

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 17, 2025

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 8, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 29, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 7, 2025

SENATE BILL

No. 707

Introduced by Senator Durazo

(Principal coauthor: Senator Arreguín)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members ~~Arambula and Fong~~) *Arambula, Fong,
and Blanca Rubio*)

February 21, 2025

An act to amend Sections 54952.7, 54953, 54953.5, 54953.7, 54954.2, 54954.3, 54956, 54956.5, 54957.6, 54957.9, ~~54957.95~~, and ~~54960.2~~ 54957.95 of, to amend and repeal Section 54952.2 of, to add Sections 54953.8, 54953.8.1, 54953.8.2, and 54957.96 to, and to add and repeal Sections 54953.4, 54953.8.3, 54953.8.4, 54953.8.5, 54953.8.6, and 54953.8.7 of, the Government Code, relating to local government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 707, as amended, Durazo. Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements.

(1) Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body, as defined, of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate.

This bill would, *beginning July 1, 2026, and* until January 1, 2030, require an eligible legislative body, as defined, to comply with additional

meeting requirements, including that, except as specified, all open and public meetings include an opportunity for members of the public to attend via a 2-way telephonic service or a 2-way audiovisual platform, as defined, and that the eligible legislative body take specified actions to encourage residents to participate in public meetings, as specified.

(2) Existing law prohibits a majority of the members of a legislative body, outside a meeting authorized by the act, from using a series of communications of any kind to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item of business that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. Existing law defines “meetings” for these purposes to mean any congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body at the same time and location, as specified, to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. Until January 1, 2026, existing law excepts from the prohibition a member engaging in separate conversations or communications outside of a meeting with any other person using an internet-based social media platform for specified purposes, provided, among other things, that a majority of the members do not use the internet-based social media platform to discuss among themselves business of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body.

This bill would make the above-described exception related to communications on an internet-based social media platform applicable indefinitely.

(3) Existing law requires a legislative body, prior to taking final action, to orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on specified forms of compensation for a local agency executive, as defined, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken.

This bill would also require the legislative body to make that oral report, as provided above, prior to taking final action on those specified forms of compensation for a department head or other similar administrative officer of the local agency.

(4) Existing law requires a legislative body of a local agency or its designee, at least 72 hours before a regular meeting, to post an agenda that meets specified requirements, including that the agenda contain a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, as specified.

This bill ~~would~~ *would, beginning July 1, 2026, and until July 1, 2030,* require the agenda for each meeting of an eligible legislative body, as

defined, to be translated into all applicable languages. The bill would define “applicable languages” to mean ~~languages~~ *languages, according to data from the most recent American Community Survey, spoken jointly by 20% or more of the population in the city or county in which the eligible legislative body is located that, among other things, applicable population, as specified, provided that 20% or more of the population that speaks that language that in that city or county speaks English less than “very well,” as specified, and except as provided.*

Existing law requires every agenda for regular meetings to provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body on any item of interest of the public, as specified. Existing law specifies that the agenda is not required to provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body on any item that has already been considered by a committee, as ~~specified.~~ *specified, except if the item has been substantially changed since the committee heard the item, as determined by the legislative body.*

This bill would ~~remove the~~ *add certain exceptions to the provision related to an item that has already been considered by a committee. committee, including excepting committees whose primary subject matter jurisdiction focuses on elections, budgets, police oversight, or removing from, or restricting access to, materials available in public libraries.*

(5) Existing law authorizes a legislative body of a local agency to require a copy of the act to be given to each member of the legislative body and specified persons elected to serve as a member of the legislative body, and authorizes an elected legislative body member to require a copy to be given to each member of each legislative body all or a majority of whose members are appointed by or under the authority of the elected legislative body.

This bill would instead require a local agency to provide a copy of the act to any person elected or appointed to serve as a member of a legislative body of the local agency.

Existing law authorizes legislative bodies of local agencies to impose requirements upon themselves which allow greater access to their meetings than prescribed by the minimal standards set forth in the act, and authorizes an elected legislative body of a local agency to also impose those requirements on those appointed legislative bodies of the local agency of which all or a majority of the members are appointed by or under the authority of the elected legislative body.

This bill would remove the above-described requirement that members of an appointed legislative body of a local agency must be appointed by or under the authority of the elected legislative body of a local agency in order for the elected legislative body to impose the above-described requirements on the appointed legislative body.

~~(6) Existing law authorizes a district attorney or any interested person to file an action to determine the applicability of the act to past actions of the legislative body pursuant to specified provisions relating to violations of the act if specified conditions are met, including that the district attorney or interested person first submits a cease and desist letter to the clerk or secretary of the legislative body being accused of the violation, as specified, within 9 months of the alleged violation.~~

~~This bill would instead require that a cease and desist letter described above be submitted within 12 months of the alleged violation.~~

~~(7)~~

(6) Existing law provides any person attending an open and public meeting of a legislative body of a local agency with the right to record the proceedings with an audio or visual recorder or a still or motion picture camera, as specified.

This bill would remove the reference to an audio or visual recorder or a still or motion picture camera for purposes of recording the proceedings, as described above.

~~(8)~~

(7) Existing law authorizes a legislative body of a local agency to use teleconferencing, as specified, and requires a legislative body of a local agency that elects to use teleconferencing to comply with specified general requirements, including that the local agency post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and have each teleconference location be accessible to the public. Existing law also requires that, during the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as specified.

Existing law authorizes members who are outside the jurisdiction of a health authority, as defined, that conducts a teleconferencing meeting to, notwithstanding the above-described general teleconference provisions, count towards the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if, among other things, at least 50% of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present

within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction.

Existing law authorizes, in certain circumstances, the legislative body of a local agency to use specified alternative teleconferencing which include provisions related to, among others, notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment and identifying and including an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option. Those circumstances in which the legislative body of a local agency is authorized to use the alternative teleconferencing provisions include specified circumstances relating to a state of emergency, as defined, and, until January 1, 2026, subject to specified limitations, a member's need to participate remotely due to just cause, defined to include, among other things, a need related to a physical or mental disability, or emergency circumstances, as those terms are defined, if certain quorum and disclosure requirements are met.

Existing law also authorizes certain eligible legislative bodies, including neighborhood councils and student body associations and student-run community college organizations to, until January 1, 2026, use alternate teleconferencing if, among other requirements, the city council or board of trustees, as applicable, has adopted an authorizing resolution and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the neighborhood city council or specified student organization, as applicable, votes to use alternate teleconference provisions, as specified.

This bill would revise and recast the above-specified teleconferencing and alternative teleconferencing provisions to uniformly apply certain noticing, disclosure, accessibility, and public commenting provisions. The bill would require a legislative body of a local agency that elects to use teleconferencing pursuant to these alternative teleconferencing provisions to comply with, in addition to any other applicable requirements under the act, specified requirements, including that the legislative body provides at least either 2-way audiovisual platform or 2-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting as a means by which the public may, among other things, remotely hear and visually observe the meeting, and that a member of the legislative body who participates in a teleconference meeting from a remote location pursuant to these alternative teleconferencing provisions and the specific provision of law that the member relied upon to permit their participation by teleconferencing are listed in the minutes of the meeting. The bill would require the local agency to identify and make available to

legislative bodies a list of one or more meeting locations that may be available for use by the legislative bodies to conduct their meetings.

The bill would require a legislative body to allow a member with a disability, as defined, that precludes a member's in-person attendance at meetings of the body, as specified, to participate in any meeting of the legislative body by remote participation, as defined, except as specified. The bill would apply certain provisions relative to, among other things, quorum establishment to that circumstance.

The bill would instead authorize a health authority, as defined, to conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to the above-described alternative teleconferencing provisions.

The bill would revise and recast the alternative teleconferencing provisions applicable in a state of emergency, as defined. The bill would also include a local emergency, as defined, as a circumstance in which a legislative body of a local agency is authorized to use the alternative teleconferencing provisions.

The bill would revise and recast the alternative teleconferencing provisions applicable in cases of a member's need to participate remotely due to just cause or emergency circumstances, as defined, to remove the provision applicable to emergency circumstances, to revise related definitions, including broadening the definition of just cause to include a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person, and to require the minutes for a meeting to identify the specific provision of law that each member relied upon to participate remotely, as specified. The bill would extend the authorization to use the alternative teleconferencing provision until January 1, 2030.

The bill would revise and recast the alternative teleconferencing provisions applicable to neighborhood councils and student body associations and student-run community college organizations. In regards to the alternative teleconferencing provisions applicable to student body associations and student-run community college organizations, the bill would exempt the California Online Community College from specified requirements for an in-person quorum, a physical location for public participation, and certain accommodations under the authorization, and remove the ability for a person with a disability that requires certain accommodations to count towards the in-person quorum requirement. The bill would specify that the California community college student body associations and student-run community college organizations described above are those in any community college recognized within the California Community Colleges system, and would extend the

authorization to the Student Senate for California Community Colleges. The bill would extend the authorization to use the alternative teleconferencing provisions applicable to neighborhood councils and student body associations and student-run community college organizations until January 1, 2030.

The bill would, until January 1, 2030, also authorize a specified subsidiary body of local agencies to conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to the above-described alternative teleconferencing provisions, provided that it complies with the requirements for alternative teleconferencing described above and additional requirements, including that the subsidiary body designates at least one physical meeting location within the boundaries of the legislative body that created the subsidiary body where members of the public may physically attend, observe, hear, and participate in the meeting, as specified.

The bill would, until January 1, 2030, also authorize specified multijurisdictional bodies of local agencies to conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to the above-described alternative teleconferencing provisions, provided that it complies with the requirements for alternative teleconferencing described above and additional requirements, including that the eligible multijurisdictional body has adopted a resolution that authorizes the multijurisdictional body to use teleconferencing at a regular meeting in open session.

The bill would specify that these teleconferencing provisions are cumulative, and would authorize a legislative body to elect to use any teleconferencing provisions that are applicable to a meeting, regardless of whether any other teleconferencing provisions would also be applicable to that meeting.

Existing law defines “teleconference” for purposes of the authorization for a legislative body of a local agency to use teleconferencing to mean a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.

This bill would specify that “teleconference” does not include the attendance of one or more members of a legislative body in a meeting of the body solely by watching or listening via webcasting or any other similar electronic medium that does not permit members to interactively speak, discuss, or deliberate on matters.

(9)

(8) Existing law authorizes a special meeting to be called any time by, among other persons, the presiding officer of the legislative body

of a local agency, by delivering specified written notices and posting a notice on the local agency's internet website, if the local agency has one. Existing law requires specified legislative bodies to comply with the internet website posting requirement.

The bill would remove the requirement that only specified legislative bodies comply with the internet website posting requirement, thereby imposing that requirement on all legislative bodies.

~~(10)~~

(9) Existing law authorizes a legislative body of a local agency to hold an emergency meeting without complying with specified notice and posting requirements in the case of specified emergency circumstances, as specified, and imposes various requirements under these provisions applicable to either legislative bodies generally or legislative bodies which are a school board.

This bill would remove the school board distinction from the above-described provisions, thereby imposing the same requirements to hold an emergency meeting on all legislative bodies of local agencies.

By imposing additional duties on legislative bodies of local agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

~~(11)~~

(10) Existing law authorizes, in addition to other related specified authorizations, the presiding member of the legislative body conducting a meeting or their designee to remove, or cause the removal of, an individual for disrupting the meeting. Existing law defines "disrupting" for these purposes to mean engaging in behavior during a meeting of a legislative body that actually disrupts, disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting, as specified.

This bill would specify that a meeting for purposes of that provision includes any teleconferenced meeting. The bill would specify that the existing authority of a legislative body or its presiding officer to remove or limit participation by individuals or groups of persons who engage in behavior that actually disrupts, disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting, as specified, applies to members of the public participating in a meeting via a 2-way telephonic service or a 2-way audiovisual platform, as those terms are defined.

~~(12)~~

(11) The bill would make other updates to references in the act.

~~(13)~~

(12) Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of

public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

~~(14)~~

(13) The California Constitution requires local agencies, for the purpose of ensuring public access to the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies, to comply with a statutory enactment that amends or enacts laws relating to public records or open meetings and contains findings demonstrating that the enactment furthers the constitutional requirements relating to this purpose.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

~~(15)~~

(14) The bill would include findings that changes proposed by this bill address a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair and, therefore, apply to all cities, including charter cities.

~~(16)~~

(15) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 54952.2 of the Government Code, as
2 amended by Section 1 of Chapter 89 of the Statutes of 2020, is
3 amended to read:

4 54952.2. (a) As used in this chapter, “meeting” means any
5 congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body
6 at the same time and location, including teleconference location
7 as permitted by Section 54953, to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take
8 action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of
9 the legislative body.

10 (b) (1) A majority of the members of a legislative body shall
11 not, outside a meeting authorized by this chapter, use a series of
12 communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries,

1 to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item of business that
2 is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body.

3 (2) Paragraph (1) shall not be construed as preventing an
4 employee or official of a local agency, from engaging in separate
5 conversations or communications outside of a meeting authorized
6 by this chapter with members of a legislative body in order to
7 answer questions or provide information regarding a matter that
8 is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the local agency, if that
9 person does not communicate to members of the legislative body
10 the comments or position of any other member or members of the
11 legislative body.

12 (3) (A) Paragraph (1) shall not be construed as preventing a
13 member of the legislative body from engaging in separate
14 conversations or communications on an internet-based social media
15 platform to answer questions, provide information to the public,
16 or to solicit information from the public regarding a matter that is
17 within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body
18 provided that a majority of the members of the legislative body
19 do not use the internet-based social media platform to discuss
20 among themselves business of a specific nature that is within the
21 subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. A member of
22 the legislative body shall not respond directly to any
23 communication on an internet-based social media platform
24 regarding a matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of
25 the legislative body that is made, posted, or shared by any other
26 member of the legislative body.

27 (B) For purposes of this paragraph, all of the following
28 definitions shall apply:

29 (i) “Discuss among themselves” means communications made,
30 posted, or shared on an internet-based social media platform
31 between members of a legislative body, including comments or
32 use of digital icons that express reactions to communications made
33 by other members of the legislative body.

34 (ii) “Internet-based social media platform” means an online
35 service that is open and accessible to the public.

36 (iii) “Open and accessible to the public” means that members
37 of the general public have the ability to access and participate, free
38 of charge, in the social media platform without the approval by
39 the social media platform or a person or entity other than the social
40 media platform, including any forum and chatroom, and cannot

1 be blocked from doing so, except when the internet-based social
2 media platform determines that an individual violated its protocols
3 or rules.

4 (c) Nothing in this section shall impose the requirements of this
5 chapter upon any of the following:

6 (1) Individual contacts or conversations between a member of
7 a legislative body and any other person that do not violate
8 subdivision (b).

9 (2) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative
10 body at a conference or similar gathering open to the public that
11 involves a discussion of issues of general interest to the public or
12 to public agencies of the type represented by the legislative body,
13 provided that a majority of the members do not discuss among
14 themselves, other than as part of the scheduled program, business
15 of a specified nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction
16 of the local agency. Nothing in this paragraph is intended to allow
17 members of the public free admission to a conference or similar
18 gathering at which the organizers have required other participants
19 or registrants to pay fees or charges as a condition of attendance.

20 (3) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative
21 body at an open and publicized meeting organized to address a
22 topic of local community concern by a person or organization other
23 than the local agency, provided that a majority of the members do
24 not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled
25 program, business of a specific nature that is within the subject
26 matter jurisdiction of the legislative body of the local agency.

27 (4) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative
28 body at an open and noticed meeting of another body of the local
29 agency, or at an open and noticed meeting of a legislative body of
30 another local agency, provided that a majority of the members do
31 not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled
32 meeting, business of a specific nature that is within the subject
33 matter jurisdiction of the legislative body of the local agency.

34 (5) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative
35 body at a purely social or ceremonial occasion, provided that a
36 majority of the members do not discuss among themselves business
37 of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of
38 the legislative body of the local agency.

39 (6) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative
40 body at an open and noticed meeting of a standing committee of

1 that body, provided that the members of the legislative body who
2 are not members of the standing committee attend only as
3 observers.

4 SEC. 2. Section 54952.2 of the Government Code, as added
5 by Section 2 of Chapter 89 of the Statutes of 2020, is repealed.

6 SEC. 3. Section 54952.7 of the Government Code is amended
7 to read:

8 54952.7. A local agency shall provide a copy of this chapter
9 to any person elected or appointed to serve as a member of a
10 legislative body of the local agency.

11 SEC. 4. Section 54953 of the Government Code, as amended
12 by Section 2 of Chapter 534 of the Statutes of 2023, is amended
13 to read:

14 54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local
15 agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted
16 to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency,
17 except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

18 (b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
19 legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for
20 the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency
21 in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law.
22 The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all
23 otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise
24 applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting
25 or proceeding.

26 (2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used
27 for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject
28 matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. If the legislative body
29 of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, the legislative
30 body of a local agency shall comply with all of the following:

31 (A) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be
32 by rollcall.

33 (B) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a
34 manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the
35 parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a
36 local agency.

37 (C) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and
38 post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

39 (D) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to
40 access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity

1 for members of the public to address the legislative body directly
2 pursuant to Section 54954.3.

3 (3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use
4 teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference
5 locations. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the
6 notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each
7 teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During
8 the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the
9 legislative body shall participate from locations within the
10 boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises
11 jurisdiction, except as expressly provided in this chapter.

12 (4) The teleconferencing requirements of this subdivision shall
13 not apply to remote participation described in subdivision (c).

14 (c) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a
15 legislative body shall allow a member of the body with a disability,
16 as defined in Section 12102 of Title 42 of the United States Code,
17 that precludes the member's in-person attendance at meetings of
18 the body and that is not otherwise reasonably accommodated
19 pursuant to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
20 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.), to participate in any meeting of the
21 legislative body by remote participation, unless the legislative
22 body can demonstrate that allowing the remote participation would
23 impose an undue hardship.

24 (2) A member of a legislative body participating in a meeting
25 by remote participation pursuant to this subdivision shall do both
26 of the following:

27 (A) The member shall participate through both audio and visual
28 technology, except that any member with a disability, as defined
29 in Section 12102 of Title 42 of the United States Code, that
30 precludes the member from being physically capable of appearing
31 on camera may participate only through audio technology.

32 (B) The member shall disclose at the meeting before any action
33 is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older
34 are present in the room at the remote location with the member,
35 and the general nature of the member's relationship with any of
36 those individuals.

37 (3) Remote participation under this subdivision shall be treated
38 as in-person attendance at the physical meeting location for all
39 purposes, including any requirement that a quorum of the
40 legislative body participate from any particular location. The

1 provisions of subdivision (b) and Sections 54953.8 to 54953.8.7,
2 inclusive, shall not apply to remote participation under this
3 subdivision.

4 (d) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot,
5 whether preliminary or final.

6 (2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report
7 any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each
8 member present for the action.

9 (3) (A) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall
10 orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action
11 on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form
12 of fringe benefits of either of the following during the open meeting
13 in which the final action is to be taken:

14 (i) A local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of
15 Section 3511.1.

16 (ii) A department head or other similar administrative officer
17 of the local agency.

18 (B) This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the
19 California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with
20 Section 7920.000) of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created
21 or received in the process of developing the recommendation.

22 (e) For purposes of this section, both of the following definitions
23 apply:

24 (1) (A) "Teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body,
25 the members of which are in different locations, connected by
26 electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.

27 (B) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), "teleconference" does not
28 include one or more members watching or listening to a meeting
29 via webcasting or any other similar electronic medium that does
30 not permit members to interactively speak, discuss, or deliberate
31 on matters.

32 (2) "Remote participation" means participation in a meeting by
33 teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting
34 location designated in the notice of the meeting.

35 SEC. 5. Section 54953.4 is added to the Government Code, to
36 read:

37 54953.4. (a) (1) In addition to any other applicable
38 requirements of this chapter, a meeting held by a eligible legislative
39 body pursuant to this chapter shall comply with both of the
40 following requirements:

1 (A) (i) (I) All open and public meetings shall include an
2 opportunity for members of the public to attend via a two-way
3 telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform, except if
4 adequate telephonic or internet service is not operational at the
5 meeting location. If adequate telephonic or internet service is
6 operational at the meeting location during only a portion of the
7 meeting, the legislative body shall include an opportunity for
8 members of the public to attend via a two-way telephonic service
9 or a two-way audiovisual platform during that portion of the
10 meeting.

11 (II) Subclause (I) does not apply to a meeting that is held to do
12 any of the following:

13 (ia) Attend a judicial or administrative proceeding to which the
14 local agency is a party.

15 (ib) Inspect real or personal property provided that the topic of
16 the meeting is limited to items directly related to the real or
17 personal property.

18 (ic) Meet with elected or appointed officials of the United States
19 or the State of California, solely to discuss a legislative or
20 regulatory issue affecting the local agency and over which the
21 federal or state officials have jurisdiction.

22 (id) Meet in or nearby a facility owned by the agency, provided
23 that the topic of the meeting is limited to items directly related to
24 the facility.

25 (ie) Meet in an emergency situation pursuant to Section 54956.5.

26 (ii) If an eligible legislative body elects to provide a two-way
27 audiovisual platform, the eligible legislative body shall publicly
28 post and provide a call-in option, and activate any automatic
29 captioning function during the meeting if an automatic captioning
30 function is included with the two-way audiovisual platform. If an
31 eligible legislative body does not elect to provide a two-way
32 audiovisual platform, the eligible legislative body provide a
33 two-way telephonic service for the public to participate in the
34 meeting, pursuant to subclause (I).

35 (B) (i) All open and public meetings for which attendance via
36 a two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform
37 is provided in accordance with paragraph (1) shall provide the
38 public with an opportunity to provide public comment in
39 accordance with Section 54954.3 via the two-way telephonic or
40 two-way audiovisual platform, and ensure the opportunity for the

1 members of the public participating via a two-way telephonic or
2 two-way audiovisual platform to provide public comment with the
3 same time allotment as a person attending a meeting in person.

4 (2) (A) An eligible legislative body shall reasonably assist
5 members of the public who wish to translate a public meeting into
6 any language or wish to receive interpretation provided by another
7 member of the public, so long as the interpretation is not disrupting
8 to the meeting, as defined in Section 54957.95. The eligible
9 legislative body shall publicize instructions on how to request
10 assistance under this subdivision. Assistance may include any of
11 the following, as determined by the eligible legislative body:

12 (i) Arranging space for one or more interpreters at the meeting
13 location.

14 (ii) Allowing extra time during the meeting for interpretation
15 to occur.

16 (iii) Ensuring participants may utilize their personal equipment
17 or reasonably access facilities for participants to access
18 commercially available interpretation services.

19 (B) This section does not require an eligible legislative body to
20 provide interpretation of any public meeting, however, an eligible
21 legislative body may elect to provide interpretation of any public
22 meeting.

23 (C) The eligible legislative body is not responsible for the
24 content or accuracy of any interpretation facilitated, assisted with,
25 or provided under this subdivision. An action shall not be
26 commenced or maintained against the eligible legislative body
27 arising from the content or accuracy of any interpretation
28 facilitated, assisted with, or provided under this subdivision.

29 (3) An eligible legislative body shall take the following actions
30 to encourage residents, including those in underrepresented
31 communities and non-English-speaking communities, to participate
32 in public meetings:

33 (A) Have in place a system for electronically accepting and
34 fulfilling requests for meeting agendas and documents pursuant
35 to Section 54954.1 through email or through an integrated agenda
36 management platform. Information about how to make a request
37 using this system shall be accessible through a prominent direct
38 link posted on the primary internet website home page of the
39 eligible legislative body.

1 (B) (i) Create and maintain an accessible internet webpage
2 dedicated to public meetings that includes, or provides a link to,
3 all of the following information:

4 (I) A general explanation of the public meeting process for the
5 eligible legislative body.

6 (II) An explanation of the procedures for a member of the public
7 to provide in-person or remote oral public comment during a public
8 meeting or to submit written public comment.

9 (III) A calendar of all public meeting dates with calendar listings
10 that include the date, time, and location of each public meeting.

11 (IV) The agenda posted online pursuant to paragraph (2) of
12 subdivision (a) of Section 54954.2.

13 (ii) The eligible legislative body shall include a link to the
14 webpage required by subparagraph (A) on the home page of the
15 eligible legislative body's internet website.

16 (C) (i) Make reasonable efforts, as determined by the legislative
17 body, to invite groups that do not traditionally participate in public
18 meetings to attend those meetings, which may include, but are not
19 limited to, all the following:

20 (I) Media organizations that provide news coverage in the
21 jurisdiction of the eligible legislative body, including media
22 organizations that serve non-English-speaking communities.

23 (II) Good government, civil rights, civic engagement,
24 neighborhood, and community group organizations, or similar
25 organizations that are active in the jurisdiction of the eligible
26 legislative body, including organizations active in
27 non-English-speaking communities.

28 (ii) Legislative bodies shall have broad discretion in the choice
29 of reasonable efforts they make under this subparagraph. No action
30 shall be commenced or maintained against an eligible legislative
31 body arising from failing to provide public meeting information
32 to any specific group pursuant to this section.

33 (b) (1) (A) The agenda for each meeting of an eligible
34 legislative body shall be translated into all applicable languages,
35 and each translation shall be posted in accordance with Section
36 54954.2. Each translation shall include instructions in the
37 applicable language describing how to join the meeting by the
38 telephonic or internet-based service option, including any
39 requirements for registration for public comment.

1 (B) The accessible internet webpage provided under
 2 subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) shall be
 3 translated into all applicable languages, and each translation shall
 4 be accessible through a prominent direct link posted on the primary
 5 internet website home page of the eligible legislative body.

6 (2) A translation made using a digital translation service shall
 7 satisfy the requirements of paragraph (1).

8 (3) The eligible legislative body shall make available a physical
 9 location that is freely accessible to the public in reasonable
 10 proximity to the physical location in which the agenda and
 11 translations are posted as described in paragraph (1), and shall
 12 allow members of the public to post additional translations of the
 13 agenda in that location.

14 (4) The eligible legislative body is not responsible for the content
 15 or accuracy of any translation provided pursuant to this section.
 16 No action shall be commenced or maintained against an eligible
 17 legislative body arising from the content, accuracy, posting, or
 18 removal of any translation provided by the eligible legislative body
 19 or posted by any person pursuant to this section.

20 (5) For the purposes of this section, the agenda does not include
 21 the entire agenda packet.

22 (c) For purposes of this section, all of the following definitions
 23 apply:

24 (1) (A) “Applicable languages” means ~~languages~~ *languages,*
 25 *according to data from the most recent American Community*
 26 *Survey, spoken jointly by 20 percent or more of the population in*
 27 *the city or county in which the eligible legislative body is located*
 28 *that applicable population, provided that 20 percent or more of*
 29 *the population that speaks that language in that city or county*
 30 *speaks English less than “very well” and jointly speaks a language*
 31 *other than English according to data from the most recent American*
 32 *Community Survey. well.”*

33 (B) *For the purposes of subparagraph (A), the applicable*
 34 *population shall be determined as follows:*

35 (i) *For an eligible legislative body that is a city council or county*
 36 *board of supervisors, the applicable population shall be the*
 37 *population of the city or county.*

38 (ii) *For an eligible legislative body of a special district, the*
 39 *applicable population shall be either of the following, at the*
 40 *discretion of the board of directors of the special district:*

1 (I) *The population of the county with the greatest population*
2 *within the boundaries of the special district.*

3 (II) *The population of the service area of the special district, if*
4 *the special district has the data to determine what languages*
5 *spoken by the population within its service area meet the*
6 *requirements of paragraph (A).*

7 ~~(B)~~

8 (C) *If more than three languages meet the criteria set forth in*
9 *subparagraph (A), “applicable languages” shall mean the three*
10 *languages described in subparagraph (A) that are spoken by the*
11 *largest percentage of the population.*

12 ~~(E)~~

13 (D) *An eligible legislative body may elect to determine the*
14 *applicable languages based upon a source other than the most*
15 *recent American Community Survey if it makes a finding, based*
16 *upon substantial evidence, that the other source provides equally*
17 *or more reliable data for the territory over which the eligible*
18 *legislative body exercises jurisdiction.*

19 (2) *“Eligible legislative body” includes all means any of the*
20 *following:*

21 (A) *A city council of a city with a population of 30,000 or more.*

22 (B) *A county board of supervisors of a county, or city and*
23 *county, with a population of 30,000 or more.*

24 (C) *A city council of a city located in a county with a population*
25 *of 600,000 or more.*

26 (D) ~~*The board of directors of a special district whose boundaries*~~
27 ~~*include a population of 200,000 or more and that has an internet*~~
28 ~~*website. that has an internet website and meets any of the following*~~
29 ~~*conditions:*~~

30 (i) *The boundaries of the special district include the entirety of*
31 *a county with a population of 600,000 or more, and the special*
32 *district has over 200 full-time equivalent employees.*

33 (ii) *The special district has over 1,000 full-time equivalent*
34 *employees.*

35 (iii) *The special district has annual revenues, based on the most*
36 *recent Financial Transaction Report data published by the*
37 *California State Controller, that exceed four hundred million*
38 *dollars (\$400,000,000), adjusted annually for inflation commencing*
39 *January 1, 2027, as measured by the percentage change in the*
40 *California Consumer Price Index from January 1 of the prior year*

1 to January 1 of the current year, and the special district employs
2 over 200 full-time equivalent employees.

3 (3) “Two-way audiovisual platform” means an online platform
4 that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting
5 via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic
6 service.

7 (4) “Two-way telephonic service” means a telephone service
8 that does not require internet access and allows participants to dial
9 a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.

10 (d) *This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026.*

11 ~~(e)~~

12 (e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2030,
13 and as of that date is repealed.

14 SEC. 6. Section 54953.5 of the Government Code is amended
15 to read:

16 54953.5. (a) Any person attending an open and public meeting
17 of a legislative body of a local agency shall have the right to record
18 the proceedings in the absence of a reasonable finding by the
19 legislative body of the local agency that the recording cannot
20 continue without noise, illumination, or obstruction of view that
21 constitutes, or would constitute, a persistent disruption of the
22 proceedings.

23 (b) Any recording of an open and public meeting made for
24 whatever purpose by or at the direction of the local agency shall
25 be subject to inspection pursuant to the California Public Records
26 Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title
27 1), but, notwithstanding Section 34090, may be erased or destroyed
28 30 days after the recording. Any inspection of an audio or video
29 recording shall be provided without charge on equipment made
30 available by the local agency.

31 SEC. 7. Section 54953.7 of the Government Code is amended
32 to read:

33 54953.7. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
34 legislative bodies of local agencies may impose requirements upon
35 themselves which allow greater access to their meetings than
36 prescribed by the minimal standards set forth in this chapter. In
37 addition thereto, an elected legislative body of a local agency may
38 impose those requirements on appointed legislative bodies of the
39 local agency.

1 SEC. 8. Section 54953.8 is added to the Government Code, to
2 read:

3 54953.8. (a) The legislative body of a local agency may use
4 teleconferencing as authorized by subdivision (b) of Section 54953
5 without complying with the requirements of paragraph (3) of
6 subdivision (b) of Section 54953 in any of the circumstances
7 described in Sections 54953.8.1 to 54953.8.7, inclusive.

8 (b) A legislative body that holds a teleconference meeting
9 pursuant to this section shall, in addition to any other applicable
10 requirements of this chapter, comply with all of the following:

11 (1) The legislative body shall provide at least one of the
12 following as a means by which the public may remotely hear and
13 visually observe the meeting, and remotely address the legislative
14 body:

15 (A) A two-way audiovisual platform.

16 (B) A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the
17 meeting.

18 (2) In each instance in which notice of the time of the
19 teleconference meeting held pursuant to this section is otherwise
20 given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the
21 legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which
22 members of the public may access the meeting and offer public
23 comment. The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity
24 for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based
25 service option.

26 (3) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body
27 from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the
28 call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of
29 a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents
30 members of the public from offering public comments using the
31 call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body
32 shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting
33 agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or
34 internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda
35 items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from
36 broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section
37 54960.1.

38 (4) The legislative body shall not require public comments to
39 be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an

1 opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer
2 comment in real time.

3 (5) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to
4 provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or
5 other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative
6 body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may
7 be required to register as required by the third-party internet
8 website or online platform to participate.

9 (6) (A) A legislative body that provides a timed public comment
10 period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment
11 period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant
12 to paragraph (5), to provide public comment until that timed public
13 comment period has elapsed.

14 (B) A legislative body that does not provide a timed public
15 comment period, but takes public comment separately on each
16 agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda
17 item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public
18 comment, including time for members of the public to register
19 pursuant to paragraph (5), or otherwise be recognized for the
20 purpose of providing public comment.

21 (C) A legislative body that provides a timed general public
22 comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item
23 shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to
24 register, pursuant to paragraph (5), until the timed general public
25 comment period has elapsed.

26 (7) Any member of the legislative body who participates in a
27 teleconference meeting from a remote location pursuant to this
28 section and the specific provision of law that the member relied
29 upon to permit their participation by teleconferencing shall be
30 listed in the minutes of the meeting.

31 (8) The legislative body shall have and implement a procedure
32 for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable
33 accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with
34 the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
35 Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. In
36 each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is
37 otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted,
38 the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for
39 receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.

1 (9) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this
2 chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and
3 nondiscrimination laws.

4 (c) A local agency shall identify and make available to
5 legislative bodies a list of one or more meeting locations that may
6 be available for use by the legislative bodies to conduct their
7 meetings.

8 (d) (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body
9 from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.

10 (2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from
11 providing the public with additional physical locations in which
12 the public may observe and address the legislative body by
13 electronic means.

14 (e) A member of a legislative body who participates in a
15 teleconference meeting from a remote location pursuant to this
16 section shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is
17 taken whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are
18 present in the room at the remote location with the member, and
19 the general nature of the member's relationship with those
20 individuals.

21 (f) *The teleconferencing provisions described in Section 54953*
22 *and Sections 54953.8.1 to 54953.8.7, inclusive, are cumulative. A*
23 *legislative body may elect to use any teleconferencing provisions*
24 *that are applicable to a meeting, regardless of whether any other*
25 *teleconferencing provisions would also be applicable to that*
26 *meeting.*

27 (f)

28 (g) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

29 (1) "Remote location" means a location from which a member
30 of a legislative body participates in a meeting pursuant to paragraph
31 (7) of subdivision (b), other than any physical meeting location
32 designated in the notice of the meeting. Remote locations need not
33 be accessible to the public.

34 (2) "Teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body,
35 the members of which are in different locations, connected by
36 electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.

37 (3) "Two-way audiovisual platform" means an online platform
38 that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting
39 via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic
40 service.

1 (4) “Two-way telephonic service” means a telephone service
2 that does not require internet access and allows participants to dial
3 a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.

4 (5) “Webcasting” means a streaming video broadcast online or
5 on television, using streaming media technology to distribute a
6 single content source to many simultaneous listeners and viewers.

7 SEC. 9. Section 54953.8.1 is added to the Government Code,
8 to read:

9 54953.8.1. (a) A health authority may conduct a teleconference
10 meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8, provided that it complies
11 with the requirements of that section.

12 (b) Nothing in this section or Section 54953.8 shall be construed
13 as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting
14 at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority
15 or from using teleconference locations within or near the
16 jurisdiction of the authority.

17 (c) For purposes of this section, a health authority means any
18 entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35,
19 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and
20 Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to
21 Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division
22 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of
23 the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to
24 a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2
25 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and
26 Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.

27 SEC. 10. Section 54953.8.2 is added to the Government Code,
28 to read:

29 54953.8.2. (a) A legislative body of a local agency may
30 conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8
31 during a proclaimed state of emergency or local emergency,
32 provided that it complies with the requirements of that section and
33 the teleconferencing is used in either of the following
34 circumstances:

35 (1) For the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether
36 as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present
37 imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

38 (2) After a determination described in paragraph (1) is made
39 that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present
40 imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

1 (b) If the state of emergency or local emergency remains active,
2 in order to continue to teleconference pursuant to this section, the
3 legislative body shall, no later than 45 days after teleconferencing
4 for the first time pursuant to this section, and every 45 days
5 thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

6 (1) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of
7 the state of emergency or local emergency.

8 (2) The state of emergency or local emergency continues to
9 directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.

10 (c) This section shall not be construed to require the legislative
11 body to provide a physical location from which the public may
12 attend or comment.

13 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section
14 54953.8, a legislative body conducting a teleconference meeting
15 pursuant to this section may elect to use a two-way telephonic
16 service without a live webcasting of the meeting.

17 (e) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

18 (1) “Local emergency” means a condition of extreme peril to
19 persons or property proclaimed by the governing body of the local
20 agency affected, in accordance with Section 8630 of the California
21 Emergency Services Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section
22 8550) of Division 1 of Title 2), as defined in Section 8680.9, or a
23 local health emergency declared pursuant to Section 101080 of
24 the Health and Safety Code. Local emergency, as used in this
25 section, refers only to local emergencies in the boundaries of the
26 territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction.

27 (2) “State of emergency” means state of emergency proclaimed
28 pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services
29 Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 8550) of Division 1 of
30 Title 2).

31 SEC. 11. Section 54953.8.3 is added to the Government Code,
32 to read:

33 54953.8.3. (a) A legislative body of a local agency may
34 conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8 if,
35 during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the
36 members of the legislative body participates in person from a
37 singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda, which
38 location shall be open to the public and situated within the
39 boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises
40 jurisdiction, provided that the legislative body complies with the

1 requirements of Section 54953.8 and all of the following additional
2 requirements:

3 (1) A member of the legislative body notifies the legislative
4 body at the earliest opportunity possible, including at the start of
5 a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just
6 cause, including a general description of the circumstances relating
7 to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting.

8 (2) The member shall participate through both audio and visual
9 technology.

10 (3) (A) The provisions of this subdivision shall not serve as a
11 means for any member of a legislative body to participate in
12 meetings of the legislative body solely by teleconference from a
13 remote location for just cause for more than the following number
14 of meetings, as applicable:

15 (i) Two meetings per year, if the legislative body regularly meets
16 once per month or less.

17 (ii) Five meetings per year, if the legislative body regularly
18 meets twice per month.

19 (iii) Seven meetings per year, if the legislative body regularly
20 meets three or more times per month.

21 (B) For the purpose of counting meetings attended by
22 teleconference under this paragraph, a “meeting” shall be defined
23 as any number of meetings of the legislative body of a local agency
24 that begin on the same calendar day.

25 (b) The minutes for the meeting shall identify the specific
26 provision in subdivision (c) that each member relied upon to
27 participate remotely. This subdivision shall not be construed to
28 require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability,
29 or any personal medical information that is otherwise exempt under
30 existing law, including, but not limited to, the Confidentiality of
31 Medical Information Act (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section
32 56) of Part 2.6 of Division 1 of the Civil Code).

33 (c) For purposes of this section, “just cause” means any of the
34 following:

35 (1) Childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent,
36 grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them
37 to participate remotely. “Child,” “parent,” “grandparent,”
38 “grandchild,” and “sibling” have the same meaning as those terms
39 do in Section 12945.2.

1 (2) A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending
2 in person.

3 (3) A need related to a physical or mental condition that is not
4 subject to subdivision (c) of Section 54953.

5 (4) Travel while on official business of the legislative body or
6 another state or local agency.

7 (5) An immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent,
8 grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner of the member
9 that requires the member to participate remotely.

10 (6) A physical or family medical emergency that prevents a
11 member from attending in person.

12 (d) This section shall not be construed to limit the ability of a
13 legislative body to use alternative teleconferencing provisions.

14 (e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2030,
15 and as of that date is repealed.

16 SEC. 12. Section 54953.8.4 is added to the Government Code,
17 to read:

18 54953.8.4. (a) An eligible neighborhood council may conduct
19 a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8, provided
20 that it complies with the requirements of that section and all of the
21 following have occurred:

22 (1) (A) The city council for a city described in paragraph (2)
23 of subdivision (b) considers whether to adopt a resolution to
24 authorize eligible neighborhood councils to use teleconferencing
25 as described in this section at an open and regular meeting.

26 (B) If the city council adopts a resolution described in
27 subparagraph (A), an eligible neighborhood council may elect to
28 use teleconferencing pursuant to this section if a majority of the
29 eligible neighborhood council votes to do so. The eligible
30 neighborhood council shall notify the city council if it elects to
31 use teleconferencing pursuant to this section and its justification
32 for doing so.

33 (C) Upon receiving notification from an eligible neighborhood
34 council described in subparagraph (B), the city council may adopt
35 a resolution to prohibit the eligible neighborhood council from
36 using teleconferencing pursuant to this section.

37 (2) After completing the requirements of subparagraph (A) of
38 paragraph (1), an eligible neighborhood council that holds a
39 meeting pursuant to this subdivision shall do all of the following:

1 (A) At least a quorum of the members of the eligible
2 neighborhood council shall participate from locations within the
3 boundaries of the city in which the eligible neighborhood council
4 is established.

5 (B) At least once per year, at least a quorum of the members of
6 the eligible neighborhood council shall participate in person from
7 a singular physical location that is open to the public and within
8 the boundaries of the eligible neighborhood council.

9 (3) If the meeting is during regular business hours of the offices
10 of the city council member that represents the area that includes
11 the eligible neighborhood council, the eligible neighborhood
12 council shall provide a publicly accessible physical location from
13 which the public may attend or comment, which shall be the offices
14 of the city council member who represents the area where the
15 eligible neighborhood council is located, unless the eligible
16 neighborhood council identifies an alternative location.

17 (4) If the meeting is outside regular business hours, the eligible
18 neighborhood council shall make reasonable efforts to
19 accommodate any member of the public that requests an
20 accommodation to participate in the meeting.

21 (b) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

22 (1) “Accommodation” means providing a publicly accessible
23 physical location for the member of the public to participate from,
24 providing access to technology necessary to participate in the
25 meeting, or identifying locations or resources available that could
26 provide the member of the public with an opportunity to participate
27 in the meeting.

28 (2) “Eligible neighborhood council” means a neighborhood
29 council that is an advisory body with the purpose to promote more
30 citizen participation in government and make government more
31 responsive to local needs that is established pursuant to the charter
32 of a city with a population of more than 3,000,000 people that is
33 subject to this chapter.

34 (c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2030,
35 and as of that date is repealed.

36 SEC. 13. Section 54953.8.5 is added to the Government Code,
37 to read:

38 54953.8.5. (a) An eligible community college student
39 organization may conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to

1 Section 54953.8, provided that it complies with the requirements
2 of that section and all of the following additional requirements:

3 (1) An eligible community college student organization may
4 only use teleconferencing as described in Section 54953.8 after
5 all the following have occurred:

6 (A) The board of trustees for a community college district
7 considers whether to adopt a resolution to authorize eligible
8 community college student organizations to use teleconferencing
9 as described in this section at an open and regular meeting.

10 (B) If the board of trustees for a community college district
11 adopts a resolution described in subparagraph (A), an eligible
12 community college student organization may elect to use
13 teleconferencing pursuant to this section if a majority of the eligible
14 community college student organization votes to do so. The eligible
15 community college student organization shall notify the board of
16 trustees if it elects to use teleconferencing pursuant to this section
17 and its justification for doing so.

18 (C) Upon receiving notification from an eligible community
19 college student organization as described in subparagraph (B), the
20 board of trustees may adopt a resolution to prohibit the eligible
21 community college student organization from using
22 teleconferencing pursuant to this section.

23 (D) (i) Except as specified in clause (ii), at least a quorum of
24 the members of the eligible community college student organization
25 shall participate from a singular physical location that is accessible
26 to the public and is within the community college district in which
27 the eligible community college student organization is established.

28 (ii) The requirements described in clause (i) shall not apply to
29 the California Online Community College.

30 (iii) Notwithstanding the requirements of clause (i), a person
31 may count toward the establishment of a quorum pursuant to clause
32 (i) regardless of whether the person is participating at the in-person
33 location of the meeting or remotely if the person meets any of the
34 following criteria:

35 (I) The person is under 18 years of age.

36 (II) The person is incarcerated.

37 (III) The person is unable to disclose the location that they are
38 participating from because of either of the following circumstances:

39 (ia) The person has been issued a protective court order,
40 including, but not limited to, a domestic violence restraining order.

1 (ib) The person is participating in a program that has to remain
2 confidential, including, but not limited to, an independent living
3 program.

4 (IV) The person provides childcare or caregiving to a child,
5 parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner
6 that requires them to participate remotely. For purposes of this
7 subclause, “child,” “parent,” “grandparent,” “grandchild,” and
8 “sibling” have the same meaning as those terms are defined in
9 Section 12945.2.

10 (2) An eligible community college student organization that
11 holds a meeting by teleconference as described in Section 54953.8
12 shall do the following, as applicable:

13 (A) (i) Except as specified in subparagraph (B), if the meeting
14 is during regular business hours of the offices of the board of
15 trustees of the community college district, the eligible community
16 college student organization shall provide a publicly accessible
17 physical location from which the public may attend or comment,
18 which shall be the offices of the board of trustees of the community
19 college district, unless the eligible community college student
20 organization identifies an alternative location.

21 (ii) Except as specified in subparagraph (B), if the meeting is
22 outside regular business hours, the eligible community college
23 student organization shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate
24 any member of the public that requests an accommodation to
25 participate in the meeting. For the purposes of this subparagraph,
26 “accommodation” means providing a publicly accessible physical
27 location for the member of the public to participate from, providing
28 access to technology necessary to participate in the meeting, or
29 identifying locations or resources available that could provide the
30 member of the public with an opportunity to participate in the
31 meeting.

32 (B) The requirements described in subparagraph (A) shall not
33 apply to the California Online Community College.

34 (b) For purposes of this section, “eligible community college
35 student organization” means a student body association organized
36 pursuant to Section 76060 of the Education Code, or any other
37 student-run community college organization that is required to
38 comply with the meeting requirements of this chapter, that is in
39 any community college recognized within the California

1 Community Colleges system and includes the Student Senate for
2 California Community Colleges.

3 (c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2030,
4 and as of that date is repealed.

5 SEC. 14. Section 54953.8.6 is added to the Government Code,
6 to read:

7 54953.8.6. (a) An eligible subsidiary body may conduct a
8 teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8, provided that
9 it complies with the requirements of that section and all of the
10 following additional requirements:

11 (1) The eligible subsidiary body shall designate at least one
12 physical meeting location within the boundaries of the legislative
13 body that created the eligible subsidiary body where members of
14 the public may physically attend, observe, hear, and participate in
15 the meeting. At least one staff member of the eligible subsidiary
16 body or the legislative body that created the eligible subsidiary
17 body shall be present at each physical meeting location during the
18 meeting. The eligible subsidiary body shall post the agenda at each
19 physical meeting location, but need not post the agenda at a remote
20 location.

21 (2) (A) A member of the eligible subsidiary body shall visibly
22 appear on camera during the open portion of a meeting that is
23 publicly accessible via the internet or other online platform, except
24 if the member has a disability, as defined in Section 12102 of Title
25 42 of the United States Code, that precludes the member from
26 being physically capable of appearing on camera.

27 (B) The visual appearance of a member of the eligible subsidiary
28 body on camera may cease only when the appearance would be
29 technologically impracticable, including, but not limited to, when
30 the member experiences a lack of reliable broadband or internet
31 connectivity that would be remedied by joining without video, or
32 when the visual display of meeting materials, information, or
33 speakers on the internet or other online platform requires the visual
34 appearance of a member of a subsidiary body on camera to cease.

35 (C) If a member of the eligible subsidiary body does not appear
36 on camera due to challenges with internet connectivity, the member
37 shall announce the reason for their nonappearance when they turn
38 off their camera.

39 (3) An elected official serving as a member of an eligible
40 subsidiary body in their official capacity shall not participate in a

1 meeting of the eligible subsidiary body by teleconferencing
2 pursuant to this section unless the use of teleconferencing complies
3 with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section
4 54953.

5 (4) (A) In order to use teleconferencing pursuant to this section,
6 the legislative body that established the eligible subsidiary body
7 by charter, ordinance, resolution, or other formal action shall make
8 the following findings by majority vote before the eligible
9 subsidiary body uses teleconferencing pursuant to this section for
10 the first time, and every 12 months thereafter:

11 (i) The legislative body has considered the circumstances of the
12 eligible subsidiary body.

13 (ii) Teleconference meetings of the eligible subsidiary body
14 would enhance public access to meetings of the eligible subsidiary
15 body.

16 (iii) Teleconference meetings of the eligible subsidiary body
17 would promote the attraction, retention, and diversity of eligible
18 subsidiary body members.

19 (B) (i) An eligible subsidiary body authorized to use
20 teleconferencing pursuant to this section may request to present
21 any recommendations it develops to the legislative body that
22 created it.

23 (ii) Upon receiving a request described in clause (i), the
24 legislative body that created the subsidiary body shall hold a
25 discussion at a regular meeting held within 60 days after the
26 legislative body receives the request, or if the legislative body does
27 not have another regular meeting scheduled within 60 days after
28 the legislative body receives the request, at the next regular meeting
29 after the request is received.

30 (iii) The discussion required by clause (ii) shall not be placed
31 on a consent calendar, but may be combined with the legislative
32 body's subsequent consideration of the findings described in
33 subparagraph (A) for the following 12 months.

34 (iv) The legislative body shall not take any action on any
35 recommendations included in the report of a subsidiary body until
36 the next regular meeting of the legislative body following the
37 discussion described in clause (ii).

38 (C) After the legislative body makes the findings described in
39 subparagraph (A), the eligible subsidiary body shall approve the

1 use of teleconferencing by majority vote before using
2 teleconference pursuant to this section.

