



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2021

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 702 without my signature.

This bill would require the Governor's Office to convene a working group to make recommendations back to the Office on increasing diversity in state appointments, and to create and deliver to the Legislature a report containing demographic information of individuals appointed by the Governor.

I applaud the author and stakeholders' desire to ensure diversity in California's board and commission members. I too am deeply committed to making appointments that reflect California's diversity at every level of government. My office already makes an intentional, transparent effort to engage with the Legislature, community partners, nonprofits, and a variety of stakeholders to build a diverse and qualified pool of candidates for appointed positions, and will continue to strengthen and build these partnerships. Further, the demographic information specified for reporting under this bill is optional and self-reported by candidates. For these reasons, such a report required by SB 702 would not accurately reflect the diversity of appointees.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

