



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2026

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1029 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), after the existing three-year claim period, to transfer unclaimed proceeds from vehicle lien sales to the State Controller's Office for administration under the Unclaimed Property Law.

I support the author's goal of helping vehicle owners recover excess proceeds that rightfully belong to them. However, this bill divides responsibility between two state agencies without establishing a clear process for verifying ownership, resolving claims, or making final eligibility determinations.

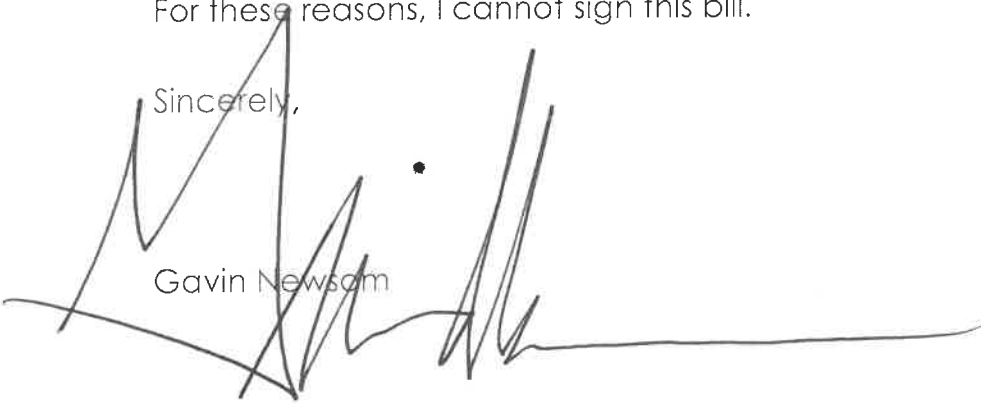
The DMV has already taken an important step to help vehicle owners recover these proceeds by establishing an online lookup tool. Future efforts should build upon that work by clearly defining how claims will be verified and administered before responsibility for the funds is transferred. As written, this measure would impose additional administrative costs on the Motor Vehicle Account resources

that are needed to sustain core DMV and CHP operations, without demonstrating that more funds would reach their rightful owners.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Gavin Newsom", is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long horizontal line extending to the right.