



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 20 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2122 without my signature.

This bill would, among other things, eliminate the misdemeanor offense for failing to appear in court on a Vehicle Code infraction and prohibit the issuance of a bench warrant for failing to appear in court for such an infraction.

I share the author's commitment to mitigate disparate punishment for minor offenses against low-income residents of the state. Throughout my administration, I have sought to tackle the issue of burdensome fines, fees, and assessments that disproportionately drag low-income individuals deeper into debt — signing numerous bills that repeal or reduce dozens of criminal fines and fees and discharging nearly \$7 billion in debt. In doing so, I strived to provide relief where possible, while also maintaining public safety. This bill, however, does not appropriately balance those twin goals.

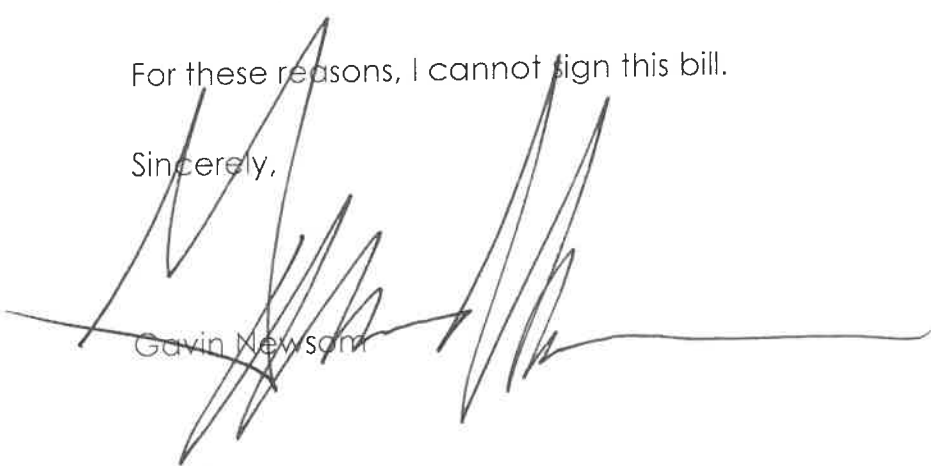
Unsafe speed accounted for over 100,000 vehicle crashes last year, and the California Highway Patrol issued nearly 500,000 speeding citations. With few exceptions, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) does not receive information that a person has committed a vehicle offense, including most speeding infractions, until the matter is adjudicated in court. By eliminating misdemeanor liability and arrest authority for failures to appear, this bill could cause additional delays in the court processing of unsafe driving violations and communication of those violations to the DMV.

This year, the State Auditor conducted an audit to review the steps that superior courts and the DMV take to process a conviction. With findings and recommendations from the State Auditor on this issue forthcoming, it would be

unwise to cause further delays in the processing of moving violations, which would result in more unsafe drivers on our roads.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom