

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 8, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 29, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 7, 2025

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 707**

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**Introduced by Senator Durazo**  
**(Principal coauthor: Senator Arreguín)**  
*(Coauthor: Assembly Member Fong)*

February 21, 2025

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An act to amend Sections ~~54952~~, 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 ~~54953.10~~ 54957.96 to, and to add and repeal Sections 54953.4, 54953.8.3, 54953.8.4, 54953.8.5, 54953.8.6, ~~54953.8.7~~, and ~~54953.9~~ 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 defines “legislative body” for purposes of the act to mean, among other things, a commission, committee, board, or other body of a local agency, whether permanent or temporary, decisionmaking or advisory, created by charter, ordinance, resolution, or formal action of a legislative body. Existing law specifies that “legislative body” does not include advisory committees, composed solely of the members of the legislative body that are less than a quorum of the legislative body, except for specified standing committees of a legislative body.~~

~~This bill would revise and recast the above-described definition of a legislative body and would specify that advisory committees with a continuing subject matter jurisdiction or a fixed meeting schedule, as specified, are legislative bodies.~~

~~Existing~~

~~(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 ~~an unrepresented employee~~ *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 defined. 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~~ *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 ~~broaden~~ *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 ~~agenda minutes~~ *provision of law* for a meeting to identify the specific ~~type of just cause~~ *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 make the authorization for a member to participate remotely in the case of a physical or mental disability effective indefinitely, as specified.~~

The bill would revise and recast the alternative teleconferencing provisions applicable to neighborhood councils and student body associations and student-run community college organizations ~~and would~~ *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 ~~provision~~ 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 of the Government Code is~~  
2     ~~amended to read:~~

3     ~~54952. As used in this chapter, “legislative body” means:~~

4     ~~(a) The governing body of a local agency or any other local~~  
5     ~~body created by state or federal statute.~~

6     ~~(b) A commission, committee, board, or other body of a local~~  
7     ~~agency, whether permanent or temporary, decisionmaking or~~  
8     ~~advisory, created by charter, ordinance, resolution, or formal action~~  
9     ~~of a legislative body.~~

10    ~~(c) (1) A board, commission, committee, or other multimember~~  
11    ~~body that governs a private corporation, limited liability company,~~  
12    ~~or other entity that either:~~

13    ~~(A) Is created by the elected legislative body in order to exercise~~  
14    ~~authority that may lawfully be delegated by the elected governing~~  
15    ~~body to a private corporation, limited liability company, or other~~  
16    ~~entity.~~

17    ~~(B) Receives funds from a local agency and the membership of~~  
18    ~~whose governing body includes a member of the legislative body~~  
19    ~~of the local agency appointed to that governing body as a full~~  
20    ~~voting member by the legislative body of the local agency.~~

21    ~~(2) Notwithstanding subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1), no~~  
22    ~~board, commission, committee, or other multimember body that~~

1 ~~governs a private corporation, limited liability company, or other~~  
2 ~~entity that receives funds from a local agency and, as of February~~  
3 ~~9, 1996, has a member of the legislative body of the local agency~~  
4 ~~as a full voting member of the governing body of that private~~  
5 ~~corporation, limited liability company, or other entity shall be~~  
6 ~~relieved from the public meeting requirements of this chapter by~~  
7 ~~virtue of a change in status of the full voting member to a~~  
8 ~~nonvoting member.~~

9 ~~(d) The lessee of any hospital the whole or part of which is first~~  
10 ~~leased pursuant to subdivision (p) of Section 32121 of the Health~~  
11 ~~and Safety Code after January 1, 1994, where the lessee exercises~~  
12 ~~any material authority of a legislative body of a local agency~~  
13 ~~delegated to it by that legislative body whether the lessee is~~  
14 ~~organized and operated by the local agency or by a delegated~~  
15 ~~authority.~~

16 ~~(e) (1) An advisory or standing committee of a legislative body,~~  
17 ~~irrespective of its composition, which has a continuing subject~~  
18 ~~matter jurisdiction, or a meeting schedule fixed by charter,~~  
19 ~~ordinance, resolution, or formal action of a legislative body.~~

20 ~~(2) However, advisory committees, composed solely of the~~  
21 ~~members of the legislative body that are less than a quorum of the~~  
22 ~~legislative body are not legislative bodies.~~

23 ~~SEC. 2.~~

24 *SECTION 1.* Section 54952.2 of the Government Code, as  
25 amended by Section 1 of Chapter 89 of the Statutes of 2020, is  
26 amended to read:

27 54952.2. (a) As used in this chapter, “meeting” means any  
28 congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body  
29 at the same time and location, including teleconference location  
30 as permitted by Section 54953, to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take  
31 action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of  
32 the legislative body.

33 (b) (1) A majority of the members of a legislative body shall  
34 not, outside a meeting authorized by this chapter, use a series of  
35 communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries,  
36 to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item of business that  
37 is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body.

38 (2) Paragraph (1) shall not be construed as preventing an  
39 employee or official of a local agency, from engaging in separate  
40 conversations or communications outside of a meeting authorized

1 by this chapter with members of a legislative body in order to  
2 answer questions or provide information regarding a matter that  
3 is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the local agency, if that  
4 person does not communicate to members of the legislative body  
5 the comments or position of any other member or members of the  
6 legislative body.

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

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

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

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

31 (iii) “Open and accessible to the public” means that members  
32 of the general public have the ability to access and participate, free  
33 of charge, in the social media platform without the approval by  
34 the social media platform or a person or entity other than the social  
35 media platform, including any forum and chatroom, and cannot  
36 be blocked from doing so, except when the internet-based social  
37 media platform determines that an individual violated its protocols  
38 or rules.

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

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

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

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

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

29 (5) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative  
30 body at a purely social or ceremonial occasion, provided that a  
31 majority of the members do not discuss among themselves business  
32 of a specific nature that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of  
33 the legislative body of the local agency.

34 (6) The attendance of a majority of the members of a legislative  
35 body at an open and noticed meeting of a standing committee of  
36 that body, provided that the members of the legislative body who  
37 are not members of the standing committee attend only as  
38 observers.

1 ~~SEC. 3.~~

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

4 ~~SEC. 4.~~

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

7 54952.7. A local agency shall provide a copy of this chapter  
8 to any person elected or appointed to serve as a member of a  
9 legislative body of the local agency.

10 ~~SEC. 5.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 (3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use  
4 teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference  
5 locations. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the  
6 notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each  
7 teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During  
8 the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the  
9 legislative body shall participate from locations within the  
10 boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises  
11 jurisdiction, except as provided in ~~subdivisions (d) and (e).~~  
12 *subdivision (c), Section 54953.8, and Section 54953.8.1.*

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

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

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

28 (A) *The member shall participate through both audio and visual*  
29 *technology.*

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

35 (3) *Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a member of a*  
36 *legislative body participating in a meeting by remote participation*  
37 *pursuant to this subdivision may count towards the establishment*  
38 *of a quorum pursuant to any requirement under this act that a*  
39 *quorum of the legislative body participate from any physical*

1 *location, including those requirements described in Sections*  
2 *54953.8 to 54953.8.7, inclusive.*

3 ~~(e)~~

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

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

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

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

16 ~~*(ii) An unrepresented employee—A department head or other*~~  
17 ~~*similar administrative officer of the local agency.*~~

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

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

24 ~~(1)~~

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

28 *(B) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), “teleconference” does not*  
29 *include the attendance of one or more members of a legislative*  
30 *body in a meeting of the body solely by watching or listening via*  
31 *webcasting or any other similar electronic medium that does not*  
32 *permit members to interactively speak, discuss, or deliberate on*  
33 *matters.*

34 *(2) “Remote participation” means participation in a meeting*  
35 *by teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting*  
36 *location designated in the notice of the meeting.*

37 *SEC. 5. Section 54953.4 is added to the Government Code, to*  
38 *read:*

39 *54953.4. (a) (1) In addition to any other applicable*  
40 *requirements of this chapter, a meeting held by a eligible legislative*

1 body pursuant to this chapter shall comply with both of the  
2 following requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 *accordance with Section 54954.3 via the two-way telephonic or*  
2 *two-way audiovisual platform, and ensure the opportunity for the*  
3 *members of the public participating via a two-way telephonic or*  
4 *two-way audiovisual platform to provide public comment with the*  
5 *same time allotment as a person attending a meeting in person.*

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

14 (i) *Arranging space for one or more interpreters at the meeting*  
15 *location.*

16 (ii) *Allowing extra time during the meeting for interpretation*  
17 *to occur.*

18 (iii) *Ensuring participants may utilize equipment or facilities*  
19 *for participants to access commercially available interpretation*  
20 *services.*

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

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

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

35 (A) *Have in place a system for electronically accepting and*  
36 *fulfilling requests for meeting agendas and documents pursuant*  
37 *to Section 54954.1 through email or through an integrated agenda*  
38 *management platform. Information about how to make a request*  
39 *using this system shall be accessible through a prominent direct*

1 link posted on the primary internet website home page of the  
2 eligible legislative body.

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

6 (I) A general explanation of the public meeting process for the  
7 city council or a county board of supervisors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (b) (1) (A) The agenda for each meeting of an eligible  
36 legislative body shall be translated into all applicable languages,  
37 and each translation shall be posted in accordance with Section  
38 54954.2. Each translation shall include instructions in the  
39 applicable language describing how to join the meeting by the

1 telephonic or internet-based service option, including any  
2 requirements for registration for public comment.

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

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

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

16 (4) The eligible legislative body is not responsible for the content  
17 or accuracy of any translation provided pursuant to this section.  
18 No action shall be commenced or maintained against an eligible  
19 legislative body specifically from the content or accuracy of any  
20 translation provided under this section.

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

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

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

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

35 (C) An eligible legislative body may elect to determine the  
36 applicable languages based upon a source other than the most  
37 recent American Community Survey if it makes a finding, based  
38 upon substantial evidence, that the other source provides equally  
39 or more reliable data for the territory over which the eligible  
40 legislative body exercises jurisdiction.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 SEC. 6. Section 54953.5 of the Government Code is amended  
20 to read:

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

28 (b) Any recording of an open and public meeting made for  
29 whatever purpose by or at the direction of the local agency shall  
30 be subject to inspection pursuant to the California Public Records  
31 Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title  
32 1), but, notwithstanding Section 34090, may be erased or destroyed  
33 30 days after the recording. Any inspection of an audio or video  
34 recording shall be provided without charge on equipment made  
35 available by the local agency.

36 SEC. 7. Section 54953.7 of the Government Code is amended  
37 to read:

38 54953.7. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
39 legislative bodies of local agencies may impose requirements upon  
40 themselves which allow greater access to their meetings than

1 prescribed by the minimal standards set forth in this chapter. In  
2 addition thereto, an elected legislative body of a local agency may  
3 impose those requirements on appointed legislative bodies of the  
4 local agency.

5 SEC. 8. Section 54953.8 is added to the Government Code, to  
6 read:

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

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

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

20 (A) A two-way audiovisual platform.

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

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

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

1 broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section  
2 54960.1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted,  
2 the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for  
3 receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.

4 (9) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this  
5 chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and  
6 nondiscrimination laws.

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

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

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

17 ~~(e) A member of a legislative body using teleconferencing~~  
18 ~~pursuant to this section may notify the legislative body that they~~  
19 ~~must attend and participate in a given meeting of the legislative~~  
20 ~~body solely by teleconference from a remote location due to a need~~  
21 ~~related to a physical or mental disability, as those terms are defined~~  
22 ~~in Sections 12926 and 12926.1, that is not otherwise reasonably~~  
23 ~~accommodated pursuant to the federal Americans with Disability~~  
24 ~~Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.). A member attending~~  
25 ~~and participating in a meeting of a legislative body solely by~~  
26 ~~teleconference from a remote location pursuant to this subdivision~~  
27 ~~may count toward any in-person quorum requirement to use~~  
28 ~~teleconferencing.~~

29 (f)

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

37 (g)

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

39 (1) "Remote location" means a location from which a member  
40 of a legislative body participates in a meeting pursuant to paragraph

1 (7) of subdivision (b), other than any physical meeting location  
2 designated in the notice of the meeting. Remote locations need not  
3 be accessible to the public.

4 (2) “Teleconference” means a meeting of a legislative body,  
5 the members of which are in different locations, connected by  
6 electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.

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

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

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

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

19 54953.8.1. (a) A health authority may conduct a teleconference  
20 meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8, provided that it complies  
21 with the requirements of that section.

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

27 (c) For purposes of this section, a health authority means any  
28 entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35,  
29 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and  
30 Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to  
31 Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division  
32 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of  
33 the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to  
34 a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2  
35 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and  
36 Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.

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

39 54953.8.2. (a) A legislative body of a local agency may  
40 conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8

1 during a proclaimed state of emergency or local emergency,  
2 provided that it complies with the requirements of that section and  
3 the teleconferencing is used in either of the following  
4 circumstances:

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section  
24 54953.8, a legislative body conducting a teleconference meeting  
25 pursuant to this section may elect to use a two-way telephonic  
26 service without a live webcasting of the meeting.

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

28 (1) “Local emergency” means a condition of extreme peril to  
29 persons or property proclaimed by the governing body of the local  
30 agency affected, in accordance with Section 8630 of the California  
31 Emergency Services Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section  
32 8550) of Division 1 of Title 2), as defined in Section 8680.9, or a  
33 local health emergency declared pursuant to Section 101080 of  
34 the Health and Safety Code. Local emergency, as used in this  
35 section, refers only to local emergencies in the boundaries of the  
36 territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction.

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

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

3 54953.8.3. (a) A legislative body of a local agency may  
4 conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8 if,  
5 during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the  
6 members of the legislative body participates in person from a  
7 singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda, which  
8 location shall be open to the public and situated within the  
9 boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises  
10 jurisdiction, provided that the legislative body complies with the  
11 requirements of Section 54953.8 and all of the following additional  
12 requirements:

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

18 ~~(2) The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before  
19 any action is taken whether any other individuals 18 years of age  
20 or older are present in the room at the remote location with the  
21 member, and the general nature of the member’s relationship with  
22 those individuals.~~

23 ~~(3)~~  
24 (2) The member shall participate through both audio and visual  
25 technology.

26 ~~(4)~~  
27 (3) (A) The provisions of this subdivision shall not serve as a  
28 means for any member of a legislative body to participate in  
29 meetings of the legislative body solely by teleconference from a  
30 remote location for just cause for more than the following number  
31 of meetings, as applicable:

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

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

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

38 (B) For the purpose of counting meetings attended by  
39 teleconference under this paragraph, a “meeting” shall be defined

1 as any number of meetings of the legislative body of a local agency  
2 that begin on the same calendar day.

3 (b) ~~The agenda~~ minutes for the meeting shall identify the specific  
4 ~~type of just cause described~~ provision in subdivision (c) that each  
5 member relied upon to participate remotely. This subdivision shall  
6 not be construed to require the member to disclose any medical  
7 diagnosis or disability, or any personal medical information that  
8 is otherwise exempt under existing law, including, but not limited  
9 to, the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (Chapter 1  
10 (commencing with Section 56) of Part 2.6 of Division 1 of the  
11 Civil Code).

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

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

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

21 (3) A need related to a physical or mental ~~disability, as defined~~  
22 ~~in Sections 12926 and 12926.1, not otherwise accommodated by~~  
23 ~~any reasonable accommodations provided.~~ *condition that is not*  
24 *subject to subdivision (c) of Section 54953.*

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

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

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

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

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

36 SEC. 12. Section 54953.8.4 is added to the Government Code,  
37 to read:

38 54953.8.4. (a) An eligible neighborhood council may conduct  
39 a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8, provided

1 that it complies with the requirements of that section and all of the  
2 following have occurred:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 SEC. 13. Section 54953.8.5 is added to the Government Code,  
17 to read:

18 54953.8.5. (a) An eligible community college student  
19 organization may conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to  
20 Section 54953.8, provided that it complies with the requirements  
21 of that section and all of the following additional requirements:

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

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

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

37 (C) Upon receiving notification from an eligible community  
38 college student organization as described in subparagraph (B), the  
39 board of trustees may adopt a resolution to prohibit the eligible

1 community college student organization from using  
2 teleconferencing pursuant to this section.

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

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

11 ~~(ii)~~

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

17 ~~(I) The person has a disability that requires accommodation~~  
18 ~~pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.~~  
19 ~~Sec. 12132).~~

20 ~~(II)~~

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

22 ~~(III)~~

23 (II) The person is incarcerated.

24 ~~(IV)~~

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

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

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

32 ~~(V)~~

33 (IV) The person provides childcare or caregiving to a child,  
34 parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner  
35 that requires them to participate remotely. For purposes of this  
36 subclause, “child,” “parent,” “grandparent,” “grandchild,” and  
37 “sibling” have the same meaning as those terms are defined in  
38 Section 12945.2.

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

4 (A) ~~If~~(i) *Except as specified in subparagraph (B), if the meeting*  
5 *is during regular business hours of the offices of the board of*  
6 *trustees of the community college district, the eligible community*  
7 *college student organization shall provide a publicly accessible*  
8 *physical location from which the public may attend or comment,*  
9 *which shall be the offices of the board of trustees of the community*  
10 *college district, unless the eligible community college student*  
11 *organization identifies an alternative location.*

12 ~~(B) If~~

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

24 (B) *The requirements described in subparagraph (A) shall not*  
25 *apply to the California Online Community College.*

26 (b) For purposes of this section, “eligible community college  
27 student organization” means a student body association organized  
28 pursuant to Section 76060 of the Education Code, or any other  
29 student-run community college organization that is required to  
30 comply with the meeting requirements of this ~~chapter~~ *chapter;*  
31 *that is in any community college recognized within the California*  
32 *Community Colleges system and includes the Student Senate for*  
33 *California Community Colleges.*

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

36 SEC. 14. Section 54953.8.6 is added to the Government Code,  
37 to read:

38 54953.8.6. (a) An eligible subsidiary body may conduct a  
39 teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8, provided that

1 it complies with the requirements of that section and all of the  
2 following additional requirements:

3 (1) The eligible subsidiary body shall designate at least one  
4 physical meeting location within the boundaries of the legislative  
5 body that created the eligible subsidiary body where members of  
6 the public may physically attend, observe, hear, and participate in  
7 the meeting. At least one staff member of the eligible subsidiary  
8 body or the legislative body that created the eligible subsidiary  
9 body shall be present at each physical meeting location during the  
10 meeting. The eligible subsidiary body shall post the agenda at each  
11 physical meeting location, but need not post the agenda at a remote  
12 location.

13 (2) (A) ~~The members~~ *A member* of the eligible subsidiary body  
14 shall visibly appear on camera during the open portion of a meeting  
15 that is publicly accessible via the internet or other online ~~platform~~  
16 *platform, except if the member has a disability, as defined in*  
17 *Section 12102 of Title 42 of the United States Code, that precludes*  
18 *the member from being physically capable of appearing on camera.*  
19

20 (B) The visual appearance of a member of the eligible subsidiary  
21 body on camera may cease only when the appearance would be  
22 technologically impracticable, including, but not limited to, when  
23 the member experiences a lack of reliable broadband or internet  
24 connectivity that would be remedied by joining without video, or  
25 when the visual display of meeting materials, information, or  
26 speakers on the internet or other online platform requires the visual  
27 appearance of a member of a subsidiary body on camera to cease.

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

32 (3) An elected official *-serving as a member of an eligible*  
33 *subsidiary body in their official capacity* shall not participate in a  
34 meeting *of the eligible subsidiary body* by teleconferencing  
35 pursuant to this section unless the use of teleconferencing complies  
36 with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section  
37 54953.

38 (4) ~~The eligible subsidiary body shall submit its~~  
39 ~~recommendations, if any, in writing to the legislative body that~~  
40 ~~created it.~~

1 ~~(A) The eligible subsidiary body shall present its~~  
2 ~~recommendations, if any, to the legislative body that created it at~~  
3 ~~a regular meeting in open session of that legislative body.~~

4 ~~(B) The legislative body shall hold a discussion of any~~  
5 ~~recommendations presented by the subsidiary body at the meeting~~  
6 ~~during which the recommendations are presented or at another~~  
7 ~~regular meeting held within 60 days after receiving the~~  
8 ~~recommendations unless the legislative body does not have another~~  
9 ~~regular meeting scheduled within 60 days after the~~  
10 ~~recommendations are received, in which case the discussion may~~  
11 ~~be held at the next regular meeting after the recommendations are~~  
12 ~~presented.~~

13 ~~(C) The legislative body shall not place discussions of the~~  
14 ~~recommendations on a consent calendar.~~

15 ~~(5)~~

16 (4) (A) In order to use teleconferencing pursuant to this section,  
17 the legislative body that established the eligible subsidiary body  
18 by charter, ordinance, resolution, or other formal action shall make  
19 the following findings by majority vote before the eligible  
20 subsidiary body uses teleconferencing pursuant to this section for  
21 the first time, and every 12 months thereafter:

22 (i) The legislative body has considered the circumstances of the  
23 eligible subsidiary body.

24 (ii) Teleconference meetings of the eligible subsidiary body  
25 would enhance public access to meetings of the eligible subsidiary  
26 body.

27 (iii) Teleconference meetings of the eligible subsidiary body  
28 would promote the attraction, retention, and diversity of eligible  
29 subsidiary body members.

30 (B) (i) *An eligible subsidiary body that proposes to use*  
31 *teleconferencing pursuant to this section and makes the findings*  
32 *described in subparagraph (A) shall submit an annual report,*  
33 *including its recommendations, if any, to the legislative body that*  
34 *created it, no later than 12 months after the legislative body makes*  
35 *the findings.*

36 (ii) *The legislative body shall hold a discussion regarding each*  
37 *annual report submitted by a subsidiary body pursuant to clause*  
38 *(i) at a regular meeting held within 60 days after the legislative*  
39 *body receives the report, or if the legislative body does not have*  
40 *another regular meeting scheduled within 60 days after the*

1 *legislative body receives the report, at the next regular meeting*  
2 *after the report is received.*

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

8 (iv) *The legislative body shall not take any action on any*  
9 *recommendations included in the report of a subsidiary body until*  
10 *the next regular meeting of the legislative body following the*  
11 *discussion described in clause (ii).*

12 ~~(B)~~

13 (C) *After the legislative body makes the findings described in*  
14 *subparagraph (A), the eligible subsidiary body shall approve the*  
15 *use of teleconferencing by majority vote before using*  
16 *teleconference pursuant to this section.*

17 ~~(C)~~

18 (D) *The legislative body that created the eligible subsidiary*  
19 *body may elect to prohibit the eligible subsidiary body from using*  
20 *teleconferencing pursuant to this section at any time.*

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

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

24 (2) *Serves exclusively in an advisory capacity.*

25 (3) *Is not authorized to take final action on legislation,*  
26 *regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, or any other entitlements,*  
27 *grants, or allocations of funds.*

28 (4) *Does not have primary subject matter jurisdiction over*  
29 *jurisdiction, as defined by the charter, an ordinance, a resolution,*  
30 *or any formal action of the legislative body that created the*  
31 *subsidiary body, that focuses on elections, budgets, police*  
32 *oversight, or removing from, or restricting access to, materials*  
33 *available in public libraries.*

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

36 SEC. 15. Section 54953.8.7 is added to the Government Code,  
37 to read:

38 54953.8.7. (a) *An eligible multijurisdictional body may*  
39 *conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8,*

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

3 (1) The eligible multijurisdictional body has adopted a resolution  
4 that authorizes the eligible multijurisdictional body to use  
5 teleconferencing pursuant to this section at a regular meeting in  
6 open session.

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

11 (3) A member of the eligible multijurisdictional body who  
12 receives compensation for their service on the eligible  
13 multijurisdictional body shall participate from a physical location  
14 that is open to the public. For purposes of this paragraph,  
15 “compensation” does not include reimbursement for actual and  
16 necessary expenses.

17 ~~(4) The eligible multijurisdictional body shall identify each~~  
18 ~~member of the eligible multijurisdictional body who plans to~~  
19 ~~participate remotely in the agenda.~~

20 *(4) A member of the eligible multijurisdictional body may*  
21 *participate from a remote location provided that:*

22 *(A) The eligible multijurisdictional body identifies each member*  
23 *of the eligible multijurisdictional body who plans to participate*  
24 *remotely in the agenda.*

25 *(B) The member shall participate through both audio and visual*  
26 *technology.*

27 (5) A member of the eligible multijurisdictional body shall not  
28 participate in a meeting remotely pursuant to this section, unless  
29 the location from which the member participates is more than 20  
30 miles ~~round-trip~~ *each way* from any physical location of the  
31 meeting described in paragraph (2).

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

36 *(A) Five meetings per year, if the legislative body regularly*  
37 *meets twice per month.*

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

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

5 (b) For the purposes of this section, both of the following  
6 definitions apply:

7 (1) “Eligible multijurisdictional body” means a  
8 multijurisdictional board, commission, or advisory body of a  
9 multijurisdictional, cross-county agency, the membership of which  
10 board, commission, or advisory body is appointed, and the board,  
11 commission, or advisory body is otherwise subject to this chapter.

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

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

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

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

21 ~~SEC. 16. Section 54953.9 is added to the Government Code,~~  
22 ~~to read:~~

23 ~~54953.9. (a) In addition to any other applicable requirements~~  
24 ~~of this chapter, an eligible legislative body shall comply with both~~  
25 ~~of the following requirements:~~

26 ~~(1) (A) (i) All open and public meetings shall include an~~  
27 ~~opportunity for members of the public to attend via a two-way~~  
28 ~~telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform, unless~~  
29 ~~telephonic or internet service is not available at the meeting~~  
30 ~~location.~~

31 ~~(ii) Clause (i) does not apply to a meeting that is held to do any~~  
32 ~~of the following:~~

33 ~~(I) Attend a judicial or administrative proceeding to which the~~  
34 ~~local agency is a party.~~

35 ~~(II) Inspect real or personal property provided that the topic of~~  
36 ~~the meeting is limited to items directly related to the real or~~  
37 ~~personal property.~~

38 ~~(III) Meet with elected or appointed officials of the United States~~  
39 ~~or the State of California, solely to discuss a legislative or~~

1 regulatory issue affecting the local agency and over which the  
2 federal or state officials have jurisdiction.

3 (IV) Meet in or nearby a facility owned by the agency, provided  
4 that the topic of the meeting is limited to items directly related to  
5 the facility.

6 (V) Meet in an emergency situation pursuant to Section 54956.5.

7 (B) If an eligible legislative body elects to provide a two-way  
8 audiovisual platform, the eligible legislative body shall publicly  
9 post and provide a call-in option, and activate any automatic  
10 captioning function during the meeting if an automatic captioning  
11 function is included with the two-way audiovisual platform.

12 (2) All open and public meetings for which attendance via a  
13 two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform is  
14 provided in accordance with paragraph (1) shall provide the public  
15 with an opportunity to provide public comment in accordance with  
16 Section 54954.3 via the two-way telephonic or two-way  
17 audiovisual platform, and ensure the opportunity for the members  
18 of the public participating via a two-way telephonic or two-way  
19 audiovisual platform to provide public comment with the same  
20 time allotment as a person attending a meeting in person.

21 (b) (1) An eligible legislative body shall reasonably assist  
22 members of the public who wish to translate a public meeting into  
23 any language or wish to receive interpretation provided by another  
24 member of the public, so long as the interpretation is not disrupting  
25 to the meeting, as defined in Section 54957.95. The eligible  
26 legislative body shall publicize instructions on how to request  
27 assistance under this subdivision. Assistance may include any of  
28 the following, as determined by the eligible legislative body:

29 (A) Arranging space for one or more interpreters at the meeting  
30 location.

31 (B) Allowing extra time during the meeting for interpretation  
32 to occur.

33 (C) Making available equipment or facilities for participants to  
34 access commercially available interpretation services.

35 (2) This section does not require an eligible legislative body to  
36 provide interpretation of any public meeting, however, an eligible  
37 legislative body may elect to provide interpretation of any public  
38 meeting.

1 ~~(3) An action shall not be commenced or maintained against~~  
2 ~~the eligible legislative body arising from the content or accuracy~~  
3 ~~of any interpretation facilitated or provided under this subdivision.~~

4 ~~(e) An eligible legislative body shall take the following actions~~  
5 ~~to encourage residents, including those in underrepresented~~  
6 ~~communities and non-English-speaking communities, to participate~~  
7 ~~in public meetings:~~

8 ~~(1) Have in place a system for electronically accepting and~~  
9 ~~fulfilling requests for meeting agendas and documents pursuant~~  
10 ~~to Section 54954.1 through email or through an integrated agenda~~  
11 ~~management platform. Information about how to make a request~~  
12 ~~using this system shall be accessible through a prominent direct~~  
13 ~~link posted on the primary internet website home page of the~~  
14 ~~eligible legislative body.~~

15 ~~(2) (A) Create and maintain an accessible internet web page~~  
16 ~~dedicated to public meetings that includes, or provides a link to,~~  
17 ~~all of the following information:~~

18 ~~(i) A general explanation of the public meeting process for the~~  
19 ~~city council or a county board of supervisors.~~

20 ~~(ii) An explanation of the procedures for a member of the public~~  
21 ~~to provide in-person or remote oral public comment during a public~~  
22 ~~meeting or to submit written public comment.~~

23 ~~(iii) A calendar of all public meeting dates with calendar listings~~  
24 ~~that include the date, time, and location of each public meeting.~~

25 ~~(iv) The agenda posted online pursuant to paragraph (2) of~~  
26 ~~subdivision (a) of Section 54954.2.~~

27 ~~(B) The eligible legislative body shall include a link to the web~~  
28 ~~page required by subparagraph (A) on the home page of the eligible~~  
29 ~~legislative body's internet website.~~

30 ~~(3) (A) Make efforts to provide public meeting information to~~  
31 ~~groups that do not traditionally participate in public meetings,~~  
32 ~~including, but not limited to, the following:~~

33 ~~(i) Media organizations that provide news coverage in the~~  
34 ~~jurisdiction of the eligible legislative body, including media~~  
35 ~~organizations that serve non-English-speaking communities.~~

36 ~~(ii) Good government, civil rights, civic engagement,~~  
37 ~~neighborhood, and community group organizations, or other~~  
38 ~~organizations that are active in the jurisdiction of the eligible~~  
39 ~~legislative body, including organizations active in~~  
40 ~~non-English-speaking communities.~~

1 ~~(B) No action shall be commenced or maintained against an~~  
2 ~~eligible legislative body arising from failing to provide public~~  
3 ~~meeting information to any specific organization pursuant to this~~  
4 ~~section.~~

5 ~~(d) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:~~

6 ~~(1) “Eligible legislative body” includes all of the following:~~

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

8 ~~(B) A county board of supervisors of a county, or city and~~  
9 ~~county, with a population of 30,000 or more.~~

10 ~~(C) A city council of a city located in a county with a population~~  
11 ~~of 200,000 or more.~~

12 ~~(D) The board of directors of a special district that serves over~~  
13 ~~200,000 people or more and has an internet website.~~

14 ~~(2) “Two-way audiovisual platform” means an online platform~~  
15 ~~that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting~~  
16 ~~via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic~~  
17 ~~service.~~

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

21 ~~(4) “Video streaming” means media in which the data from a~~  
22 ~~live filming or a video file is continuously delivered via the internet~~  
23 ~~to a remote user, allowing a video to be viewed online by the public~~  
24 ~~without being downloaded on a host computer or device.~~

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

27 ~~SEC. 17. Section 54953.10 is added to the Government Code,~~  
28 ~~to read:~~

29 ~~54953.10. (a) (1) The agenda for each meeting of an eligible~~  
30 ~~legislative body shall be translated into all applicable languages,~~  
31 ~~and each translation shall be posted in accordance with Section~~  
32 ~~54954.2. Each translation shall include instructions in the~~  
33 ~~applicable language describing how to join the meeting by the~~  
34 ~~telephonic or internet-based service option, including any~~  
35 ~~requirements for registration for public comment.~~

36 ~~(2) The accessible internet web page provided under paragraph~~  
37 ~~(2) of subdivision (c) of Section 54953.9 shall be translated into~~  
38 ~~all applicable languages, and each translation shall be accessible~~  
39 ~~through a prominent direct link posted on the primary internet~~  
40 ~~website home page of the eligible legislative body.~~

- 1 ~~(b) A translation made using a digital translation service shall~~  
2 ~~satisfy the requirements of subdivision (a).~~
- 3 ~~(c) The eligible legislative body shall make available a physical~~  
4 ~~location that is freely accessible to the public in reasonable~~  
5 ~~proximity to the physical location in which the agenda and~~  
6 ~~translations are posted as described in subdivision (a), and shall~~  
7 ~~allow members of the public to post additional translations of the~~  
8 ~~agenda in that location.~~
- 9 ~~(d) The eligible legislative body is not responsible for the content~~  
10 ~~or accuracy of any translation provided pursuant to this section.~~  
11 ~~No action shall be commenced or maintained against an eligible~~  
12 ~~legislative body from the content or accuracy of any translation~~  
13 ~~provided under this section.~~
- 14 ~~(e) For the purposes of this section, the agenda does not include~~  
15 ~~the entire agenda packet.~~
- 16 ~~(f) For purposes of this section, both of the following definitions~~  
17 ~~apply:~~
- 18 ~~(1) (A) “Applicable languages” means languages spoken jointly~~  
19 ~~by 20 percent or more of the population in the city or county in~~  
20 ~~which the eligible legislative body is located that speaks English~~  
21 ~~less than “very well” and jointly speaks a language other than~~  
22 ~~English according to data from the most recent American~~  
23 ~~Community Survey.~~
- 24 ~~(B) If more than three languages meet the criteria set forth in~~  
25 ~~paragraph (1), “applicable languages” shall mean the three~~  
26 ~~languages described in paragraph (1) that are spoken by the largest~~  
27 ~~percentage of the population.~~
- 28 ~~(C) An eligible legislative body may elect to determine the~~  
29 ~~applicable languages based upon a source other than the most~~  
30 ~~recent American Community Survey if it makes a finding, based~~  
31 ~~upon substantial evidence, that the other source provides equally~~  
32 ~~or more reliable data for the eligible legislative body.~~
- 33 ~~(2) “Eligible legislative body” includes all of the following:~~
- 34 ~~(A) A city council of a city with a population of 30,000 or more.~~
- 35 ~~(B) A county board of supervisors of a county, or city and~~  
36 ~~county, with a population of 30,000 or more.~~
- 37 ~~(C) A city council of a city located in a county with a population~~  
38 ~~of 200,000 or more.~~
- 39 ~~(D) The board of directors of a special district that serves over~~  
40 ~~200,000 people or more and has an internet website.~~

1     ~~SEC. 18.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38     (B) An online posting of an agenda, including, but not limited  
39 to, an agenda posted in an integrated agenda management platform,

1 shall be posted in an open format that meets all of the following  
2 requirements:

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

5 (ii) Platform independent and machine readable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 ~~(D) For purposes of this paragraph, “integrated agenda~~  
37 ~~management platform” means an internet website of a city, county,~~  
38 ~~city and county, special district, school district, or political~~  
39 ~~subdivision established by the state dedicated to providing the~~  
40 ~~entirety of the agenda information for the legislative body of the~~

1 ~~city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or~~  
2 ~~political subdivision established by the state to the public.~~

3 ~~(E)~~

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

8 (E) For purposes of this paragraph, both of the following  
9 definitions apply:

10 (1) “Integrated agenda management platform” means an  
11 internet website of a city, county, city and county, special district,  
12 school district, or political subdivision established by the state  
13 dedicated to providing the entirety of the agenda information for  
14 the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special  
15 district, school district, or political subdivision established by the  
16 state to the public.

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

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

33 (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the legislative body may  
34 take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda  
35 under any of the conditions stated below. Prior to discussing any  
36 item pursuant to this subdivision, the legislative body shall publicly  
37 identify the item.

38 (1) Upon a determination by a majority vote of the legislative  
39 body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section  
40 54956.5.

1 (2) Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members  
2 of the legislative body present at the meeting, or, if less than  
3 two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those  
4 members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and  
5 that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency  
6 subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision  
7 (a).

8 (3) The item was posted pursuant to subdivision (a) for a prior  
9 meeting of the legislative body occurring not more than five  
10 calendar days prior to the date action is taken on the item, and at  
11 the prior meeting the item was continued to the meeting at which  
12 action is being taken.

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

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

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

22 (2) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (b)  
23 of Section 54952, if the members of the legislative body are  
24 compensated for their appearance, and if one or more of the  
25 members of the legislative body are also members of a legislative  
26 body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

27 ~~SEC. 19.~~

28 *SEC. 17.* Section 54954.3 of the Government Code is amended  
29 to read:

30 54954.3. (a) (1) Every agenda for regular meetings shall  
31 provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly  
32 address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public,  
33 before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item,  
34 that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body,  
35 provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing  
36 on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by  
37 subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.

38 (2) Every notice for a special meeting shall provide an  
39 opportunity for members of the public to directly address the  
40 legislative body concerning any item that has been described in

1 the notice for the meeting before or during consideration of that  
2 item.

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

8 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), when the legislative body  
9 of a local agency limits time for public comment, the legislative  
10 body of a local agency shall provide at least twice the allotted time  
11 to a member of the public who utilizes a translator to ensure that  
12 non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly  
13 address the legislative body of a local agency.

14 (3) Paragraph (2) shall not apply if the legislative body of a  
15 local agency utilizes simultaneous translation equipment in a  
16 manner that allows the legislative body of a local agency to hear  
17 the translated public testimony simultaneously.

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

23 ~~SEC. 20.~~

24 *SEC. 18.* Section 54956 of the Government Code is amended  
25 to read:

26 54956. (a) (1) A special meeting may be called at any time  
27 by the presiding officer of the legislative body of a local agency,  
28 or by a majority of the members of the legislative body, by  
29 delivering written notice to each member of the legislative body  
30 and to each local newspaper of general circulation and radio or  
31 television station requesting notice in writing and posting a notice  
32 on the local agency's internet website, if the local agency has one.  
33 The notice shall be delivered personally or by any other means  
34 and shall be received at least 24 hours before the time of the  
35 meeting as specified in the notice. The call and notice shall specify  
36 the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be  
37 transacted or discussed. No other business shall be considered at  
38 these meetings by the legislative body. The written notice may be  
39 dispensed with as to any member who at or prior to the time the  
40 meeting convenes files with the clerk or secretary of the legislative

1 body a written waiver of notice. The waiver may be given by  
2 telephone or electronic mail. The written notice may also be  
3 dispensed with as to any member who is actually present at the  
4 meeting at the time it convenes.

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

8 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, a legislative body shall not  
9 call a special meeting regarding the salaries, salary schedules, or  
10 compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits, of the legislative  
11 body or of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d)  
12 of Section 3511.1. However, this subdivision does not apply to a  
13 local agency calling a special meeting to discuss the local agency's  
14 budget.

15 ~~SEC. 21.~~

16 *SEC. 19.* Section 54956.5 of the Government Code is amended  
17 to read:

18 54956.5. (a) For purposes of this section, "emergency  
19 situation" means both of the following:

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

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

31 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2), in the case of an emergency  
32 situation involving matters upon which prompt action is necessary  
33 due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities,  
34 a legislative body may hold an emergency meeting without  
35 complying with either the 24-hour notice requirement or the  
36 24-hour posting requirement of Section 54956 or both of the notice  
37 and posting requirements.

38 (2) Each local newspaper of general circulation and radio or  
39 television station that has requested notice of special meetings  
40 pursuant to Section 54956 shall be notified by the presiding officer

1 of the legislative body, or designee thereof, one hour prior to the  
2 emergency meeting, or, in the case of a dire emergency, at or near  
3 the time that the presiding officer or designee notifies the members  
4 of the legislative body of the emergency meeting.

5 (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the notice required  
6 by this paragraph shall be given by telephone and all telephone  
7 numbers provided in the most recent request of a newspaper or  
8 station for notification of special meetings shall be exhausted. In  
9 the event that telephone services are not functioning, the notice  
10 requirements of this paragraph shall be deemed waived, and the  
11 legislative body, or designee of the legislative body, shall notify  
12 those newspapers, radio stations, or television stations of the fact  
13 of the holding of the emergency meeting, the purpose of the  
14 meeting, and any action taken at the meeting as soon after the  
15 meeting as possible.

16 (B) For an emergency meeting held pursuant to this section, the  
17 presiding officer of the legislative body, or designee thereof, may  
18 send the notifications required by this paragraph by email instead  
19 of by telephone, as provided in subparagraph (A), to all local  
20 newspapers of general circulation, and radio or television stations,  
21 that have requested those notifications by email, and all email  
22 addresses provided by representatives of those newspapers or  
23 stations shall be exhausted. In the event that internet services and  
24 telephone services are not functioning, the notice requirements of  
25 this paragraph shall be deemed waived, and the legislative body,  
26 or designee of the legislative body, shall notify those newspapers,  
27 radio stations, or television stations of the fact of the holding of  
28 the emergency meeting, the purpose of the meeting, and any action  
29 taken at the meeting as soon after the meeting as possible.

30 (c) During a meeting held pursuant to this section, the legislative  
31 body may meet in closed session pursuant to Section 54957 if  
32 agreed to by a two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative  
33 body present, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present,  
34 by a unanimous vote of the members present.

35 (d) All special meeting requirements, as prescribed in Section  
36 54956 shall be applicable to a meeting called pursuant to this  
37 section, with the exception of the 24-hour notice requirement.

38 (e) The minutes of a meeting called pursuant to this section, a  
39 list of persons who the presiding officer of the legislative body,  
40 or designee of the legislative body, notified or attempted to notify,

1 a copy of the rollcall vote, and any actions taken at the meeting  
2 shall be posted for a minimum of 10 days in a public place as soon  
3 after the meeting as possible.

4 ~~SEC. 22.~~

5 *SEC. 20.* Section 54957.6 of the Government Code is amended  
6 to read:

7 54957.6. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a  
8 legislative body of a local agency may hold closed sessions with  
9 the local agency’s designated representatives regarding the salaries,  
10 salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe  
11 benefits of its represented and unrepresented employees, and, for  
12 represented employees, any other matter within the statutorily  
13 provided scope of representation, subject to all of the following  
14 conditions:

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

18 (2) The closed session shall be for the purpose of reviewing its  
19 position and instructing the local agency’s designated  
20 representatives.

21 (3) The closed session may take place prior to and during  
22 consultations and discussions with representatives of employee  
23 organizations and unrepresented employees.

24 (4) Any closed session with the local agency’s designated  
25 representative regarding the salaries, salary schedules, or  
26 compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits may include  
27 discussion of an agency’s available funds and funding priorities,  
28 but only insofar as these discussions relate to providing instructions  
29 to the local agency’s designated representative.

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

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

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

39 *SEC. 21.* Section 54957.9 of the Government Code is amended  
40 to read:

1 54957.9. In the event that any meeting is willfully interrupted  
2 by a group or groups of persons so as to render the orderly conduct  
3 of ~~such~~ *the* meeting unfeasible and order cannot be restored by the  
4 removal of individuals who are willfully interrupting the meeting,  
5 the members of the legislative body conducting the meeting may  
6 order the meeting room cleared and continue in session. Only  
7 matters appearing on the agenda may be considered in such a  
8 session. Representatives of the press or other news media, except  
9 those participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend  
10 any session held pursuant to this section. Nothing in this section  
11 shall prohibit the legislative body from establishing a procedure  
12 for readmitting an individual or individuals not responsible for  
13 willfully disturbing the orderly conduct of the meeting.

14 ~~SEC. 23.~~

15 *SEC. 22.* Section 54957.95 of the Government Code is amended  
16 to read:

17 54957.95. (a) (1) In addition to authority exercised pursuant  
18 to Sections 54954.3 and 54957.9, the presiding member of the  
19 legislative body conducting a meeting or their designee may  
20 remove, or cause the removal of, an individual for disrupting the  
21 meeting, including any teleconferenced meeting.

22 (2) Prior to removing an individual, the presiding member or  
23 their designee shall warn the individual that their behavior is  
24 disrupting the meeting and that their failure to cease their behavior  
25 may result in their removal. The presiding member or their  
26 designee may then remove the individual if they do not promptly  
27 cease their disruptive behavior. This paragraph does not apply to  
28 any behavior described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of  
29 subdivision (b).

30 (b) As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

5 SEC. 23. Section 54957.96 is added to the Government Code,  
6 to read:

7 54957.96. (a) *The existing authority of a legislative body or*  
8 *its presiding officer to remove or limit participation by individuals*  
9 *or groups of persons who engage in behavior that actually disrupts,*  
10 *disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the*  
11 *meeting, including existing limitations upon that authority, shall*  
12 *apply to members of the public participating in a meeting via a*  
13 *two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform.*

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

15 (1) *“Two-way audiovisual platform” means an online platform*  
16 *that provides participants with the ability to participate in a*  
17 *meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way*  
18 *telephonic service.*

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

22 SEC. 24. Section 54960.2 of the Government Code is amended  
23 to read:

24 54960.2. (a) The district attorney or any interested person may  
25 file an action to determine the applicability of this chapter to past  
26 actions of the legislative body pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section  
27 54960 only if all of the following conditions are met:

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

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

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

5 (4) Within 60 days of receipt of the legislative body’s response  
6 to the cease and desist letter, other than an unconditional  
7 commitment pursuant to subdivision (c), or within 60 days of the  
8 expiration of the time during which the legislative body may  
9 respond to the cease and desist letter pursuant to subdivision (b),  
10 whichever is earlier, the party submitting the cease and desist letter  
11 shall commence the action pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section  
12 54960 or thereafter be barred from commencing the action.

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

21 (c) (1) If the legislative body elects to respond to the cease and  
22 desist letter with an unconditional commitment to cease, desist  
23 from, and not repeat the past action that is alleged to violate this  
24 chapter, that response shall be in substantially the following form:  
25

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

27  
28 The [name of legislative body] has received your cease and desist  
29 letter dated [date] alleging that the following described past action  
30 of the legislative body violates the Ralph M. Brown Act:

31  
32 [Describe alleged past action, as set forth in the cease and desist  
33 letter submitted pursuant to subdivision (a)]  
34

35 In order to avoid unnecessary litigation and without admitting  
36 any violation of the Ralph M. Brown Act, the [name of legislative  
37 body] hereby unconditionally commits that it will cease, desist  
38 from, and not repeat the challenged past action as described above.  
39

1 The [name of legislative body] may rescind this commitment  
 2 only by a majority vote of its membership taken in open session  
 3 at a regular meeting and noticed on its posted agenda as  
 4 “Rescission of Brown Act Commitment.” You will be provided  
 5 with written notice, sent by any means or media you provide in  
 6 response to this message, to whatever address or addresses you  
 7 specify, of any intention to consider rescinding this commitment  
 8 at least 30 days before any such regular meeting. In the event that  
 9 this commitment is rescinded, you will have the right to commence  
 10 legal action pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 54960 of the  
 11 Government Code. That notice will be delivered to you by the  
 12 same means as this commitment, or may be mailed to an address  
 13 that you have designated in writing.

14  
 15 Very truly yours,

16 \_\_\_\_\_  
 17 [Chairperson or acting chairperson of the legislative body]

18  
 19 (2) An unconditional commitment pursuant to this subdivision  
 20 shall be approved by the legislative body in open session at a  
 21 regular or special meeting as a separate item of business, and not  
 22 on its consent agenda.

23 (3) An action shall not be commenced to determine the  
 24 applicability of this chapter to any past action of the legislative  
 25 body for which the legislative body has provided an unconditional  
 26 commitment pursuant to this subdivision. During any action  
 27 seeking a judicial determination regarding the applicability of this  
 28 chapter to any past action of the legislative body pursuant to  
 29 subdivision (a), if the court determines that the legislative body  
 30 has provided an unconditional commitment pursuant to this  
 31 subdivision, the action shall be dismissed with prejudice. Nothing  
 32 in this subdivision shall be construed to modify or limit the existing  
 33 ability of the district attorney or any interested person to commence  
 34 an action to determine the applicability of this chapter to ongoing  
 35 actions or threatened future actions of the legislative body.

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

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

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

25 SEC. 25. The Legislature finds and declares that ~~Section 5 4~~  
26 of this act, which amends Section 54953 of, *Section 5 of this act,*  
27 *which adds Section 54953.4 to,* Sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of this  
28 act, which add Sections 54953.8 to 54953.8.7, respectively, to,  
29 ~~Section 16 of this act, which adds Section 54953.9 to, Section 21~~  
30 *Section 19* of this act, which amends Section 54956.5 of, ~~and~~  
31 ~~Section 23~~ *Section 22* of this act, which amends Section 54957.95  
32 of, *and Section 23 of this act, which adds Section 54957.96 to,* the  
33 Government Code, impose a limitation on the public’s right of  
34 access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public  
35 officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article  
36 I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional  
37 provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to  
38 demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need  
39 for protecting that interest:

1 (a) This act is necessary to provide opportunities for public  
 2 participation in meetings of specified public agencies and to  
 3 promote the recruitment and retention of members of those  
 4 agencies.

5 (b) This act is necessary to ensure minimum standards for public  
 6 participation and notice requirements allowing for greater public  
 7 participation in meetings.

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

11 (d) *The exclusively virtual nature of the California Online*  
 12 *Community College presents unique barriers to the requirements*  
 13 *for an in-person quorum, a physical location for public*  
 14 *participation, and certain accommodations. Participating students*  
 15 *of the online community college come from all across the state*  
 16 *and necessitating travel for these requirements would pose a*  
 17 *significant and exclusionary barrier.*

18 SEC. 26. The Legislature finds and declares that ~~Section 1 of~~  
 19 ~~this act, which amends Section 54952 of, Sections 2 and 3 Sections~~  
 20 *1 and 2 of this act, which amend and repeal Section 54952.2,*  
 21 *respectively, of, Section 4 3 of this act, which amends Section*  
 22 *54952.7 of, Section 5 4 of this act, which amends Section 54953*  
 23 *of, Section 5 of this act, which adds Section 54953.4 to, Section 6*  
 24 *of this act, which amends Section 54953.5 of, Section 7 of this*  
 25 *act, which amends Section 54953.7 of, Sections 8 to 15, inclusive,*  
 26 *of this act, which add Sections 54953.8 to 54953.8.7, respectively,*  
 27 *to, Section 16 of this act, which adds Section 54953.9 to, amends*  
 28 *Section 54954.2 of, Section 17 of this act, which adds Section*  
 29 *54953.10 to, Sections 18 and 19 of this act, which amend Sections*  
 30 *54954.2 and 54954.3, respectively, amends Section 54954.3 of,*  
 31 *Section 20 18 of this act, which amends Section 54956 of, Section*  
 32 *21 19 of this act, which amends Section 54956.5 of, Section 22*  
 33 *20 of this act, which amends Section 54957.6 of, Section 21 of this*  
 34 *act, which amends Section 54957.9 of, Section 23 22 of this act,*  
 35 *which amends Section 54957.95 of, Section 23 of this act, which*  
 36 *adds Section 54957.96 to, and Section 24 of this act, which amends*  
 37 *Section 54960.2 of, the Government Code, further, within the*  
 38 *meaning of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article*  
 39 *I of the California Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional*  
 40 *section as it relates to the right of public access to the meetings of*

1 local public bodies or the writings of local public officials and  
2 local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of  
3 Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the Legislature  
4 makes the following findings:

5 (a) This act is necessary to provide opportunities for public  
6 participation in meetings of specified public agencies and to  
7 promote the recruitment and retention of members of those  
8 agencies.

9 (b) This act is necessary to ensure minimum standards for public  
10 participation and notice requirements allowing for greater public  
11 participation in meetings.

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

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

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

27 SEC. 28. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
28 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
29 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
30 district under this act would result from a legislative mandate that  
31 is within the scope of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section  
32 3 of Article I of the California Constitution.