



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 22 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2277 without my signature.

This bill requires community college districts on January 1, 2025, or no later than the expiration date of an existing part-time faculty collective bargaining agreement, to negotiate the terms of reemployment preference for part-time faculty assignments. Specifically, the bill redefines a part-time faculty's load as up to a range of 80 percent to 85 percent of what is assigned for full-time faculty, rather than 60 percent to 67 percent, unless otherwise explicitly agreed upon with individual part-time faculty.

In 2021, I vetoed a bill substantially similar to this proposal. In that veto message, I acknowledged the enormous role that part-time community college faculty play across the system. I also conveyed that the proposal had significant ongoing cost pressures that are better addressed as part of the budget process, and I committed to proposing an alternative in a future budget. In the 2022 Budget Agreement, consistent with my commitment, funding for the part-time faculty health insurance program was increased by \$200 million ongoing. This bill continues to create unknown, but potentially significant costs or cost pressures in the millions to tens of millions of dollars.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is



important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat obscured by the line it crosses.

Gavin Newsom