



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2014

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2151 without my signature.

This bill would allow a county to seek direct reimbursement from a resident age 16 or older for search or rescue costs when the person knowingly violates a local, state or federal law or ordinance.

While I agree with the author's intent to discourage unlawful actions that can place persons and rescue personnel in danger, this bill contains vague language that may create an incentive for counties to abuse the authority granted by this bill. Current law already allows counties to recover costs for search and rescue through a civil lawsuit if they can prove "gross negligence" on behalf of the rescued individual. This bill would allow counties to bypass that due process completely and serve an individual with a bill for up to \$12,000. I encourage the author to craft a bill that strikes the right balance between appropriate due process and cost recovery for reckless misconduct.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.