



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 819 without my signature.

This bill would provide that a third or subsequent fare evasion violation is no longer a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in county jail for a period of not more than 90 days and make it a fine of not more than \$400.

Fare evasion continues to be an issue for transit operators across the state, costing them tens of millions of dollars a year. According to one operator, the bulk of the crimes committed in their system are committed by people who have not paid a fare. I cannot take an action to reduce penalties on fare evasion that could, in turn, contribute to an increase in crime on transit.

Given this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom