



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 28 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1168 without my signature.

This bill would allow the City of Oxnard to function as if it had retained its administrative authority to operate prehospital emergency medical ambulance services and authorize Oxnard to exclusively operate ambulance services throughout the city. This would bypass a 2021 court ruling that found that the City of Oxnard did not have the right to administer ambulance services.

Current law establishes a statewide emergency medical services (EMS) response system to provide integrated services statewide with regional coordination. This bill risks inconsistency in EMS delivery and could compromise the uniformity of EMS operations by authorizing a single city to bypass existing regional agreements. I agree with the author and sponsors that ensuring equitable, efficient, and quality access to emergency care is a state priority. However, this bill would create a unique operational model in Ventura County that is different from the law applicable in the other 57 counties. Though this bill is narrow, I am concerned that it will set a precedent for other cities to pursue similar legislation in the future, further fragmenting the EMS system.



For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several sharp, angular strokes followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom