



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 14 2017

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 491 without my signature.

This bill directs the Department of Fair Employment and Housing to establish an advisory group to conduct a study regarding the feasibility of local enforcement of employment antidiscrimination statutes.

The Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) has preempted local governments from enforcing the provisions of this law for decades. I agree with the author that it is time for the state to reassess whether the state should allow local authorities to enforce FEHA. Unfortunately, as currently drafted, the bill is too broad and it is not clear that the advisory group would focus solely on employment protections governed by FEHA.

I am directing the Department of Fair Employment and Housing to create an advisory group to explore allowing the provisions of FEHA to be enforced by local authorities and prepare a report to my office and the Legislature with findings and recommendations by December 31, 2018.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.