



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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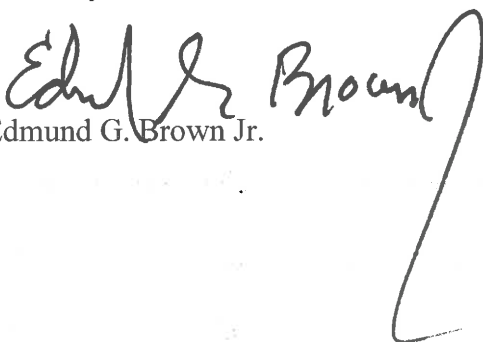
To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1824 without my signature.

This bill expands the definition of "guide, signal or service dog" and lowers the standard for convicting an individual who causes injury or death to such a dog. The bill also adds an owner's medical bills and lost wages to the existing list of recoverable restitution costs.

Lowering the *mens rea* standard for one of the misdemeanors covered by this measure expands the scope of the current penal code which already is convoluted and unnecessarily complex. I believe that existing law provides an adequate deterrent and sufficient punishment.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.