

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)**

~~(Coauthor: (Coauthors: Assembly Member Members Arambula and Fong)~~

February 21, 2025

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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 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, 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 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 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, 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.

This bill would remove the provision related to an item that has already been considered by a committee.

(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) 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) 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.

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

(13) 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) 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) 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) 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,  
13 to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item of business that  
14 is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body.

15 (2) Paragraph (1) shall not be construed as preventing an  
16 employee or official of a local agency, from engaging in separate  
17 conversations or communications outside of a meeting authorized  
18 by this chapter with members of a legislative body in order to  
19 answer questions or provide information regarding a matter that  
20 is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the local agency, if that  
21 person does not communicate to members of the legislative body  
22 the comments or position of any other member or members of the  
23 legislative body.

24 (3) (A) Paragraph (1) shall not be construed as preventing a  
25 member of the legislative body from engaging in separate  
26 conversations or communications on an internet-based social media  
27 platform to answer questions, provide information to the public,  
28 or to solicit information from the public regarding a matter that is  
29 within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body  
30 provided that a majority of the members of the legislative body  
31 do not use the internet-based social media platform to discuss  
32 among themselves business of a specific nature that is within the  
33 subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. A member of  
34 the legislative body shall not respond directly to any  
35 communication on an internet-based social media platform

1 regarding a matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of  
2 the legislative body that is made, posted, or shared by any other  
3 member of the legislative body.

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

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

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

13 (iii) “Open and accessible to the public” means that members  
14 of the general public have the ability to access and participate, free  
15 of charge, in the social media platform without the approval by  
16 the social media platform or a person or entity other than the social  
17 media platform, including any forum and chatroom, and cannot  
18 be blocked from doing so, except when the internet-based social  
19 media platform determines that an individual violated its protocols  
20 or rules.

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

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

26 (2) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative  
27 body at a conference or similar gathering open to the public that  
28 involves a discussion of issues of general interest to the public or  
29 to public agencies of the type represented by the legislative body,  
30 provided that a majority of the members do not discuss among  
31 themselves, other than as part of the scheduled program, business  
32 of a specified nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction  
33 of the local agency. Nothing in this paragraph is intended to allow  
34 members of the public free admission to a conference or similar  
35 gathering at which the organizers have required other participants  
36 or registrants to pay fees or charges as a condition of attendance.

37 (3) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative  
38 body at an open and publicized meeting organized to address a  
39 topic of local community concern by a person or organization other  
40 than the local agency, provided that a majority of the members do

1 not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled  
2 program, business of a specific nature that is within the subject  
3 matter jurisdiction of the legislative body of the local agency.

4 (4) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative  
5 body at an open and noticed meeting of another body of the local  
6 agency, or at an open and noticed meeting of a legislative body of  
7 another local agency, provided that a majority of the members do  
8 not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled  
9 meeting, business of a specific nature that is within the subject  
10 matter jurisdiction of the legislative body of the local agency.

11 (5) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative  
12 body at a purely social or ceremonial occasion, provided that a  
13 majority of the members do not discuss among themselves business  
14 of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of  
15 the legislative body of the local agency.

16 (6) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative  
17 body at an open and noticed meeting of a standing committee of  
18 that body, provided that the members of the legislative body who  
19 are not members of the standing committee attend only as  
20 observers.

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

23 SEC. 3. Section 54952.7 of the Government Code is amended  
24 to read:

25 54952.7. A local agency shall provide a copy of this chapter  
26 to any person elected or appointed to serve as a member of a  
27 legislative body of the local agency.

28 SEC. 4. Section 54953 of the Government Code, as amended  
29 by Section 2 of Chapter 534 of the Statutes of 2023, is amended  
30 to read:

31 54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local  
32 agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted  
33 to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency,  
34 except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

35 (b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the  
36 legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for  
37 the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency  
38 in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law.  
39 The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all  
40 otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise

1 applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting  
2 or proceeding.

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

8 (A) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be  
9 by rollcall.

10 (B) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a  
11 manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the  
12 parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a  
13 local agency.

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

16 (D) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to  
17 access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity  
18 for members of the public to address the legislative body directly  
19 pursuant to Section 54954.3.

20 (3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use  
21 teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference  
22 locations. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the  
23 notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each  
24 teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During  
25 the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the  
26 legislative body shall participate from locations within the  
27 boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises  
28 jurisdiction, except as *expressly* provided in ~~subdivision (c), Section~~  
29 ~~54953.8, and Section 54953.8.1. this chapter.~~

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

32 (c) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a  
33 legislative body shall allow a member of the body with a disability,  
34 as defined in Section 12102 of Title 42 of the United States Code,  
35 that precludes the member's in-person attendance at meetings of  
36 the body and that is not otherwise reasonably accommodated  
37 pursuant to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990  
38 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.), to participate in any meeting of the  
39 legislative body by remote participation, unless the legislative

1 body can demonstrate that allowing the remote participation would  
2 impose an undue hardship.

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

6 (A) The member shall participate through both audio and visual  
7 ~~technology~~; *technology, except that any member with a disability,*  
8 *as defined in Section 12102 of Title 42 of the United States Code,*  
9 *that precludes the member from being physically capable of*  
10 *appearing on camera may participate only through audio*  
11 *technology.*

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

17 ~~(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a member of a~~  
18 ~~legislative body participating in a meeting by remote participation~~  
19 ~~pursuant to this subdivision may count towards the establishment~~  
20 ~~of a quorum pursuant to any requirement under this act that a~~  
21 ~~quorum of the legislative body participate from any physical~~  
22 ~~location, including those requirements described in Sections~~  
23 ~~54953.8 to 54953.8.7, inclusive.~~

24 *(3) Remote participation under this subdivision shall be treated*  
25 *as in-person attendance at the physical meeting location for all*  
26 *purposes, including any requirement that a quorum of the*  
27 *legislative body participate from any particular location. The*  
28 *provisions of subdivision (b) and Sections 54953.8 to 54953.8.7,*  
29 *inclusive, shall not apply to remote participation under this*  
30 *subdivision.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (e) For purposes of this section, both of the following definitions  
10 apply:

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

14 (B) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), "teleconference" does not  
15 include ~~the attendance of one or more members of a legislative~~  
16 ~~body in a meeting of the body solely by~~ watching or listening to  
17 *a meeting* via webcasting or any other similar electronic medium  
18 that does not permit members to interactively speak, discuss, or  
19 deliberate on matters.

20 (2) "Remote participation" means participation in a meeting by  
21 teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting  
22 location designated in the notice of the meeting.

23 SEC. 5. Section 54953.4 is added to the Government Code, to  
24 read:

25 54953.4. (a) (1) In addition to any other applicable  
26 requirements of this chapter, a meeting held by a eligible legislative  
27 body pursuant to this chapter shall comply with both of the  
28 following requirements:

29 (A) (i) (I) All open and public meetings shall include an  
30 opportunity for members of the public to attend via a two-way  
31 telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform, except if  
32 adequate telephonic or internet service is not operational at the  
33 meeting location. If adequate telephonic or internet service is  
34 operational at the meeting location during only a portion of the  
35 meeting, the legislative body shall include an opportunity for  
36 members of the public to attend via a two-way telephonic service  
37 or a two-way audiovisual platform during that portion of the  
38 meeting.

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

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

3 (ib) Inspect real or personal property provided that the topic of  
4 the meeting is limited to items directly related to the real or  
5 personal property.

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

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

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

14 (ii) If an eligible legislative body elects to provide a two-way  
15 audiovisual platform, the eligible legislative body shall publicly  
16 post and provide a call-in option, and activate any automatic  
17 captioning function during the meeting if an automatic captioning  
18 function is included with the two-way audiovisual platform. If an  
19 eligible legislative body does not elect to provide a two-way  
20 audiovisual platform, the eligible legislative body provide a  
21 two-way telephonic service for the public to participate in the  
22 meeting, pursuant to subclause (I).

23 (B) (i) All open and public meetings for which attendance via  
24 a two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform  
25 is provided in accordance with paragraph (1) shall provide the  
26 public with an opportunity to provide public comment in  
27 accordance with Section 54954.3 via the two-way telephonic or  
28 two-way audiovisual platform, and ensure the opportunity for the  
29 members of the public participating via a two-way telephonic or  
30 two-way audiovisual platform to provide public comment with the  
31 same time allotment as a person attending a meeting in person.

32 (2) (A) An eligible legislative body shall reasonably assist  
33 members of the public who wish to translate a public meeting into  
34 any language or wish to receive interpretation provided by another  
35 member of the public, so long as the interpretation is not disrupting  
36 to the meeting, as defined in Section 54957.95. The eligible  
37 legislative body shall publicize instructions on how to request  
38 assistance under this subdivision. Assistance may include any of  
39 the following, as determined by the eligible legislative body:

1 (i) Arranging space for one or more interpreters at the meeting  
2 location.

3 (ii) Allowing extra time during the meeting for interpretation  
4 to occur.

5 (iii) Ensuring participants may utilize *their personal* equipment  
6 or *reasonably access* facilities for participants to access  
7 commercially available interpretation services.

8 (B) This section does not require an eligible legislative body to  
9 provide interpretation of any public meeting, however, an eligible  
10 legislative body may elect to provide interpretation of any public  
11 meeting.

12 (C) The eligible legislative body is not responsible for the  
13 content or accuracy of any interpretation facilitated, assisted with,  
14 or provided under this subdivision. An action shall not be  
15 commenced or maintained against the eligible legislative body  
16 arising from the content or accuracy of any interpretation  
17 facilitated, assisted with, or provided under this subdivision.

