



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 06 2011


To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 293 without my signature.

This bill requires county elections officials to establish a free access system where vote-by-mail voters can find out whether their ballot was counted, and if it was not counted, the reason why.

I support the author's goal of informing vote-by-mail voters of the status of their ballot, but, in view of California's severe fiscal challenges, I believe restraint must be exercised with regard to any new state mandates. Under existing law, local governments can implement this type of database on their own. In fact, many counties have done so.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.