



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 14 2017

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 687 without my signature.

This bill requires a nonprofit hospital to receive approval from the Attorney General prior to reducing or eliminating services in its emergency department.

A hospital's decision to reduce or eliminate emergency services poses real challenges for a community. This is why current law requires public notice prior to a hospital taking such an action. Removing a hospital's authority to determine emergency service needs, however, will not solve the underlying financial issues that typically force these decisions. An Attorney General decision to prohibit a reduction or elimination of these services may hasten the reduction of other services or closure of the entire hospital.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.