

Introduced by Senator Durazo

February 21, 2025

An act to amend Sections 54953, 54954.2, and 54954.3 of, to add Sections 54953.8, 54953.8.1, and 54953.8.2 to, and to add and repeal Sections 54953.8.3, 54953.8.4, 54953.8.5, 54953.8.6, 54953.8.7, and 54953.9 of, the Government Code, relating to local government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 707, as introduced, 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 a city council or a county board of supervisors to comply with additional meeting requirements, including that all open and public meetings include an opportunity for members of the public to attend via a two-way telephonic option or a two-way audiovisual platform, as defined, that a system is in place for requesting and receiving interpretation services for public meetings, as specified, and that good faith efforts are made to encourage residents to participate in public meetings, as specified. By imposing additional meeting requirements on city councils and county boards of supervisors, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) 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 also require the agenda to be provided in English and in all other languages spoken jointly by 20% or more of the population in the county in which the local agency is located that, among other things, speaks English less than “very well,” as specified. By imposing additional agenda requirements on legislative bodies of local agencies, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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.

(3) Existing law authorizes the 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 percent 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 or emergency circumstances, as defined.

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 alternative teleconferencing provisions to uniformly apply certain noticing, 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 specified requirements, including that the legislative body provides at least either two-way audiovisual platform or two-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 is 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 meeting locations that the legislative bodies may use to conduct their meetings.

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 and to broaden

the definition of just cause to include a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person. The bill would extend the authorization to use the alternative teleconferencing provision until January 1, 2030.

The bill would revise and recast the alternative teleconferencing provisions applicable to neighborhood councils and student body associations and student-run community college organizations and would extend the authorization to use the alternative teleconferencing provision until January 1, 2030.

The bill would, until January 1, 2030, also authorize specified subsidiary 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 subsidiary body designates a primary physical meeting location 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.

(4) 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.

(5) 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.

(6) 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.

(7) 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 54953 of the Government Code, as
2 amended by Section 2 of Chapter 534 of the Statutes of 2023, is
3 amended to read:

4 54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local
5 agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted
6 to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency,
7 except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

8 (b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
9 legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for
10 the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency
11 in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law.
12 The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all
13 otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise
14 applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting
15 or proceeding.

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

21 (A) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be
22 by rollcall.

23 (B) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a
24 manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the
25 parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a
26 local agency.

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

3 (D) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to
4 access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity
5 for members of the public to address the legislative body directly
6 pursuant to Section 54954.3.

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

16 (c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot,
17 whether preliminary or final.

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

21 (3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally
22 report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the
23 salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of
24 fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in
25 subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in
26 which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect
27 the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Division
28 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1) to inspect or
29 copy records created or received in the process of developing the
30 recommendation.

31 ~~(d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in~~
32 ~~paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a~~
33 ~~teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction~~
34 ~~of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a~~
35 ~~quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50~~
36 ~~percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum~~
37 ~~are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the~~
38 ~~authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides~~
39 ~~a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that~~
40 ~~allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the~~

1 number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda
2 of the meeting.

3 (2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as
4 discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at
5 a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or
6 from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction
7 of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is
8 established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other
9 requirements of this section.

10 (3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means
11 any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31,
12 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare
13 and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant
14 to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of
15 Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section
16 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory
17 committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to
18 Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the
19 Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more
20 members.

21 (e) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use
22 teleconferencing without complying with the requirements of
23 paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if the legislative body complies
24 with the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subdivision in either
25 of the following circumstances:

26 (A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed
27 state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority
28 vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person
29 would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

30 (B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed
31 state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant
32 to subparagraph (A), that, as a result of the emergency, meeting
33 in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of
34 attendees.

35 (2) A legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this
36 subdivision shall do all of the following:

37 (A) In each instance in which notice of the time of the
38 teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the
39 meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give
40 notice of the means by which members of the public may access

1 the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda shall identify
2 and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in
3 option or an internet-based service option.

4 (B) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body
5 from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the
6 call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of
7 a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents
8 members of the public from offering public comments using the
9 call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body
10 shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting
11 agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or
12 internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda
13 items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from
14 broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section
15 54960.1.

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

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

26 (E) (i) A legislative body that provides a timed public comment
27 period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment
28 period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant
29 to subparagraph (D), to provide public comment until that timed
30 public comment period has elapsed.

31 (ii) A legislative body that does not provide a timed public
32 comment period, but takes public comment separately on each
33 agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda
34 item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public
35 comment, including time for members of the public to register
36 pursuant to subparagraph (D), or otherwise be recognized for the
37 purpose of providing public comment.

38 (iii) A legislative body that provides a timed general public
39 comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item
40 shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to

1 register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), until the timed general
2 public comment period has elapsed.

3 (3) If a state of emergency remains active, in order to continue
4 to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of
5 subdivision (b), the legislative body shall, not later than 45 days
6 after teleconferencing for the first time pursuant to subparagraph
7 (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), and every 45 days thereafter, make
8 the following findings by majority vote:

9 (A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of
10 the state of emergency.

11 (B) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the
12 ability of the members to meet safely in person.

13 (4) This subdivision shall not be construed to require the
14 legislative body to provide a physical location from which the
15 public may attend or comment.

16 (f) The legislative body shall have and implement a procedure
17 for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable
18 accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with
19 the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
20 Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. In
21 each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is
22 otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted,
23 the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for
24 receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.

25 (g) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this
26 chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and
27 nondiscrimination laws.

28 (h) (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body
29 from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.

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

34 (i) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions
35 shall apply:

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

40 (2)

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

4 ~~(j) This section shall become operative January 1, 2026.~~

5 SEC. 2. 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 meeting pursuant to this
13 section shall comply with all of the following:

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

18 (A) A two-way audiovisual platform.

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

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

28 (3) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body
29 from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the
30 call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of
31 a disruption within the local agency’s control that prevents
32 members of the public from offering public comments using the
33 call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body
34 shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting
35 agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or
36 internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda
37 items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from
38 broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section
39 54960.1.

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

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

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

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

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

28 (7) Any member of the legislative body who participates in a
29 teleconference meeting from a remote location shall be listed in
30 the minutes of the meeting.

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

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

4 (10) Instructions on joining the meeting by the telephonic or
5 internet-based service option, including any requirements for
6 registration for public comment, shall be made available in English
7 and in all other languages spoken jointly by 20 percent or more of
8 the population in the county in which the local agency is located
9 that speaks English less than “very well” and jointly speaks a
10 language other than English according to data from the most recent
11 American Community Survey or data from an equally reliable
12 source.

13 (11) If the meeting is outside regular business hours, the
14 legislative body shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate
15 any member of the public that requests an accommodation to
16 participate in the meeting, including, but not limited to, providing
17 access to a computer.

18 (c) A local agency shall identify and make available to
19 legislative bodies a list of meeting locations that the legislative
20 bodies may use to conduct their meetings.

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

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

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

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

33 (2) “Remote participation” means participation in a meeting by
34 teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting
35 location designated in the notice of the meeting. Watching or
36 listening to a meeting via webcasting or another similar electronic
37 medium that does not permit members to interactively hear,
38 discuss, or deliberate on matters, does not constitute remote
39 participation.

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

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

8 (5) “Two-way telephonic service” means a telephone service
9 that does not require internet access, is not provided as part of a
10 two-way audiovisual platform, and allows participants to dial a
11 telephone number to listen and verbally participate.

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

15 SEC. 3. Section 54953.8.1 is added to the Government Code,
16 to read:

17 54953.8.1. (a) A health authority may conduct a teleconference
18 meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8, provided that it complies
19 with the requirements of that section.

