

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 17, 2025

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 8, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 29, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 7, 2025

SENATE BILL

No. 707

Introduced by Senator Durazo

(Principal coauthor: Senator Arreguín)

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

February 21, 2025

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

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

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

This bill would, beginning July 1, 2026, and until January 1, 2030, require an eligible legislative body, as defined, to comply with additional meeting requirements, including that, except as specified, all open and public meetings include an opportunity for members of the public to attend via a 2-way telephonic service or a 2-way audiovisual platform, as defined, and that the eligible legislative body take specified actions to encourage residents to participate in public meetings, as specified. *The bill would require an eligible legislative body, on or before July 1, 2026, to approve at a noticed public meeting in open session a policy regarding disruption of telephonic or internet services occurring during meetings subject to these provisions, as specified, and would require the eligible legislative body to comply with certain requirements relating to disruption, including for certain disruptions, recessing the open session for at least one hour and making a good faith attempt to restore the service, as specified.*

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

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

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

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

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

This bill would, beginning July 1, 2026, and until July 1, 2030, require the agenda for each meeting of an eligible legislative body, as defined, to be translated into all applicable languages. The bill would define “applicable languages” to mean languages, according to data from the most recent American Community Survey, spoken jointly by 20% or more of the applicable population, as specified, provided that 20% or more of the population that speaks that language that in that city or county speaks English less than “very well,” as specified, and except as provided.

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

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

(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 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~The bill would require a legislative body to allow a member with a disability, as defined, that precludes a member's in-person attendance at meetings of the body, as specified, to participate in any meeting of the legislative body by remote participation, as defined, except as specified.~~ *specify that nothing in the bill's provisions is to be construed to prohibit a member of a legislative body with a disability, as defined, from participating in any meeting of the legislative body by remote participation as a reasonable accommodation pursuant to any applicable law.* The bill would apply certain provisions relative to, among other things, quorum establishment to that circumstance.

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

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

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

The bill would revise and recast the alternative teleconferencing provisions applicable to neighborhood councils and student body associations and student-run community college organizations. In regards to the alternative teleconferencing provisions applicable to student body associations and student-run community college organizations, the bill would exempt the California Online Community College from specified requirements for an in-person quorum, a physical location for public participation, and certain accommodations under the authorization, and remove the ability for a person with a disability that requires certain

accommodations to count towards the in-person quorum requirement. The bill would specify that the California community college student body associations and student-run community college organizations described above are those in any community college recognized within the California Community Colleges system, and would extend the authorization to the Student Senate for California Community Colleges. The bill would extend the authorization to use the alternative teleconferencing provisions applicable to neighborhood councils and student body associations and student-run community college organizations until January 1, 2030.

The bill would, until January 1, 2030, also authorize a specified subsidiary body of local agencies to conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to the above-described alternative teleconferencing provisions, provided that it complies with the requirements for alternative teleconferencing described above and additional requirements, including that the subsidiary body designates ~~at least~~ one physical meeting location within the boundaries of the legislative body that created the subsidiary body where *members of the subsidiary body who are not participating remotely shall be present* and members of the public may physically attend, observe, hear, and participate in the meeting, as specified.

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

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

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

This bill would specify that “teleconference” does not include the attendance of one or more members of a legislative body in a meeting

of the body solely by watching or listening via webcasting or any other similar electronic medium that does not permit members to interactively speak, discuss, or deliberate on matters.

(8) Existing law authorizes a special meeting to be called any time by, among other persons, the presiding officer of the legislative body of a local agency, by delivering specified written notices and posting a notice on the local agency's internet website, if the local agency has one. Existing law requires specified legislative bodies to comply with the internet website posting requirement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(12) Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

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

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

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

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

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

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 54952.2 of the Government Code, as
2 amended by Section 1 of Chapter 89 of the Statutes of 2020, is
3 amended to read:
4 54952.2. (a) As used in this chapter, “meeting” means any
5 congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body
6 at the same time and location, including teleconference location
7 as permitted by Section 54953, to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take
8 action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of
9 the legislative body.
10 (b) (1) A majority of the members of a legislative body shall
11 not, outside a meeting authorized by this chapter, use a series of
12 communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries,
13 to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item of business that
14 is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body.

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

(3) (A) Paragraph (1) shall not be construed as preventing a member of the legislative body from engaging in separate conversations or communications on an internet-based social media platform to answer questions, provide information to the public, or to solicit information from the public regarding a matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body provided that a majority of the members of the legislative body 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. A member of the legislative body shall not respond directly to any communication on an internet-based social media platform regarding a matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body that is made, posted, or shared by any other member of the legislative body.

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

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

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

(iii) “Open and accessible to the public” means that members of the general public have the ability to access and participate, free of charge, in the social media platform without the approval by the social media platform or a person or entity other than the social media platform, including any forum and chatroom, and cannot be blocked from doing so, except when the internet-based social

1 media platform determines that an individual violated its protocols
2 or rules.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 are not members of the standing committee attend only as
2 observers.

