



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 18 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1729 without my signature.

This bill would require a state agency to provide a detailed written justification to the agency's employees if the agency's unique operational needs and programmatic mission require employees to report to the workplace. This measure would also require each state agency to decennially update its telework program.

I deeply admire our state workforce's dedication to public service and all that they achieve on behalf of the people of California. While I fundamentally believe in-person collaboration is an essential part of a productive and effective workplace, the state's existing telework policy includes a process for departments to consider exemptions on a case-by-case basis. This measure, by limiting departmental flexibility and encouraging telework to be the default work arrangement, takes the state's telework policy in the wrong direction.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

