OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 391 without my signature.

This bill would create a rebuttable presumption of industrial causation for skin cancer under the workers' compensation system to specified peace officers of the Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Parks and Recreation.

A presumption is not required for an occupational disease to be compensable. I vetoed AB 334 in 2021 which was nearly identical to this bill. As stated in my previous veto message, such presumptions should be provided sparingly and should be based on the unique hazards or proven difficulty of establishing a direct relationship between a disease or injury and the employee's work. Although well-intentioned, the need for the presumption envisioned by this bill is not supported by clear and compelling evidence.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom