



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 04 2017

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 513 without my signature.

This bill adds \$1,000 to the current penalty for assault or battery if committed against a public utility worker.

I don't believe the additional \$1,000 called for in this bill would do much to deter this type of conduct, which is already punishable by either six months or a year in jail, and up to a \$2,000 fine depending on the charge.

I would note that the bill further slices and dices our criminal law, dividing the crimes of assault and battery into even more discreet categories, which grow more numerous by the decade. As a general rule I don't think this a good idea.

Our criminal code already has more than 5,000 separate criminal provisions, making it more particularized than it needs to be for an understandable and fair system of justice.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.