



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 13 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 742 without my signature.

This bill would require boards and bureaus under the Department of Consumer Affairs to expedite applicants seeking licensure who are descendants of slaves, once a certification process for the descendants of American Slaves is implemented by the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery.

I appreciate the author's intent to increase diversity within the professional licensed population and improve licensure opportunities for historically underrepresented communities. However, as the number of applicants who qualify for expedited licensure increases, the benefits of mandated prioritization may start to diminish, creating negative impacts on other applicants. Additionally, licensing fee increases may result from this bill, as an increase in staff will be necessary to ensure expedited applications.

I vetoed two similar measures seeking to expedite licensure for specified populations last year for these same concerns, and I believe more data is needed on the effectiveness and consequences of expedited licensure before committing to similar frameworks.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom