



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 25 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2566 without my signature.

This bill would require, on or before July 1, 2023, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to develop a competitive grant process within the existing Urban and Community Forestry Program, including guidelines and selection criteria, for administration of funds allocated to the Department for the explicit purpose of supporting school greening. Upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act, this bill would require funding for these purposes to be transferred to the School Greening and Resiliency Fund, which the bill would establish in the State Treasury.

I share the author's commitment to school greening projects and my Administration is proud that the 2022–23 Budget included \$150 million over two years for this purpose (\$117 million in 2022–23 and \$33 million in 2023–24). This funding will be administered through the existing Urban and Community Forestry Program. Additionally, Cal FIRE is able to update program guidelines to support implementation of this program and can incorporate program implementation elements outlined in this bill, as appropriate. Accordingly, neither the program nor the fund that would be established by this bill are necessary to administer the funding authorized in the Budget. Moreover, the budget agreement allocated one-time funds for this purpose, but this bill codifies an ongoing commitment not provided for in the budget.



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. 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 cost pressure, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for in the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gavin Newsom". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long, horizontal tail that extends to the right. The name "Gavin Newsom" is printed in a light gray font directly beneath the signature.

Gavin Newsom