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

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

35 SEC. 4. Section 54953.8.2 is added to the Government Code,
36 to read:

37 54953.8.2. (a) A legislative body of a local agency may
38 conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8
39 during a proclaimed state of emergency or local emergency,
40 provided that it complies with the requirements of that section and

1 the teleconferencing is used in either of the following
2 circumstances:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 SEC. 5. Section 54953.8.3 is added to the Government Code,
36 to read:

37 54953.8.3. (a) (1) A legislative body of a local agency may
38 conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8 if,
39 during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the
40 members of the legislative body participates in person from a

1 singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda, which
2 location shall be open to the public and situated within the
3 boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises
4 jurisdiction, provided that the legislative body complies with the
5 requirements of Section 54953.8 and all of the following additional
6 requirements:

7 (2) A member of the legislative body notifies the legislative
8 body at the earliest opportunity possible, including at the start of
9 a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just
10 cause, including a general description of the circumstances relating
11 to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. The
12 provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the
13 legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.

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

19 (4) The member shall participate through both audio and visual
20 technology.

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

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

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

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

32 (B) For the purpose of counting meetings attended by
33 teleconference under this paragraph, a "meeting" shall be defined
34 as any number of meetings of the legislative body of a local agency
35 that begin on the same calendar day.

36 (b) For purposes of this section, "just cause" means any of the
37 following:

38 (1) Childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent,
39 grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them
40 to participate remotely. "Child," "parent," "grandparent,"

1 “grandchild,” and “sibling” have the same meaning as those terms
2 do in Section 12945.2.

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

5 (3) A need related to a physical or mental disability, as defined
6 in Sections 12926 and 12926.1, not otherwise accommodated by
7 any reasonable accommodations provided.

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

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

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

15 (c) This section shall not be construed to limit the ability of a
16 legislative body to use alternative teleconferencing provisions.

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 54953.8.4 is added to the Government Code,
20 to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 SEC. 7. Section 54953.8.5 is added to the Government Code,
36 to read:

37 54953.8.5. (a) An eligible community college student
38 organization may conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to
39 the Section 54953.8, provided that it complies with the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (I) The person has a disability that requires accommodation
34 pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
35 Sec. 12132).

36 (II) The person is under 18 years of age.

37 (III) The person is incarcerated.

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

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

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

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

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

15 (A) If the meeting is during regular business hours of the offices
16 of the board of trustees of the community college district, the
17 eligible community college student organization shall provide a
18 publicly accessible physical location from which the public may
19 attend or comment, which shall be the offices of the board of
20 trustees of the community college district, unless the eligible
21 community college student organization identifies an alternative
22 location.

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

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

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

1 SEC. 8. Section 54953.8.6 is added to the Government Code,
2 to read:

3 54953.8.6. (a) An eligible subsidiary body may conduct a
4 teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8, provided that
5 it complies with the requirements of that section and all of the
6 following additional requirements:

7 (1) The eligible subsidiary body shall designate a primary
8 physical meeting location where members of the public may
9 physically attend, observe, hear, and participate in the meeting.
10 At least one staff member of the local agency of the subsidiary
11 body shall be present at the primary physical meeting location
12 during the meeting. The local agency of the subsidiary body shall
13 post the agenda at the primary physical meeting location, but need
14 not post the agenda at a remote location.

15 (2) (A) The members of the eligible subsidiary body shall
16 visibly appear on camera during the open portion of a meeting that
17 is publicly accessible via the internet or other online platform.

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

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

30 (3) Any member who receives compensation for their service
31 on the subsidiary body shall not participate in a teleconference
32 meeting from a remote location pursuant to this section. For
33 purposes of this paragraph, “compensation” does not include
34 reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses.

35 (4) A quorum of the eligible subsidiary body cannot be
36 established solely by members of the legislative body that created
37 it or its staff.

38 (5) (A) At least a quorum of the members of the eligible
39 subsidiary body shall participate from a singular physical location

1 that is accessible to the public and is within the jurisdiction in
2 which the eligible subsidiary body is established.

3 (B) Notwithstanding the requirements of subparagraph (A), a
4 person may count toward the establishment of a quorum pursuant
5 to subparagraph (A) regardless of whether the person is
6 participating at the in-person location of the meeting or remotely
7 if the person meets any of the following criteria:

8 (i) The person has a disability that requires accommodation
9 pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
10 Sec. 12132).

11 (ii) The person is under 18 years of age.

12 (iii) The person is incarcerated.

13 (iv) The person is unable to disclose the location that they are
14 participating from because of either of the following circumstances:

15 (I) The person has been issued a protective court order,
16 including, but not limited to, a domestic violence restraining order.

17 (II) The person is participating in a program that has to remain
18 confidential, including, but not limited to, an independent living
19 program.

20 (v) The person provides childcare or caregiving to a child,
21 parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner
22 that requires them to participate remotely. For purposes of this
23 clause, “child,” “parent,” “grandparent,” “grandchild,” and
24 “sibling” have the same meaning as those terms are defined in
25 Section 12945.2.

26 (6) The eligible subsidiary body shall submit its
27 recommendations in writing to the legislative body that created it.

28 (A) The eligible subsidiary body shall present its
29 recommendations to the legislative body that created it at a regular
30 meeting in open session of that legislative body.

31 (B) The legislative body shall hold the discussion of the
32 recommendations at its next regular meeting, unless it determines
33 it is infeasible, and then shall hold it at the following regular
34 meeting.

35 (C) The legislative body shall not place discussions of the
36 recommendations on a consent calendar.

37 (7) (A) In order to use teleconferencing pursuant to this section,
38 the legislative body that established the eligible subsidiary body
39 by charter, ordinance, resolution, or other formal action shall make
40 the following findings by majority vote before the eligible

1 subsidiary body uses teleconferencing pursuant to this section for
2 the first time, and every 12 months thereafter:

3 (i) The legislative body has considered the circumstances of the
4 eligible subsidiary body.

5 (ii) Teleconference meetings of the eligible subsidiary body
6 would enhance public access to meetings of the eligible subsidiary
7 body.

8 (iii) Teleconference meetings of the eligible subsidiary body
9 would promote the attraction, retention, and diversity of eligible
10 subsidiary body members.

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

15 (C) The legislative body that created the eligible subsidiary
16 body may elect to prohibit the eligible subsidiary body from using
17 teleconferencing pursuant this section at any time.

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

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

21 (2) Serves exclusively in an advisory capacity.

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

25 (4) One-half of the members or more of the eligible subsidiary
26 body are not members of the legislative body that created it or its
27 staff.

28 (5) Does not have subject matter jurisdiction over elections,
29 budgets, police oversight, or removing materials from, or restricting
30 access to, facilities of the legislative body that created it.

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

33 SEC. 9. Section 54953.8.7 is added to the Government Code,
34 to read:

35 54953.8.7. (a) An eligible multijurisdictional body may
36 conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8,
37 provided that it complies with the requirements of that section and
38 all of the following additional requirements:

39 (1) The eligible multijurisdictional body has adopted a resolution
40 that authorizes the eligible multijurisdictional body to use

1 teleconferencing pursuant to this section at a regular meeting in
2 open session.

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

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

13 (4) The eligible multijurisdictional body shall identify each
14 member of the eligible multijurisdictional body who plans to
15 participate remotely in the agenda.

16 (5) A member of the eligible multijurisdictional body shall not
17 participate in a meeting remotely pursuant to this section, unless
18 the location from which the member participates is more than 20
19 miles round trip from the in-person location of the meeting.

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

22 (1) “Eligible multijurisdictional body” means a board,
23 commission, or advisory body of a multijurisdictional, cross-county
24 agency, the membership of which board, commission, or advisory
25 body is appointed, and the board, commission, or advisory body
26 is otherwise subject to this chapter.

27 (2) “Multijurisdictional” means a legislative body that includes
28 representatives from more than one county, city, city and county,
29 special district, or a joint powers entity formed pursuant to an
30 agreement entered into in accordance with Article 1 (commencing
31 with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 of Title 1.

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

34 SEC. 10. Section 54953.9 is added to the Government Code,
35 to read:

36 54953.9. (a) In addition to any other applicable requirements
37 of this chapter, a city council or a county board of supervisors shall
38 comply with the following requirements:

1 (1) (A) All open and public meetings shall include an
2 opportunity for members of the public to attend via a two-way
3 telephonic option or a two-way audiovisual platform.

4 (B) If a city council or a county board of supervisors elects to
5 provide a two-way audiovisual platform, the city council or a
6 county board of supervisors shall publicly post and provide a call-in
7 option, and activate any automatic captioning function during the
8 meeting if an automatic captioning function is included with the
9 system.

10 (2) If a city council or county board of supervisors has provided
11 video streaming for at least one open and public meeting on or
12 before January 1, 2026, the city council or county board of
13 supervisors shall continue to provide video streaming consistent
14 with the previously provided video streaming.

15 (3) All open and public meetings shall provide the public with
16 an opportunity to comment on proposed legislation via a two-way
17 telephonic or two-way audiovisual platform, and ensure the
18 opportunity for the members of the public participating via a
19 two-way telephonic or two-way audiovisual platform to comment
20 on agenda items with the same time allotment as a person attending
21 a meeting in person.

22 (b) (1) A city council or a county board of supervisors described
23 in subdivision (a) shall have in place a system for requesting and
24 receiving interpretation services for public meetings, including the
25 public comment period. The city council or a county board of
26 supervisors shall publicize the online system described in this
27 paragraph and any instructions on how to request certified
28 interpretation services for public meetings online.

29 (2) If interpretation services are requested for a public meeting
30 and public comment period, the city council or a county board of
31 supervisors shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate any
32 member of the public that requests the interpretation services.

33 (c) A city council or a county board of supervisors described in
34 subdivision (a) shall make a good faith effort to encourage
35 residents, including those in underrepresented communities and
36 non-English-speaking communities, to participate in public
37 meetings, which shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:

38 (1) Making a good faith effort to provide public meeting
39 information to all of the following:

1 (A) Media organizations that provide news coverage in the
2 jurisdiction of the city council or a county board of supervisors,
3 including media organizations that serve non-English-speaking
4 communities.

5 (B) Good government, civil rights, civic engagement,
6 neighborhood, and community group organizations, or other
7 organizations that are active in the jurisdiction of the city council
8 or a county board of supervisors, including organizations active
9 in non-English-speaking communities.

10 (C) Any person that has requested to be notified concerning the
11 city council's or a county board of supervisors' public meetings.
12 The city council or a county board of supervisors shall maintain
13 a contact list for all people requesting notification and provide
14 them with regular updates regarding public meetings, including,
15 at minimum, notices of upcoming public meetings.

16 (2) Creating and maintaining an accessible internet webpage
17 dedicated to public meetings, in which a prominent link on the
18 webpage is included on the homepage of the city council's or a
19 county board of supervisors' internet website, and that includes,
20 or provides a link to, all of the following information:

21 (A) A general explanation of the public meeting process for the
22 city council or a county board of supervisors that is provided in
23 English and any other applicable languages.

24 (B) An explanation of the procedures for a member of the public
25 to provide in-person or remote oral public comment during a public
26 meeting or to submit written public comment that is provided in
27 English and any other applicable languages.

28 (C) A calendar of all public meeting dates with calendar listings
29 that include the date, time, and location of each public meeting.

30 (D) A notice of the applicable languages in which the city
31 council or a county board of supervisors will provide live
32 translation of a public meeting upon request and instructions for
33 making the request that is provided in English and any other
34 applicable languages.

35 (E) Instructions and a method for a person to sign up to receive
36 regular notices regarding public meetings, including notices of
37 public meetings that are provided in English and any other
38 applicable languages.

39 (F) A notice and agenda for each public meeting.

(G) Any available recordings of each public meeting, to the extent applicable.

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

(1) “Applicable language” means languages spoken jointly by 20 percent or more of the population in the county in which the city council or a county board of supervisors is located that speaks English less than “very well” and jointly speaks a language other than English according to data from the most recent American Community Survey or data from an equally reliable source.

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

(3) “Two-way telephonic service” means a telephone service that does not require internet access, is not provided as part of a two-way audiovisual platform, and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.

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

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

SEC. 11. Section 54954.2 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 92 of Chapter 131 of the Statutes of 2023, is amended to read:

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

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

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

(C) (i) *If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of*

1 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations
2 adopted in implementation thereof. ~~The~~

3 (ii) *The agenda shall include information regarding how, to*
4 *whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or*
5 *accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made*
6 *by a person with a disability who requires a modification or*
7 *accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.*

8 (D) *The agenda shall be provided in English and in all other*
9 *languages spoken jointly by 20 percent or more of the population*
10 *in the county in which the local agency is located that speaks*
11 *English less than “very well” and jointly speaks a language other*
12 *than English according to data from the most recent American*
13 *Community Survey or data from an equally reliable source.*

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

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

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

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

32 (ii) Platform independent and machine readable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(D) For the purposes of this paragraph, both of the following definitions shall apply:

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

(ii) “Legislative body” has the same meaning as that term is used in subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~(e) This section shall become operative January 1, 2026.~~

SEC. 12. Section 54954.3 of the Government Code is amended to read:

54954.3. (a) *(1)* Every agenda for regular meetings shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public, before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body, provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2. ~~However, the agenda need not provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body on any item that has already been considered by a committee, composed exclusively of members of the legislative body, at a public meeting wherein all interested members of the public were afforded the opportunity to address the committee on the item, before or during the committee's consideration of the item, unless the item has been substantially changed since the committee heard the item, as determined by the legislative body.~~ Every

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

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

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), when the legislative body of a local agency limits time for public comment, the legislative body of a local agency shall provide at least twice the allotted time to a member of the public who utilizes a translator to ensure that

1 non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly
2 address the legislative body of a local agency.

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

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

12 SEC. 13. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of
13 this act, which amends Section 54953 of the Government Code,
14 and Sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this act, which add Sections
15 54953.8 to 54953.8.7, respectively, to the Government Code,
16 impose a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings
17 of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies
18 within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California
19 Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the
20 Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest
21 protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:

22 (a) This act is necessary to provide opportunities for public
23 participation in meetings of specified public agencies and to
24 promote the recruitment and retention of members of those
25 agencies.

26 (b) This act is necessary to ensure minimum standards for public
27 participation and notice requirements allowing for greater public
28 participation in meetings.

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

32 SEC. 14. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of
33 this act, which amends Section 54953 of the Government Code,
34 Sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this act, which add Sections 54953.8
35 to 54953.8.7, respectively, to the Government Code, Section 10
36 of this act, which adds Section 54953.9 to the Government Code,
37 and Sections 11 to 12, inclusive, of this act, which amend Sections
38 54954.2 and 54954.3, respectively, of the Government Code,
39 further, within the meaning of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of
40 Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the purposes

1 of that constitutional section as it relates to the right of public
2 access to the meetings of local public bodies or the writings of
3 local public officials and local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7)
4 of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California
5 Constitution, the Legislature makes the following findings:

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

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

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

16 SEC. 15. The Legislature finds and declares that adequate
17 public access to meetings is a matter of statewide concern and is
18 not a municipal affair as that term is used in Section 5 of Article
19 XI of the California Constitution. Therefore, Section 10 of this act
20 adding Section 54953.9 to, and Section 11 of this act amending
21 Section 54954.2 of, the Government Code apply to all cities,
22 including charter cities.

23 SEC. 16. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
24 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
25 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
26 district under this act would result from a legislative mandate that
27 is within the scope of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section
28 3 of Article I of the California Constitution.