18 (3) An eligible legislative body shall take the following actions  
19 to encourage residents, including those in underrepresented  
20 communities and non-English-speaking communities, to participate  
21 in public meetings:

22 (A) Have in place a system for electronically accepting and  
23 fulfilling requests for meeting agendas and documents pursuant  
24 to Section 54954.1 through email or through an integrated agenda  
25 management platform. Information about how to make a request  
26 using this system shall be accessible through a prominent direct  
27 link posted on the primary internet website home page of the  
28 eligible legislative body.

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

32 (I) A general explanation of the public meeting process for the  
33 ~~city council or a county board of supervisors.~~ *eligible legislative*  
34 *body.*

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

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



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

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

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

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

13 (II) Good government, civil rights, civic engagement,  
14 neighborhood, and community group organizations, or similar  
15 organizations that are active in the jurisdiction of the eligible  
16 legislative body, including organizations active in  
17 non-English-speaking communities.

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

23 (b) (1) (A) The agenda for each meeting of an eligible  
24 legislative body shall be translated into all applicable languages,  
25 and each translation shall be posted in accordance with Section  
26 54954.2. Each translation shall include instructions in the  
27 applicable language describing how to join the meeting by the  
28 telephonic or internet-based service option, including any  
29 requirements for registration for public comment.

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

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

37 (3) The eligible legislative body shall make available a physical  
38 location that is freely accessible to the public in reasonable  
39 proximity to the physical location in which the agenda and  
40 translations are posted as described in paragraph (1), and shall

1 allow members of the public to post additional translations of the  
2 agenda in that location.

3 (4) The eligible legislative body is not responsible for the content  
4 or accuracy of any translation provided pursuant to this section.  
5 No action shall be commenced or maintained against an eligible  
6 legislative body ~~specifically from the content or accuracy arising~~  
7 *from the content, accuracy, posting, or removal* of any translation  
8 ~~provided under by the eligible legislative body or posted by any~~  
9 *person pursuant to this section.*

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

12 (c) For purposes of this section, all of the following definitions  
13 apply:

14 (1) (A) “Applicable languages” means languages spoken jointly  
15 by 20 percent or more of the population in the city or county in  
16 which the eligible legislative body is located that speaks English  
17 less than “very well” and jointly speaks a language other than  
18 English according to data from the most recent American  
19 Community Survey.

20 (B) If more than three languages meet the criteria set forth in  
21 subparagraph (A), “applicable languages” shall mean the three  
22 languages described in subparagraph (A) that are spoken by the  
23 largest percentage of the population.

24 (C) An eligible legislative body may elect to determine the  
25 applicable languages based upon a source other than the most  
26 recent American Community Survey if it makes a finding, based  
27 upon substantial evidence, that the other source provides equally  
28 or more reliable data for the territory over which the eligible  
29 legislative body exercises jurisdiction.

30 (2) “Eligible legislative body” includes all of the following:

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

32 (B) A county board of supervisors of a county, or city and  
33 county, with a population of 30,000 or more.

34 (C) A city council of a city located in a county with a population  
35 of 600,000 or more.

36 (D) The board of directors of a special district whose boundaries  
37 include a population of 200,000 or more and that has an internet  
38 website.

39 (3) “Two-way audiovisual platform” means an online platform  
40 that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting

1 via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic  
2 service.

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

6 (d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2030,  
7 and as of that date is repealed.

8 SEC. 6. Section 54953.5 of the Government Code is amended  
9 to read:

10 54953.5. (a) Any person attending an open and public meeting  
11 of a legislative body of a local agency shall have the right to record  
12 the proceedings in the absence of a reasonable finding by the  
13 legislative body of the local agency that the recording cannot  
14 continue without noise, illumination, or obstruction of view that  
15 constitutes, or would constitute, a persistent disruption of the  
16 proceedings.

17 (b) Any recording of an open and public meeting made for  
18 whatever purpose by or at the direction of the local agency shall  
19 be subject to inspection pursuant to the California Public Records  
20 Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title  
21 1), but, notwithstanding Section 34090, may be erased or destroyed  
22 30 days after the recording. Any inspection of an audio or video  
23 recording shall be provided without charge on equipment made  
24 available by the local agency.

25 SEC. 7. Section 54953.7 of the Government Code is amended  
26 to read:

27 54953.7. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
28 legislative bodies of local agencies may impose requirements upon  
29 themselves which allow greater access to their meetings than  
30 prescribed by the minimal standards set forth in this chapter. In  
31 addition thereto, an elected legislative body of a local agency may  
32 impose those requirements on appointed legislative bodies of the  
33 local agency.