3 (D) The legislative body that created the eligible subsidiary
4 body may elect to prohibit the eligible subsidiary body from using
5 teleconferencing pursuant to this section at any time.

6 (b) For purposes of this section, “eligible subsidiary body”
7 means a legislative body that meets all of the following:

8 (1) Is described in subdivision (b) of Section 54952.

9 (2) Serves exclusively in an advisory capacity.

10 (3) Is not authorized to take final action on legislation,
11 regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, or any other entitlements,
12 grants, or allocations of funds.

13 (4) Does not have primary subject matter jurisdiction, as defined
14 by the charter, an ordinance, a resolution, or any formal action of
15 the legislative body that created the subsidiary body, that focuses
16 on elections, budgets, police oversight, or removing from, or
17 restricting access to, materials available in public libraries.

18 (c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2030,
19 and as of that date is repealed.

20 SEC. 15. Section 54953.8.7 is added to the Government Code,
21 to read:

22 54953.8.7. (a) An eligible multijurisdictional body may
23 conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8,
24 provided that it complies with the requirements of that section and
25 all of the following additional requirements:

26 (1) The eligible multijurisdictional body has adopted a resolution
27 that authorizes the eligible multijurisdictional body to use
28 teleconferencing pursuant to this section at a regular meeting in
29 open session.

30 (2) At least a quorum of the members of the eligible
31 multijurisdictional body shall participate from one or more physical
32 locations that are open to the public and within the boundaries of
33 the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction.

34 (3) A member of the eligible multijurisdictional body who
35 receives compensation for their service on the eligible
36 multijurisdictional body shall participate from a physical location
37 that is open to the public. For purposes of this paragraph,
38 “compensation” does not include reimbursement for actual and
39 necessary expenses.

1 (4) A member of the eligible multijurisdictional body may
2 participate from a remote location provided that:

3 (A) The eligible multijurisdictional body identifies each member
4 of the eligible multijurisdictional body who plans to participate
5 remotely in the agenda.

6 (B) The member shall participate through both audio and visual
7 technology.

8 (5) A member of the eligible multijurisdictional body shall not
9 participate in a meeting remotely pursuant to this section, unless
10 the location from which the member participates is more than 20
11 miles each way from any physical location of the meeting described
12 in paragraph (2).

13 (6) The provisions of this section shall not serve as a means for
14 any member of a legislative body to participate in meetings of the
15 legislative body solely by teleconference from a remote location
16 for more than the following number of meetings, as applicable:

17 (A) Five meetings per year, if the legislative body regularly
18 meets twice per month.

19 (B) Seven meetings per year, if the legislative body regularly
20 meets three or more times per month.

21 (C) For the purpose of counting meetings attended by
22 teleconference under this paragraph, a “meeting” shall be defined
23 as any number of meetings of the legislative body of a local agency
24 that begin on the same calendar day.

25 (b) For the purposes of this section, both of the following
26 definitions apply:

27 (1) “Eligible multijurisdictional body” means a
28 multijurisdictional board, commission, or advisory body of a
29 multijurisdictional, cross-county agency, the membership of which
30 board, commission, or advisory body is appointed, and the board,
31 commission, or advisory body is otherwise subject to this chapter.

32 (2) “Multijurisdictional” means either of the following:

33 (A) A legislative body that includes representatives from more
34 than one county, city, city and county, or special district.

35 (B) A legislative body of a joint powers entity formed pursuant
36 to an agreement entered into in accordance with Article 1
37 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 of
38 Title 1.

39 (c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2030,
40 and as of that date is repealed.

1 SEC. 16. Section 54954.2 of the Government Code, as amended
2 by Section 92 of Chapter 131 of the Statutes of 2023, is amended
3 to read:

4 54954.2. (a) (1) At least 72 hours before a regular meeting,
5 the legislative body of the local agency, or its designee, shall post
6 an agenda that meets all of the following requirements:

7 (A) The agenda shall contain a brief general description of each
8 item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting,
9 including items to be discussed in closed session. A brief general
10 description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words.

11 (B) The agenda shall specify the time and location of the regular
12 meeting and shall be posted in a location that is freely accessible
13 to members of the public and on the local agency's internet website,
14 if the local agency has one.

15 (C) (i) If requested, the agenda shall be made available in
16 appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as
17 required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of
18 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations
19 adopted in implementation thereof.

20 (ii) The agenda shall include information regarding how, to
21 whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or
22 accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made
23 by a person with a disability who requires a modification or
24 accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.

25 (2) For a meeting occurring on and after January 1, 2019, of a
26 legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district,
27 school district, or political subdivision established by the state that
28 has an internet website, the following provisions shall apply:

29 (A) An online posting of an agenda shall be posted on the
30 primary internet website home page of a city, county, city and
31 county, special district, school district, or political subdivision
32 established by the state that is accessible through a prominent,
33 direct link to the current agenda. The direct link to the agenda shall
34 not be in a contextual menu; however, a link in addition to the
35 direct link to the agenda may be accessible through a contextual
36 menu.

37 (B) An online posting of an agenda, including, but not limited
38 to, an agenda posted in an integrated agenda management platform,
39 shall be posted in an open format that meets all of the following
40 requirements:

1 (i) Retrievable, downloadable, indexable, and electronically
2 searchable by commonly used internet search applications.

3 (ii) Platform independent and machine readable.

4 (iii) Available to the public free of charge and without any
5 restriction that would impede the reuse or redistribution of the
6 agenda.

7 (C) A legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special
8 district, school district, or political subdivision established by the
9 state that has an internet website and an integrated agenda
10 management platform shall not be required to comply with
11 subparagraph (A) if all of the following are met:

12 (i) A direct link to the integrated agenda management platform
13 shall be posted on the primary internet website home page of a
14 city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or
15 political subdivision established by the state. The direct link to the
16 integrated agenda management platform shall not be in a contextual
17 menu. When a person clicks on the direct link to the integrated
18 agenda management platform, the direct link shall take the person
19 directly to an internet website with the agendas of the legislative
20 body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school
21 district, or political subdivision established by the state.

22 (ii) The integrated agenda management platform may contain
23 the prior agendas of a legislative body of a city, county, city and
24 county, special district, school district, or political subdivision
25 established by the state for all meetings occurring on or after
26 January 1, 2019.

27 (iii) The current agenda of the legislative body of a city, county,
28 city and county, special district, school district, or political
29 subdivision established by the state shall be the first agenda
30 available at the top of the integrated agenda management platform.

31 (iv) All agendas posted in the integrated agenda management
32 platform shall comply with the requirements in clauses (i), (ii),
33 and (iii) of subparagraph (B).

34 (D) The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to a political
35 subdivision of a local agency that was established by the legislative
36 body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school
37 district, or political subdivision established by the state.

38 (E) For purposes of this paragraph, both of the following
39 definitions apply:

1 (1) “Integrated agenda management platform” means an internet
2 website of a city, county, city and county, special district, school
3 district, or political subdivision established by the state dedicated
4 to providing the entirety of the agenda information for the
5 legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district,
6 school district, or political subdivision established by the state to
7 the public.

8 (2) “Legislative body” means a legislative body that meets the
9 definition of subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

10 (3) No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not
11 appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a
12 legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made
13 or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony
14 rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative
15 or in response to questions posed by the public, a member of a
16 legislative body or its staff may ask a question for clarification,
17 make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on their own
18 activities. Furthermore, a member of a legislative body, or the
19 body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the legislative body,
20 may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual
21 information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent
22 meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to
23 place a matter of business on a future agenda.

24 (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the legislative body may
25 take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda
26 under any of the conditions stated below. Prior to discussing any
27 item pursuant to this subdivision, the legislative body shall publicly
28 identify the item.

29 (1) Upon a determination by a majority vote of the legislative
30 body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section
31 54956.5.

32 (2) Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members
33 of the legislative body present at the meeting, or, if less than
34 two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those
35 members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and
36 that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency
37 subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision
38 (a).

39 (3) The item was posted pursuant to subdivision (a) for a prior
40 meeting of the legislative body occurring not more than five

1 calendar days prior to the date action is taken on the item, and at
2 the prior meeting the item was continued to the meeting at which
3 action is being taken.

4 (c) This section is necessary to implement and reasonably within
5 the scope of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article
6 I of the California Constitution.

7 (d) For purposes of subdivision (a), the requirement that the
8 agenda be posted on the local agency's internet website, if the
9 local agency has one, shall only apply to a legislative body that
10 meets either of the following standards:

11 (1) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a)
12 of Section 54952.

13 (2) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (b)
14 of Section 54952, if the members of the legislative body are
15 compensated for their appearance, and if one or more of the
16 members of the legislative body are also members of a legislative
17 body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

18 SEC. 17. Section 54954.3 of the Government Code is amended
19 to read:

20 54954.3. (a) (1) Every agenda for regular meetings shall
21 provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly
22 address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public,
23 before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item,
24 that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body,
25 provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing
26 on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by
27 subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.

28 (2) (A) *Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the agenda need not*
29 *provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the*
30 *legislative body on any item that has already been considered by*
31 *a committee, composed exclusively of members of the legislative*
32 *body, at a public meeting wherein all interested members of the*
33 *public were afforded the opportunity to address the committee on*
34 *the item, before or during the committee's consideration of the*
35 *item.*

36 (B) *Subparagraph (A) shall not apply if any of the following*
37 *conditions are met:*

38 (i) *The item has been substantially changed since the committee*
39 *heard the item, as determined by the legislative body.*

1 (ii) *When considering the item, a quorum of the committee*
2 *members did not participate from a singular physical location,*
3 *that was clearly identified on the agenda, open to the public, and*
4 *situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local*
5 *agency exercises jurisdiction.*

6 (iii) *The committee has primary subject matter jurisdiction, as*
7 *defined by the charter; an ordinance, a resolution, or any formal*
8 *action of the legislative body that created the subsidiary body, that*
9 *focuses on elections, budgets, police oversight, or removing from,*
10 *or restricting access to, materials available in public libraries.*

11 ~~(2)~~

12 (3) Every notice for a special meeting shall provide an
13 opportunity for members of the public to directly address the
14 legislative body concerning any item that has been described in
15 the notice for the meeting before or during consideration of that
16 item.

17 (b) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may adopt
18 reasonable regulations to ensure that the intent of subdivision (a)
19 is carried out, including, but not limited to, regulations limiting
20 the total amount of time allocated for public testimony on particular
21 issues and for each individual speaker.

22 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), when the legislative body
23 of a local agency limits time for public comment, the legislative
24 body of a local agency shall provide at least twice the allotted time
25 to a member of the public who utilizes a translator to ensure that
26 non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly
27 address the legislative body of a local agency.

28 (3) Paragraph (2) shall not apply if the legislative body of a
29 local agency utilizes simultaneous translation equipment in a
30 manner that allows the legislative body of a local agency to hear
31 the translated public testimony simultaneously.

32 (c) The legislative body of a local agency shall not prohibit
33 public criticism of the policies, procedures, programs, or services
34 of the agency, or of the acts or omissions of the legislative body.
35 Nothing in this subdivision shall confer any privilege or protection
36 for expression beyond that otherwise provided by law.

37 SEC. 18. Section 54956 of the Government Code is amended
38 to read:

39 54956. (a) (1) A special meeting may be called at any time
40 by the presiding officer of the legislative body of a local agency,

1 or by a majority of the members of the legislative body, by
2 delivering written notice to each member of the legislative body
3 and to each local newspaper of general circulation and radio or
4 television station requesting notice in writing and posting a notice
5 on the local agency's internet website, if the local agency has one.
6 The notice shall be delivered personally or by any other means
7 and shall be received at least 24 hours before the time of the
8 meeting as specified in the notice. The call and notice shall specify
9 the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be
10 transacted or discussed. No other business shall be considered at
11 these meetings by the legislative body. The written notice may be
12 dispensed with as to any member who at or prior to the time the
13 meeting convenes files with the clerk or secretary of the legislative
14 body a written waiver of notice. The waiver may be given by
15 telephone or electronic mail. The written notice may also be
16 dispensed with as to any member who is actually present at the
17 meeting at the time it convenes.

18 (2) The call and notice shall be posted at least 24 hours prior to
19 the special meeting in a location that is freely accessible to
20 members of the public.

21 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, a legislative body shall not
22 call a special meeting regarding the salaries, salary schedules, or
23 compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits, of the legislative
24 body or of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d)
25 of Section 3511.1. However, this subdivision does not apply to a
26 local agency calling a special meeting to discuss the local agency's
27 budget.

28 SEC. 19. Section 54956.5 of the Government Code is amended
29 to read:

30 54956.5. (a) For purposes of this section, "emergency
31 situation" means both of the following:

32 (1) An emergency, which shall be defined as a work stoppage,
33 crippling activity, or other activity that severely impairs public
34 health, safety, or both, as determined by a majority of the members
35 of the legislative body.

36 (2) A dire emergency, which shall be defined as a crippling
37 disaster, mass destruction, terrorist act, or threatened terrorist
38 activity that poses peril so immediate and significant that requiring
39 a legislative body to provide one-hour notice before holding an
40 emergency meeting under this section may endanger the public

1 health, safety, or both, as determined by a majority of the members
2 of the legislative body.

3 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2), in the case of an emergency
4 situation involving matters upon which prompt action is necessary
5 due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities,
6 a legislative body may hold an emergency meeting without
7 complying with either the 24-hour notice requirement or the
8 24-hour posting requirement of Section 54956 or both of the notice
9 and posting requirements.

10 (2) Each local newspaper of general circulation and radio or
11 television station that has requested notice of special meetings
12 pursuant to Section 54956 shall be notified by the presiding officer
13 of the legislative body, or designee thereof, one hour prior to the
14 emergency meeting, or, in the case of a dire emergency, at or near
15 the time that the presiding officer or designee notifies the members
16 of the legislative body of the emergency meeting.

17 (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the notice required
18 by this paragraph shall be given by telephone and all telephone
19 numbers provided in the most recent request of a newspaper or
20 station for notification of special meetings shall be exhausted. In
21 the event that telephone services are not functioning, the notice
22 requirements of this paragraph shall be deemed waived, and the
23 legislative body, or designee of the legislative body, shall notify
24 those newspapers, radio stations, or television stations of the fact
25 of the holding of the emergency meeting, the purpose of the
26 meeting, and any action taken at the meeting as soon after the
27 meeting as possible.

28 (B) For an emergency meeting held pursuant to this section, the
29 presiding officer of the legislative body, or designee thereof, may
30 send the notifications required by this paragraph by email instead
31 of by telephone, as provided in subparagraph (A), to all local
32 newspapers of general circulation, and radio or television stations,
33 that have requested those notifications by email, and all email
34 addresses provided by representatives of those newspapers or
35 stations shall be exhausted. In the event that internet services and
36 telephone services are not functioning, the notice requirements of
37 this paragraph shall be deemed waived, and the legislative body,
38 or designee of the legislative body, shall notify those newspapers,
39 radio stations, or television stations of the fact of the holding of

1 the emergency meeting, the purpose of the meeting, and any action
2 taken at the meeting as soon after the meeting as possible.

3 (c) During a meeting held pursuant to this section, the legislative
4 body may meet in closed session pursuant to Section 54957 if
5 agreed to by a two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative
6 body present, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present,
7 by a unanimous vote of the members present.

8 (d) All special meeting requirements, as prescribed in Section
9 54956 shall be applicable to a meeting called pursuant to this
10 section, with the exception of the 24-hour notice requirement.

11 (e) The minutes of a meeting called pursuant to this section, a
12 list of persons who the presiding officer of the legislative body,
13 or designee of the legislative body, notified or attempted to notify,
14 a copy of the rollcall vote, and any actions taken at the meeting
15 shall be posted for a minimum of 10 days in a public place as soon
16 after the meeting as possible.

17 SEC. 20. Section 54957.6 of the Government Code is amended
18 to read:

19 54957.6. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
20 legislative body of a local agency may hold closed sessions with
21 the local agency's designated representatives regarding the salaries,
22 salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe
23 benefits of its represented and unrepresented employees, and, for
24 represented employees, any other matter within the statutorily
25 provided scope of representation, subject to all of the following
26 conditions:

27 (1) Prior to the closed session, the legislative body of the local
28 agency shall hold an open and public session in which it identifies
29 its designated representatives.

30 (2) The closed session shall be for the purpose of reviewing its
31 position and instructing the local agency's designated
32 representatives.

33 (3) The closed session may take place prior to and during
34 consultations and discussions with representatives of employee
35 organizations and unrepresented employees.

36 (4) Any closed session with the local agency's designated
37 representative regarding the salaries, salary schedules, or
38 compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits may include
39 discussion of an agency's available funds and funding priorities,

1 but only insofar as these discussions relate to providing instructions
2 to the local agency’s designated representative.

3 (5) The closed session shall not include final action on the
4 proposed compensation of one or more unrepresented employees.

5 (6) For the purposes enumerated in this section, a legislative
6 body of a local agency may also meet with a state conciliator who
7 has intervened in the proceedings.

8 (b) For the purposes of this section, the term “employee” shall
9 include an officer or an independent contractor who functions as
10 an officer or an employee, but shall not include any elected official,
11 member of a legislative body, or other independent contractors.

12 SEC. 21. Section 54957.9 of the Government Code is amended
13 to read:

14 54957.9. In the event that any meeting is willfully interrupted
15 by a group or groups of persons so as to render the orderly conduct
16 of the meeting unfeasible and order cannot be restored by the
17 removal of individuals who are willfully interrupting the meeting,
18 the members of the legislative body conducting the meeting may
19 order the meeting room cleared and continue in session. Only
20 matters appearing on the agenda may be considered in such a
21 session. Representatives of the press or other news media, except
22 those participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend
23 any session held pursuant to this section. Nothing in this section
24 shall prohibit the legislative body from establishing a procedure
25 for readmitting an individual or individuals not responsible for
26 willfully disturbing the orderly conduct of the meeting.

27 SEC. 22. Section 54957.95 of the Government Code is amended
28 to read:

29 54957.95. (a) (1) In addition to authority exercised pursuant
30 to Sections 54954.3 and 54957.9, the presiding member of the
31 legislative body conducting a meeting or their designee may
32 remove, or cause the removal of, an individual for disrupting the
33 meeting, including any teleconferenced meeting.

34 (2) Prior to removing an individual, the presiding member or
35 their designee shall warn the individual that their behavior is
36 disrupting the meeting and that their failure to cease their behavior
37 may result in their removal. The presiding member or their
38 designee may then remove the individual if they do not promptly
39 cease their disruptive behavior. This paragraph does not apply to

1 any behavior described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of
2 subdivision (b).

3 (b) As used in this section:

4 (1) “Disrupting” means engaging in behavior during a meeting
5 of a legislative body that actually disrupts, disturbs, impedes, or
6 renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting and includes,
7 but is not limited to, one of the following:

8 (A) A failure to comply with reasonable and lawful regulations
9 adopted by a legislative body pursuant to Section 54954.3 or any
10 other law.

11 (B) Engaging in behavior that constitutes use of force or a true
12 threat of force.

13 (2) “True threat of force” means a threat that has sufficient
14 indicia of intent and seriousness, that a reasonable observer would
15 perceive it to be an actual threat to use force by the person making
16 the threat.

17 SEC. 23. Section 54957.96 is added to the Government Code,
18 to read:

19 54957.96. (a) The existing authority of a legislative body or
20 its presiding officer to remove or limit participation by individuals
21 or groups of persons who engage in behavior that actually disrupts,
22 disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the
23 meeting, including existing limitations upon that authority, shall
24 apply to members of the public participating in a meeting via a
25 two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform.

26 (b) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

27 (1) “Two-way audiovisual platform” means an online platform
28 that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting
29 via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic
30 service.

31 (2) “Two-way telephonic service” means a telephone service
32 that does not require internet access and allows participants to dial
33 a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.

