



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OCT 07 2011**

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 651 without my signature.

This bill would put a raft of new regulations, fees and potential fines on entities that pay people to gather signatures for a ballot measure petition, including annual registration, reporting and training requirements.

Initiatives are an important part of California's democracy. I am not convinced that these new requirements are needed or would improve the initiative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edmund G. Brown Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.