



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- SEP 24 2013

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 156 without my signature.

This bill would eliminate a court's discretion to compensate a guardian or conservator from the conservatee's estate for costs incurred to defend a fee request if the court reduces the fee request by even a small amount.

I believe that judges exercise their discretion under existing law governing compensation for defense costs in a fair and balanced way. Nevertheless, the bill could have improved the process had the last amendment to the bill not eliminated the three qualifying criteria under which a judge could award some or all of the defense costs. I cannot sign this bill without them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edmund G. Brown Jr." followed by a large, stylized flourish.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.