



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JUL 21 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1696 without my signature.

This bill would require any privately-owned recovery residence that contracts with a government entity to provide documented policies and procedures related to its operations, code of ethics, and patient access to medications.

Privately-owned recovery residences, as defined by this bill, are not subject to state licensure or certification. Therefore, AB 1696 would conflate requirements in existing law for licensed and certified programs providing substance use disorder recovery services with new requirements for privately-owned recovery residences, which the California Department of Health Care Services does not oversee or enforce. This may create confusion among people seeking recovery services from licensed or certified programs or treatment facilities.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

