

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 11 2025

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 36 without my signature.

This bill expands price gouging protections following a State of Emergency or Local Emergency declaration, establishes a housing listing program to report and remove listings that violate price gouging, and imposes criminal and civil penalties on violators. This bill would also allow the Legislature to terminate an extension of price gouging limitations via a concurrent resolution.

I appreciate the author's intent to strengthen and expand protections against price gouging for those displaced by a state or local emergency. Unfortunately, this bill includes a provision that would allow the Legislature to terminate extensions of emergency protections by concurrent resolution. This shift would weaken the Governor's authority under the Emergency Services Act and undermine the executive branch's flexibility to respond to rapidly evolving disasters. In times of emergency, Californians expect swift and decisive action to protect public safety, deliver resources, and maintain stability. Making the Governor's actions subject to termination by concurrent vote of the Legislature could delay critical measures and create uncertainty when Californians can least afford it.

For that reason, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin New