



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 3 2015

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning the following nine bills without my signature:

Assembly Bill 144
Assembly Bill 849
Senate Bill 168
Senate Bill 170
Senate Bill 271
Senate Bill 333
Senate Bill 347
Senate Bill 716
Senate Bill 722

Each of these bills creates a new crime – usually by finding a novel way to characterize and criminalize conduct that is already proscribed. This multiplication and particularization of criminal behavior creates increasing complexity without commensurate benefit.

Over the last several decades, California's criminal code has grown to more than 5,000 separate provisions, covering almost every conceivable form of human misbehavior. During the same period, our jail and prison populations have exploded.

Before we keep going down this road, I think we should pause and reflect on how our system of criminal justice could be made more human, more just and more cost-effective.

Sincerely,

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

Edmund G. Brown Jr.