34 SEC. 8. Section 54953.8 is added to the Government Code, to  
35 read:

36 54953.8. (a) The legislative body of a local agency may use  
37 teleconferencing as authorized by subdivision (b) of Section 54953  
38 without complying with the requirements of paragraph (3) of  
39 subdivision (b) of Section 54953 in any of the circumstances  
40 described in Sections 54953.8.1 to 54953.8.7, inclusive.

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

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

(A) A two-way audiovisual platform.

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

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

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

(4) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

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

1 (6) (A) A legislative body that provides a timed public comment  
2 period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment  
3 period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant  
4 to paragraph (5), to provide public comment until that timed public  
5 comment period has elapsed.

6 (B) A legislative body that does not provide a timed public  
7 comment period, but takes public comment separately on each  
8 agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda  
9 item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public  
10 comment, including time for members of the public to register  
11 pursuant to paragraph (5), or otherwise be recognized for the  
12 purpose of providing public comment.

13 (C) A legislative body that provides a timed general public  
14 comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item  
15 shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to  
16 register, pursuant to paragraph (5), until the timed general public  
17 comment period has elapsed.

18 (7) Any member of the legislative body who participates in a  
19 teleconference meeting from a remote location pursuant to this  
20 section and the specific provision of law that the member relied  
21 upon to permit their participation by teleconferencing shall be  
22 listed in the minutes of the meeting.

23 (8) The legislative body shall have and implement a procedure  
24 for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable  
25 accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with  
26 the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
27 Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. In  
28 each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is  
29 otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted,  
30 the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for  
31 receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.

32 (9) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this  
33 chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and  
34 nondiscrimination laws.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) "Teleconference" means 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

9 (b) The minutes for the meeting shall identify the specific  
10 provision in subdivision (c) that each member relied upon to  
11 participate remotely. This subdivision shall not be construed to  
12 require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability,  
13 or any personal medical information that is otherwise exempt under  
14 existing law, including, but not limited to, the Confidentiality of  
15 Medical Information Act (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section  
16 56) of Part 2.6 of Division 1 of the Civil Code).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 SEC. 12. Section 54953.8.4 is added to the Government Code,  
40 to read:

1     54953.8.4. (a) An eligible neighborhood council may conduct  
2 a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8, provided  
3 that it complies with the requirements of that section and all of the  
4 following have occurred:

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

9     (B) If the city council adopts a resolution described in  
10 subparagraph (A), an eligible neighborhood council may elect to  
11 use teleconferencing pursuant to this section if a majority of the  
12 eligible neighborhood council votes to do so. The eligible  
13 neighborhood council shall notify the city council if it elects to  
14 use teleconferencing pursuant to this section and its justification  
15 for doing so.

16     (C) Upon receiving notification from an eligible neighborhood  
17 council described in subparagraph (B), the city council may adopt  
18 a resolution to prohibit the eligible neighborhood council from  
19 using teleconferencing pursuant to this section.

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

23     (A) At least a quorum of the members of the eligible  
24 neighborhood council shall participate from locations within the  
25 boundaries of the city in which the eligible neighborhood council  
26 is established.

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

31     (3) If the meeting is during regular business hours of the offices  
32 of the city council member that represents the area that includes  
33 the eligible neighborhood council, the eligible neighborhood  
34 council shall provide a publicly accessible physical location from  
35 which the public may attend or comment, which shall be the offices  
36 of the city council member who represents the area where the  
37 eligible neighborhood council is located, unless the eligible  
38 neighborhood council identifies an alternative location.

39     (4) If the meeting is outside regular business hours, the eligible  
40 neighborhood council shall make reasonable efforts to

1 accommodate any member of the public that requests an  
2 accommodation to participate in the meeting.

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

4 (1) “Accommodation” means providing a publicly accessible  
5 physical location for the member of the public to participate from,  
6 providing access to technology necessary to participate in the  
7 meeting, or identifying locations or resources available that could  
8 provide the member of the public with an opportunity to participate  
9 in the meeting.

10 (2) “Eligible neighborhood council” means a neighborhood  
11 council that is an advisory body with the purpose to promote more  
12 citizen participation in government and make government more  
13 responsive to local needs that is established pursuant to the charter  
14 of a city with a population of more than 3,000,000 people that is  
15 subject to this chapter.

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

18 SEC. 13. Section 54953.8.5 is added to the Government Code,  
19 to read:

20 54953.8.5. (a) An eligible community college student  
21 organization may conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to  
22 Section 54953.8, provided that it complies with the requirements  
23 of that section and all of the following additional requirements:

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

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

31 (B) If the board of trustees for a community college district  
32 adopts a resolution described in subparagraph (A), an eligible  
33 community college student organization may elect to use  
34 teleconferencing pursuant to this section if a majority of the eligible  
35 community college student organization votes to do so. The eligible  
36 community college student organization shall notify the board of  
37 trustees if it elects to use teleconferencing pursuant to this section  
38 and its justification for doing so.

39 (C) Upon receiving notification from an eligible community  
40 college student organization as described in subparagraph (B), the

1 board of trustees may adopt a resolution to prohibit the eligible  
2 community college student organization from using  
3 teleconferencing pursuant to this section.

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

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

11 (iii) Notwithstanding the requirements of clause (i), a person  
12 may count toward the establishment of a quorum pursuant to clause  
13 (i) regardless of whether the person is participating at the in-person  
14 location of the meeting or remotely if the person meets any of the  
15 following criteria:

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

17 (II) The person is incarcerated.

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

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

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

25 (IV) The person provides childcare or caregiving to a child,  
26 parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner  
27 that requires them to participate remotely. For purposes of this  
28 subclause, “child,” “parent,” “grandparent,” “grandchild,” and  
29 “sibling” have the same meaning as those terms are defined in  
30 Section 12945.2.

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

34 (A) (i) Except as specified in subparagraph (B), if the meeting  
35 is during regular business hours of the offices of the board of  
36 trustees of the community college district, the eligible community  
37 college student organization shall provide a publicly accessible  
38 physical location from which the public may attend or comment,  
39 which shall be the offices of the board of trustees of the community

1 college district, unless the eligible community college student  
2 organization identifies an alternative location.

3 (ii) Except as specified in subparagraph (B), if the meeting is  
4 outside regular business hours, the eligible community college  
5 student organization shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate  
6 any member of the public that requests an accommodation to  
7 participate in the meeting. For the purposes of this subparagraph,  
8 “accommodation” means providing a publicly accessible physical  
9 location for the member of the public to participate from, providing  
10 access to technology necessary to participate in the meeting, or  
11 identifying locations or resources available that could provide the  
12 member of the public with an opportunity to participate in the  
13 meeting.

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

16 (b) For purposes of this section, “eligible community college  
17 student organization” means a student body association organized  
18 pursuant to Section 76060 of the Education Code, or any other  
19 student-run community college organization that is required to  
20 comply with the meeting requirements of this chapter, that is in  
21 any community college recognized within the California  
22 Community Colleges system and includes the Student Senate for  
23 California Community Colleges.

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

26 SEC. 14. Section 54953.8.6 is added to the Government Code,  
27 to read:

28 54953.8.6. (a) An eligible subsidiary body may conduct a  
29 teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8, provided that  
30 it complies with the requirements of that section and all of the  
31 following additional requirements:

32 (1) The eligible subsidiary body shall designate at least one  
33 physical meeting location within the boundaries of the legislative  
34 body that created the eligible subsidiary body where members of  
35 the public may physically attend, observe, hear, and participate in  
36 the meeting. At least one staff member of the eligible subsidiary  
37 body or the legislative body that created the eligible subsidiary  
38 body shall be present at each physical meeting location during the  
39 meeting. The eligible subsidiary body shall post the agenda at each

1 physical meeting location, but need not post the agenda at a remote  
2 location.

3 (2) (A) A member of the eligible subsidiary body shall visibly  
4 appear on camera during the open portion of a meeting that is  
5 publicly accessible via the internet or other online platform, except  
6 if the member has a disability, as defined in Section 12102 of Title  
7 42 of the United States Code, that precludes the member from  
8 being physically capable of appearing on camera.

9 (B) The visual appearance of a member of the eligible subsidiary  
10 body on camera may cease only when the appearance would be  
11 technologically impracticable, including, but not limited to, when  
12 the member experiences a lack of reliable broadband or internet  
13 connectivity that would be remedied by joining without video, or  
14 when the visual display of meeting materials, information, or  
15 speakers on the internet or other online platform requires the visual  
16 appearance of a member of a subsidiary body on camera to cease.

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

21 (3) An elected official serving as a member of an eligible  
22 subsidiary body in their official capacity shall not participate in a  
23 meeting of the eligible subsidiary body by teleconferencing  
24 pursuant to this section unless the use of teleconferencing complies  
25 with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section  
26 54953.

27 (4) (A) In order to use teleconferencing pursuant to this section,  
28 the legislative body that established the eligible subsidiary body  
29 by charter, ordinance, resolution, or other formal action shall make  
30 the following findings by majority vote before the eligible  
31 subsidiary body uses teleconferencing pursuant to this section for  
32 the first time, and every 12 months thereafter:

33 (i) The legislative body has considered the circumstances of the  
34 eligible subsidiary body.

35 (ii) Teleconference meetings of the eligible subsidiary body  
36 would enhance public access to meetings of the eligible subsidiary  
37 body.

38 (iii) Teleconference meetings of the eligible subsidiary body  
39 would promote the attraction, retention, and diversity of eligible  
40 subsidiary body members.

1 (B) (i) An eligible subsidiary body that proposes *authorized* to  
2 use teleconferencing pursuant to this section and makes the findings  
3 described in subparagraph (A) shall submit an annual report,  
4 including its recommendations, if any, *may request to present any*  
5 *recommendations it develops* to the legislative body that created  
6 it, no later than 12 months after the legislative body makes the  
7 findings: *it*.

8 (ii) ~~The~~ Upon receiving a request described in clause (i), the  
9 legislative body that created the subsidiary body shall hold a  
10 discussion regarding each annual report submitted by a subsidiary  
11 body pursuant to clause (i) at a regular meeting held within 60  
12 days after the legislative body receives the report, request, or if  
13 the legislative body does not have another regular meeting  
14 scheduled within 60 days after the legislative body receives the  
15 report, request, at the next regular meeting after the report request  
16 is received.

17 (iii) The discussion regarding each annual report required by  
18 clause (ii) shall not be placed on a consent calendar, but may be  
19 combined with the legislative body's subsequent consideration of  
20 the findings described in subparagraph (A) for the following 12  
21 months.

22 (iv) The legislative body shall not take any action on any  
23 recommendations included in the report of a subsidiary body until  
24 the next regular meeting of the legislative body following the  
25 discussion described in clause (ii).

26 (C) After the legislative body makes the findings described in  
27 subparagraph (A), the eligible subsidiary body shall approve the  
28 use of teleconferencing by majority vote before using  
29 teleconference pursuant to this section.

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

33 (b) For purposes of this section, "eligible subsidiary body"  
34 means a legislative body that meets all of the following:

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

36 (2) Serves exclusively in an advisory capacity.

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

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

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

8 SEC. 15. Section 54953.8.7 is added to the Government Code,  
9 to read:

10 54953.8.7. (a) An eligible multijurisdictional body may  
11 conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8,  
12 provided that it complies with the requirements of that section and  
13 all of the following additional requirements:

14 (1) The eligible multijurisdictional body has adopted a resolution  
15 that authorizes the eligible multijurisdictional body to use  
16 teleconferencing pursuant to this section at a regular meeting in  
17 open session.

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

22 (3) A member of the eligible multijurisdictional body who  
23 receives compensation for their service on the eligible  
24 multijurisdictional body shall participate from a physical location  
25 that is open to the public. For purposes of this paragraph,  
26 “compensation” does not include reimbursement for actual and  
27 necessary expenses.

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

30 (A) The eligible multijurisdictional body identifies each member  
31 of the eligible multijurisdictional body who plans to participate  
32 remotely in the agenda.

33 (B) The member shall participate through both audio and visual  
34 technology.

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



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

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

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

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

13 (b) For the purposes of this section, both of the following  
14 definitions apply:

15 (1) “Eligible multijurisdictional body” means a  
16 multijurisdictional board, commission, or advisory body of a  
17 multijurisdictional, cross-county agency, the membership of which  
18 board, commission, or advisory body is appointed, and the board,  
19 commission, or advisory body is otherwise subject to this chapter.

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

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

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

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

29 SEC. 16. Section 54954.2 of the Government Code, as amended  
30 by Section 92 of Chapter 131 of the Statutes of 2023, is amended  
31 to read:

32 54954.2. (a) (1) At least 72 hours before a regular meeting,  
33 the legislative body of the local agency, or its designee, shall post  
34 an agenda that meets all of the following requirements:

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

39 (B) The agenda shall specify the time and location of the regular  
40 meeting and shall be posted in a location that is freely accessible

1 to members of the public and on the local agency's internet website,  
2 if the local agency has one.

3 (C) (i) If requested, the agenda shall be made available in  
4 appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as  
5 required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of  
6 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations  
7 adopted in implementation thereof.

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

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

17 (A) An online posting of an agenda shall be posted on the  
18 primary internet website home page of a city, county, city and  
19 county, special district, school district, or political subdivision  
20 established by the state that is accessible through a prominent,  
21 direct link to the current agenda. The direct link to the agenda shall  
22 not be in a contextual menu; however, a link in addition to the  
23 direct link to the agenda may be accessible through a contextual  
24 menu.

25 (B) An online posting of an agenda, including, but not limited  
26 to, an agenda posted in an integrated agenda management platform,  
27 shall be posted in an open format that meets all of the following  
28 requirements:

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

31 (ii) Platform independent and machine readable.

32 (iii) Available to the public free of charge and without any  
33 restriction that would impede the reuse or redistribution of the  
34 agenda.

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

1 (i) A direct link to the integrated agenda management platform  
2 shall be posted on the primary internet website home page of a  
3 city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or  
4 political subdivision established by the state. The direct link to the  
5 integrated agenda management platform shall not be in a contextual  
6 menu. When a person clicks on the direct link to the integrated  
7 agenda management platform, the direct link shall take the person  
8 directly to an internet website with the agendas of the legislative  
9 body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school  
10 district, or political subdivision established by the state.

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

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

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

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

27 (E) For purposes of this paragraph, both of the following  
28 definitions apply:

29 (1) “Integrated agenda management platform” means an internet  
30 website of a city, county, city and county, special district, school  
31 district, or political subdivision established by the state dedicated  
32 to providing the entirety of the agenda information for the  
33 legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district,  
34 school district, or political subdivision established by the state to  
35 the public.

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

38 (3) No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not  
39 appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a  
40 legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made

1 or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony  
2 rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative  
3 or in response to questions posed by the public, a member of a  
4 legislative body or its staff may ask a question for clarification,  
5 make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on their own  
6 activities. Furthermore, a member of a legislative body, or the  
7 body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the legislative body,  
8 may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual  
9 information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent  
10 meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to  
11 place a matter of business on a future agenda.

12 (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the legislative body may  
13 take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda  
14 under any of the conditions stated below. Prior to discussing any  
15 item pursuant to this subdivision, the legislative body shall publicly  
16 identify the item.

17 (1) Upon a determination by a majority vote of the legislative  
18 body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section  
19 54956.5.

20 (2) Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members  
21 of the legislative body present at the meeting, or, if less than  
22 two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those  
23 members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and  
24 that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency  
25 subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision  
26 (a).

27 (3) The item was posted pursuant to subdivision (a) for a prior  
28 meeting of the legislative body occurring not more than five  
29 calendar days prior to the date action is taken on the item, and at  
30 the prior meeting the item was continued to the meeting at which  
31 action is being taken.

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

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

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

1 (2) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (b)  
2 of Section 54952, if the members of the legislative body are  
3 compensated for their appearance, and if one or more of the  
4 members of the legislative body are also members of a legislative  
5 body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

6 SEC. 17. Section 54954.3 of the Government Code is amended  
7 to read:

8 54954.3. (a) (1) Every agenda for regular meetings shall  
9 provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly  
10 address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public,  
11 before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item,  
12 that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body,  
13 provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing  
14 on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by  
15 subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.

16 (2) Every notice for a special meeting shall provide an  
17 opportunity for members of the public to directly address the  
18 legislative body concerning any item that has been described in  
19 the notice for the meeting before or during consideration of that  
20 item.

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

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

32 (3) Paragraph (2) shall not apply if the legislative body of a  
33 local agency utilizes simultaneous translation equipment in a  
34 manner that allows the legislative body of a local agency to hear  
35 the translated public testimony simultaneously.

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

1 SEC. 18. Section 54956 of the Government Code is amended  
2 to read:

3 54956. (a) (1) A special meeting may be called at any time  
4 by the presiding officer of the legislative body of a local agency,  
5 or by a majority of the members of the legislative body, by  
6 delivering written notice to each member of the legislative body  
7 and to each local newspaper of general circulation and radio or  
8 television station requesting notice in writing and posting a notice  
9 on the local agency's internet website, if the local agency has one.  
10 The notice shall be delivered personally or by any other means  
11 and shall be received at least 24 hours before the time of the  
12 meeting as specified in the notice. The call and notice shall specify  
13 the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be  
14 transacted or discussed. No other business shall be considered at  
15 these meetings by the legislative body. The written notice may be  
16 dispensed with as to any member who at or prior to the time the  
17 meeting convenes files with the clerk or secretary of the legislative  
18 body a written waiver of notice. The waiver may be given by  
19 telephone or electronic mail. The written notice may also be  
20 dispensed with as to any member who is actually present at the  
21 meeting at the time it convenes.

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

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

32 SEC. 19. Section 54956.5 of the Government Code is amended  
33 to read:

34 54956.5. (a) For purposes of this section, "emergency  
35 situation" means both of the following:

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

1 (2) A dire emergency, which shall be defined as a crippling  
2 disaster, mass destruction, terrorist act, or threatened terrorist  
3 activity that poses peril so immediate and significant that requiring  
4 a legislative body to provide one-hour notice before holding an  
5 emergency meeting under this section may endanger the public  
6 health, safety, or both, as determined by a majority of the members  
7 of the legislative body.

8 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2), in the case of an emergency  
9 situation involving matters upon which prompt action is necessary  
10 due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities,  
11 a legislative body may hold an emergency meeting without  
12 complying with either the 24-hour notice requirement or the  
13 24-hour posting requirement of Section 54956 or both of the notice  
14 and posting requirements.

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

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

33 (B) For an emergency meeting held pursuant to this section, the  
34 presiding officer of the legislative body, or designee thereof, may  
35 send the notifications required by this paragraph by email instead  
36 of by telephone, as provided in subparagraph (A), to all local  
37 newspapers of general circulation, and radio or television stations,  
38 that have requested those notifications by email, and all email  
39 addresses provided by representatives of those newspapers or  
40 stations shall be exhausted. In the event that internet services and

1 telephone services are not functioning, the notice requirements of  
2 this paragraph shall be deemed waived, and the legislative body,  
3 or designee of the legislative body, shall notify those newspapers,  
4 radio stations, or television stations of the fact of the holding of  
5 the emergency meeting, the purpose of the meeting, and any action  
6 taken at the meeting as soon after the meeting as possible.

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

12 (d) All special meeting requirements, as prescribed in Section  
13 54956 shall be applicable to a meeting called pursuant to this  
14 section, with the exception of the 24-hour notice requirement.

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

21 SEC. 20. Section 54957.6 of the Government Code is amended  
22 to read:

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

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

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

37 (3) The closed session may take place prior to and during  
38 consultations and discussions with representatives of employee  
39 organizations and unrepresented employees.



1 (4) Any closed session with the local agency's designated  
2 representative regarding the salaries, salary schedules, or  
3 compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits may include  
4 discussion of an agency's available funds and funding priorities,  
5 but only insofar as these discussions relate to providing instructions  
6 to the local agency's designated representative.

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

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

12 (b) For the purposes of this section, the term "employee" shall  
13 include an officer or an independent contractor who functions as  
14 an officer or an employee, but shall not include any elected official,  
15 member of a legislative body, or other independent contractors.

16 SEC. 21. Section 54957.9 of the Government Code is amended  
17 to read:

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

31 SEC. 22. Section 54957.95 of the Government Code is amended  
32 to read:

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

38 (2) Prior to removing an individual, the presiding member or  
39 their designee shall warn the individual that their behavior is  
40 disrupting the meeting and that their failure to cease their behavior

1 may result in their removal. The presiding member or their  
2 designee may then remove the individual if they do not promptly  
3 cease their disruptive behavior. This paragraph does not apply to  
4 any behavior described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of  
5 subdivision (b).

6 (b) As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

20 SEC. 23. Section 54957.96 is added to the Government Code,  
21 to read:

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

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

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

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

37 SEC. 24. Section 54960.2 of the Government Code is amended  
38 to read:

39 54960.2. (a) The district attorney or any interested person may  
40 file an action to determine the applicability of this chapter to past

actions of the legislative body pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 54960 only if all of the following conditions are met:

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

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

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

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

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

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

To \_\_\_\_\_:

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

5  
6 [Describe alleged past action, as set forth in the cease and desist  
7 letter submitted pursuant to subdivision (a)]  
8

9 In order to avoid unnecessary litigation and without admitting  
10 any violation of the Ralph M. Brown Act, the [name of legislative  
11 body] hereby unconditionally commits that it will cease, desist  
12 from, and not repeat the challenged past action as described above.  
13

14 The [name of legislative body] may rescind this commitment  
15 only by a majority vote of its membership taken in open session  
16 at a regular meeting and noticed on its posted agenda as  
17 “Rescission of Brown Act Commitment.” You will be provided  
18 with written notice, sent by any means or media you provide in  
19 response to this message, to whatever address or addresses you  
20 specify, of any intention to consider rescinding this commitment  
21 at least 30 days before any such regular meeting. In the event that  
22 this commitment is rescinded, you will have the right to commence  
23 legal action pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 54960 of the  
24 Government Code. That notice will be delivered to you by the  
25 same means as this commitment, or may be mailed to an address  
26 that you have designated in writing.  
27

28 Very truly yours,  
29

30 \_\_\_\_\_  
31 [Chairperson or acting chairperson of the legislative body]  
32

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEC. 25. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 4 of this act, which amends Section 54953 of, Section 5 of this act, which adds Section 54953.4 to, Sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of this 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. The Legislature finds and declares that Sections 1  
28 and 2 of this act, which amend and repeal Section 54952.2,  
29 respectively, of, Section 3 of this act, which amends Section  
30 54952.7 of, Section 4 of this act, which amends Section 54953 of,  
31 Section 5 of this act, which adds Section 54953.4 to, Section 6 of  
32 this act, which amends Section 54953.5 of, Section 7 of this act,  
33 which amends Section 54953.7 of, Sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of  
34 this act, which add Sections 54953.8 to 54953.8.7, respectively,  
35 to, Section 16 of this act, which amends Section 54954.2 of,  
36 Section 17 of this act, which amends Section 54954.3 of, Section  
37 18 of this act, which amends Section 54956 of, Section 19 of this  
38 act, which amends Section 54956.5 of, Section 20 of this act, which  
39 amends Section 54957.6 of, Section 21 of this act, which amends  
40 Section 54957.9 of, Section 22 of this act, which amends Section

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

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

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

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

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

28 SEC. 27. The Legislature finds and declares that adequate  
29 public access to meetings is a matter of statewide concern and is  
30 not a municipal affair as that term is used in Section 5 of Article  
31 XI of the California Constitution. Therefore, this bill would apply  
32 to all cities, including charter cities.

33 SEC. 28. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
34 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
35 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
36 district under this act would result from a legislative mandate that  
37 is within the scope of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section  
38 3 of Article I of the California Constitution.

O