overlapping strokes.