



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2022

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 981 without my signature.

This bill would provide that, for defendants whose convictions were reversed on habeas and the district attorney fails to object and provide clear and convincing evidence of guilt, the court issues an order that they are entitled to compensation through the California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB).

The 2022 Budget included an improvement in the payment process for the erroneously convicted, allowing them to receive their compensation more quickly. This bill would unintentionally reverse part of that new payment process. If this bill is signed, some claimants will have their compensation delayed by several months, or in some cases, up to a year. I look forward to the author submitting a new bill next year on this issue.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

