



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 18 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1722 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit the imposition of civil or criminal penalties on an individual who "takes" a species listed, or a candidate for listing, under the California Endangered Species Act if the individual acted in self-defense or in defense of another individual to protect against immediate bodily harm.

Defending oneself from immediate bodily harm is a fundamental right. California law already protects against penalties for taking endangered species if the take occurred to protect oneself or another person. This bill duplicates these protections while creating confusion about the applicable standard for invoking this type of defense.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

