



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 13 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1336 without my signature.

This bill would establish a presumption, for purposes of a workers' compensation claim, that a worker's heat-related injury arose out of their employment if their employer failed to comply with the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA)'s heat illness prevention standards.

Last year, I vetoed a nearly identical bill, stating that creating a presumption in the workers' compensation system is not an effective way to protect California farmworkers from the risk of heat-related illnesses. Current laws establishing, regulating, and enforcing heat illness prevention standards fall under the jurisdiction of Cal/OSHA, not the Division of Workers' Compensation. The workers' compensation system is not equipped to make determinations about employers' compliance with Cal/OSHA standards. This tension will lead to excessive delays and dilute the bill's potential benefits to workers.

I share the author's goal of protecting workers from the dangers of excessive heat. Cal/OSHA recently established a dedicated Agricultural Enforcement Task Force and Outreach Unit, which has opened more than 250 proactive inspections. Moreover, Cal/OSHA's Consultation Services Unit, which provides free assistance to employers to help them comply with health and safety standards, has addressed heat illness at 395 worksites since May 2025. I remain committed to working with the Legislature, workers, and worker advocates to



explore how to bolster and complement Cal/OSHA's ongoing efforts to improve working conditions for agricultural workers.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom