



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2012

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2676 without my signature.

This bill would provide criminal penalties for anyone who directs or supervises farm workers and fails to provide sufficient amounts of shade and cool, potable water.

In recent years, California has enhanced its existing safety regulations to protect workers in all outdoor industries - - implementing the most stringent standards in the nation.

Since these standards were adopted, enforcement has improved and compliance has increased. Cal/OSHA has conducted over 3,000 heat safety inspections per year for the past three years. Hundreds of citations and penalties for violations of the heat safety standards have been issued. Compliance has increased in all industries from a low of 32% in 2006 to over 80% in 2012, with even greater improvements in agriculture.

While I believe enforcement of our heat standards can be improved, I am not convinced that creating a new crime -- and a crime that applies only to one group of employers -- is the answer. Instead, we should continue to enforce our stringent standards for the benefit of all workers in all industries.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.