



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 18 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1882 without my signature.

This bill would establish the Safe Delivery Fund Pilot Program within the Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI) to provide hospitals with funding to offset specified uncompensated standby costs.

I share the author's goal of preserving access to care in geographically isolated communities, where hospitals often face financial gaps. In this year's budget, we made unprecedented investments into our hospital system — including \$90 million in grant funding to financially distressed hospitals, with authority to augment this funding by an additional \$50 million, \$250 million dollars for public hospitals, and \$10 million dollars to stand up a new healthcare stability unit within HCAI to better assist hospitals with difficult financial situations.

This bill, while well-intentioned, does not draw from any of these budget investments and instead enacts a new, complex, and unfunded hospital reimbursement program. Further, this bill would require significant technical, operational, and reporting responsibilities that would inject unnecessary bureaucratic complexity and be costly to implement.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

