



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 15 2017

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 973 without my signature.

This bill requires a county elections official, by January 1, 2020, to allow voters with disabilities, and military and overseas voters, to cast a ballot using a certified remote accessible vote-by-mail system.

Just last year, I signed AB 2252 that created standards for the Secretary of State to review and approve remote accessible vote-by-mail ballot systems for use in California elections. Additionally, current law permits any voter, including a voter with a disability or a military or overseas voter, to electronically receive and cast a vote-by-mail ballot using a remote accessible vote-by-mail system, once available.

I am hesitant to mandate that counties use this technology at a time when certification of these systems is in its nascent stages. As these systems become certified, however, I encourage counties to review and adopt them as appropriate.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.