34 ~~SEC. 24. Section 54960.2 of the Government Code is amended~~
35 ~~to read:~~

36 ~~54960.2. (a) The district attorney or any interested person may~~
37 ~~file an action to determine the applicability of this chapter to past~~
38 ~~actions of the legislative body pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section~~
39 ~~54960 only if all of the following conditions are met:~~

1 (1) ~~The district attorney or interested person alleging a violation~~
2 ~~of this chapter first submits a cease and desist letter by postal mail~~
3 ~~or faesimile transmission to the clerk or secretary of the legislative~~
4 ~~body being accused of the violation, as designated in the statement~~
5 ~~pertaining to that public agency on file pursuant to Section 53051,~~
6 ~~or if the agency does not have a statement on file designating a~~
7 ~~clerk or a secretary, to the chief executive officer of that agency;~~
8 ~~clearly describing the past action of the legislative body and nature~~
9 ~~of the alleged violation.~~

10 (2) ~~The cease and desist letter required under paragraph (1) is~~
11 ~~submitted to the legislative body within 12 months of the alleged~~
12 ~~violation.~~

13 (3) ~~The time during which the legislative body may respond to~~
14 ~~the cease and desist letter pursuant to subdivision (b) has expired~~
15 ~~and the legislative body has not provided an unconditional~~
16 ~~commitment pursuant to subdivision (c).~~

17 (4) ~~Within 60 days of receipt of the legislative body's response~~
18 ~~to the cease and desist letter, other than an unconditional~~
19 ~~commitment pursuant to subdivision (c), or within 60 days of the~~
20 ~~expiration of the time during which the legislative body may~~
21 ~~respond to the cease and desist letter pursuant to subdivision (b),~~
22 ~~whichever is earlier, the party submitting the cease and desist letter~~
23 ~~shall commence the action pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section~~
24 ~~54960 or thereafter be barred from commencing the action.~~

25 (b) ~~The legislative body may respond to a cease and desist letter~~
26 ~~submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) within 30 days of receiving~~
27 ~~the letter. This subdivision shall not be construed to prevent the~~
28 ~~legislative body from providing an unconditional commitment~~
29 ~~pursuant to subdivision (c) at any time after the 30-day period has~~
30 ~~expired, except that in that event the court shall award court costs~~
31 ~~and reasonable attorney's fees to the plaintiff in an action brought~~
32 ~~pursuant to this section, in accordance with Section 54960.5.~~

33 (e) (1) ~~If the legislative body elects to respond to the cease and~~
34 ~~desist letter with an unconditional commitment to cease, desist~~
35 ~~from, and not repeat the past action that is alleged to violate this~~
36 ~~chapter, that response shall be in substantially the following form:~~

37
38 To _____:
39

1 The [name of legislative body] has received your cease and desist
2 letter dated [date] alleging that the following described past action
3 of the legislative body violates the Ralph M. Brown Act:

4
5 [Describe alleged past action, as set forth in the cease and desist
6 letter submitted pursuant to subdivision (a)]

7
8 In order to avoid unnecessary litigation and without admitting
9 any violation of the Ralph M. Brown Act, the [name of legislative
10 body] hereby unconditionally commits that it will cease, desist
11 from, and not repeat the challenged past action as described above.
12

13 The [name of legislative body] may rescind this commitment
14 only by a majority vote of its membership taken in open session
15 at a regular meeting and noticed on its posted agenda as
16 “Rescission of Brown Act Commitment.” You will be provided
17 with written notice, sent by any means or media you provide in
18 response to this message, to whatever address or addresses you
19 specify, of any intention to consider rescinding this commitment
20 at least 30 days before any such regular meeting. In the event that
21 this commitment is rescinded, you will have the right to commence
22 legal action pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 54960 of the
23 Government Code. That notice will be delivered to you by the
24 same means as this commitment, or may be mailed to an address
25 that you have designated in writing.

26
27 Very truly yours,

28 _____
29 [Chairperson or acting chairperson of the legislative body]
30

31 (2) An unconditional commitment pursuant to this subdivision
32 shall be approved by the legislative body in open session at a
33 regular or special meeting as a separate item of business, and not
34 on its consent agenda.

35 (3) An action shall not be commenced to determine the
36 applicability of this chapter to any past action of the legislative
37 body for which the legislative body has provided an unconditional
38 commitment pursuant to this subdivision. During any action
39 seeking a judicial determination regarding the applicability of this
40 chapter to any past action of the legislative body pursuant to

1 subdivision (a), if the court determines that the legislative body
 2 has provided an unconditional commitment pursuant to this
 3 subdivision, the action shall be dismissed with prejudice. Nothing
 4 in this subdivision shall be construed to modify or limit the existing
 5 ability of the district attorney or any interested person to commence
 6 an action to determine the applicability of this chapter to ongoing
 7 actions or threatened future actions of the legislative body.

8 (4) Except as provided in subdivision (d), the fact that a
 9 legislative body provides an unconditional commitment shall not
 10 be construed or admissible as evidence of a violation of this
 11 chapter.

12 (d) If the legislative body provides an unconditional commitment
 13 as set forth in subdivision (c), the legislative body shall not
 14 thereafter take or engage in the challenged action described in the
 15 cease and desist letter, except as provided in subdivision (c).
 16 Violation of this subdivision shall constitute an independent
 17 violation of this chapter, without regard to whether the challenged
 18 action would otherwise violate this chapter. An action alleging
 19 past violation or threatened future violation of this subdivision
 20 may be brought pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 54960,
 21 without regard to the procedural requirements of this section.

22 (e) The legislative body may resolve to rescind an unconditional
 23 commitment made pursuant to subdivision (c) by a majority vote
 24 of its membership taken in open session at a regular meeting as a
 25 separate item of business not on its consent agenda, and noticed
 26 on its posted agenda as “Rescission of Brown Act Commitment,”
 27 provided that not less than 30 days prior to such regular meeting,
 28 the legislative body provides written notice of its intent to consider
 29 the rescission to each person to whom the unconditional
 30 commitment was made, and to the district attorney. Upon
 31 rescission, the district attorney or any interested person may
 32 commence an action pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 54960.
 33 An action under this subdivision may be brought pursuant to
 34 subdivision (a) of Section 54960, without regard to the procedural
 35 requirements of this section.

36 ~~SEC. 25.~~

37 *SEC. 24.* The Legislature finds and declares that Section 4 of
 38 this act, which amends Section 54953 of, Section 5 of this act,
 39 which adds Section 54953.4 to, Sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of this
 40 act, which add Sections 54953.8 to 54953.8.7, respectively, to,

1 Section 19 of this act, which amends Section 54956.5 of, Section
 2 22 of this act, which amends Section 54957.95 of, and Section 23
 3 of this act, which adds Section 54957.96 to, the Government Code,
 4 impose a limitation on the public’s right of access to the meetings
 5 of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies
 6 within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California
 7 Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the
 8 Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest
 9 protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:

10 (a) This act is necessary to provide opportunities for public
 11 participation in meetings of specified public agencies and to
 12 promote the recruitment and retention of members of those
 13 agencies.

14 (b) This act is necessary to ensure minimum standards for public
 15 participation and notice requirements allowing for greater public
 16 participation in meetings.

17 (c) This act is necessary to modernize the Ralph M. Brown Act
 18 to reflect recent technological changes that can promote greater
 19 public access to local officials.

20 (d) The exclusively virtual nature of the California Online
 21 Community College presents unique barriers to the requirements
 22 for an in-person quorum, a physical location for public
 23 participation, and certain accommodations. Participating students
 24 of the online community college come from all across the state
 25 and necessitating travel for these requirements would pose a
 26 significant and exclusionary barrier.

27 ~~SEC. 26.~~

28 *SEC. 25.* The Legislature finds and declares that Sections 1
 29 and 2 of this act, which amend and repeal Section 54952.2,
 30 respectively, of, Section 3 of this act, which amends Section
 31 54952.7 of, Section 4 of this act, which amends Section 54953 of,
 32 Section 5 of this act, which adds Section 54953.4 to, Section 6 of
 33 this act, which amends Section 54953.5 of, Section 7 of this act,
 34 which amends Section 54953.7 of, Sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of
 35 this act, which add Sections 54953.8 to 54953.8.7, respectively,
 36 to, Section 16 of this act, which amends Section 54954.2 of,
 37 Section 17 of this act, which amends Section 54954.3 of, Section
 38 18 of this act, which amends Section 54956 of, Section 19 of this
 39 act, which amends Section 54956.5 of, Section 20 of this act, which
 40 amends Section 54957.6 of, Section 21 of this act, which amends

1 Section 54957.9 of, Section 22 of this act, which amends Section
2 54957.95 of, *and* Section 23 of this act, which adds Section
3 54957.96 to, ~~and Section 24 of this act, which amends Section~~
4 ~~54960.2 of~~, the Government Code, further, within the meaning of
5 paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the
6 California Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional section
7 as it relates to the right of public access to the meetings of local
8 public bodies or the writings of local public officials and local
9 agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section
10 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the Legislature makes
11 the following findings:

12 (a) This act is necessary to provide opportunities for public
13 participation in meetings of specified public agencies and to
14 promote the recruitment and retention of members of those
15 agencies.

16 (b) This act is necessary to ensure minimum standards for public
17 participation and notice requirements allowing for greater public
18 participation in meetings.

19 (c) This act is necessary to modernize the Ralph M. Brown Act
20 to reflect recent technological changes that can promote greater
21 public access to local officials.

22 (d) The exclusively virtual nature of the California Online
23 Community College presents unique barriers to the requirements
24 for an in-person quorum, a physical location for public
25 participation, and certain accommodations. Participating students
26 of the online community college come from all across the state
27 and necessitating travel for these requirements would pose a
28 significant and exclusionary barrier.

29 ~~SEC. 27.~~

30 *SEC. 26.* The Legislature finds and declares that adequate
31 public access to meetings is a matter of statewide concern and is
32 not a municipal affair as that term is used in Section 5 of Article
33 XI of the California Constitution. Therefore, this bill would apply
34 to all cities, including charter cities.

35 ~~SEC. 28.~~

36 *SEC. 27.* No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
37 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
38 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
39 district under this act would result from a legislative mandate that

- 1 is within the scope of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section
- 2 3 of Article I of the California Constitution.

O