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

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

13 54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local
14 agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted
15 to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency,
16 except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 *(c) (1) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit a*
25 *member of a legislative body with a disability from participating*
26 *in any meeting of the legislative body by remote participation as*
27 *a reasonable accommodation pursuant to any applicable law.*

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

31 (A) The member shall participate through both audio and visual
32 technology, except that any member with a disability, as defined
33 in Section 12102 of Title 42 of the United States Code, ~~that~~
34 ~~precludes the member from being physically capable of appearing~~
35 ~~on-camera~~ may participate only through audio-technology.
36 *technology if a physical condition related to their disability results*
37 *in a need to participate off camera.*

38 (B) The member shall disclose at the meeting before any action
39 is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older
40 are present in the room at the remote location with the member,

1 and the general nature of the member's relationship with any of
2 those individuals.

3 (3) Remote participation under this subdivision shall be treated
4 as in-person attendance at the physical meeting location for all
5 purposes, including any requirement that a quorum of the
6 legislative body participate from any particular location. The
7 provisions of subdivision (b) and Sections 54953.8 to 54953.8.7,
8 inclusive, shall not apply to remote participation under this
9 subdivision.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (1) *"Disability" means a physical disability or a mental*
31 *disability as those terms are defined in Section 12926 and used in*
32 *Section 12926.1, or a disability as defined in Section 12102 of*
33 *Title 42 of the United States Code.*

34 ~~(1)~~

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

38 (B) Notwithstanding ~~paragraph (1); subparagraph (A),~~
39 "teleconference" does not include one or more members watching
40 or listening to a meeting via webcasting or any other similar

1 electronic medium that does not permit members to interactively
2 speak, discuss, or deliberate on matters.

3 (2)

4 (3) “Remote participation” means participation in a meeting by
5 teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting
6 location designated in the notice of the meeting.

7 SEC. 5. Section 54953.4 is added to the Government Code, to
8 read:

9 54953.4. (a) *The Legislature finds and declares that public*
10 *access, including through translation of agendas as required by*
11 *this section, is necessary for an informed populace. The Legislature*
12 *encourages local agencies to adopt public access requirements*
13 *that exceed the requirements of this chapter by translating*
14 *additional languages, employing human translators, and*
15 *conducting additional outreach.*

16 (b) (1) In addition to any other applicable requirements of this
17 chapter, a meeting held by a eligible legislative body pursuant to
18 this chapter shall comply with both of the following requirements:

19 (A) (i) (I) (ia) All open and public meetings shall include an
20 opportunity for members of the public to attend via a two-way
21 telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform, except if
22 adequate telephonic or internet service is not operational at the
23 meeting location. If adequate telephonic or internet service is
24 operational at the meeting location during only a portion of the
25 meeting, the legislative body shall include an opportunity for
26 members of the public to attend via a two-way telephonic service
27 or a two-way audiovisual platform during that portion of the
28 meeting.

29 (ib) (Ia) *On or before July 1, 2026, an eligible legislative body*
30 *shall approve at a noticed public meeting in open session, not on*
31 *the consent calendar, a policy regarding disruption of telephonic*
32 *or internet service occurring during meetings subject to this*
33 *sub-subclause. The policy shall address the procedures for*
34 *recessing and reconvening a meeting in the event of disruption*
35 *and the efforts that the eligible legislative body shall make to*
36 *attempt to restore the service.*

37 (Ib) *If a disruption of telephonic or internet service that prevents*
38 *members of the public from attending or observing the meeting*
39 *via the two-way telephonic service or two-way audiovisual platform*
40 *occurs during the meeting, the eligible legislative body shall recess*

1 *the open session of the meeting for at least one hour and make a*
2 *good faith attempt to restore the service. The eligible legislative*
3 *body may meet in closed session during this period. The eligible*
4 *legislative body shall not reconvene the open session of the meeting*
5 *until at least one hour following the disruption, or until telephonic*
6 *or internet service is restored, whichever is earlier.*

7 *(Ic) Upon reconvening the open session, if telephonic or internet*
8 *service has not been restored, the eligible legislative body shall*
9 *adopt a finding by rollcall vote that good faith efforts to restore*
10 *the telephonic or internet service have been made in accordance*
11 *with the policy adopted pursuant to sub-sub-subclause (Ia) and*
12 *that the public interest in continuing the meeting outweighs the*
13 *public interest in remote public access.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 (B) (i) All open and public meetings for which attendance via
39 a two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform
40 is provided in accordance with paragraph (1) shall provide the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) Have in place a system for electronically accepting and fulfilling requests for meeting agendas and documents pursuant to Section 54954.1 through email or through an integrated agenda management platform. Information about how to make a request 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 eligible legislative body.

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 public
10 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~~ subparagraph.

35 (b)

36 (c) (1) (A) The agenda for each meeting of an eligible
37 legislative body shall be translated into all applicable languages,
38 and each translation shall be posted in accordance with Section
39 54954.2. Each translation shall include instructions in the
40 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)~~ (b) shall be
5 translated into all applicable languages, and each translation shall
6 be accessible through a prominent direct link posted on the primary
7 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 ~~subdivision~~. No action shall be commenced or maintained against
19 an eligible legislative body arising from the content, accuracy,
20 posting, or removal of any translation provided by the eligible
21 legislative body or posted by any person pursuant to this~~section~~.
22 ~~subdivision~~.

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

25 (d) *This section shall not be construed to affect or supersede*
26 *any other applicable civil rights, nondiscrimination, or public*
27 *access laws.*

28 ~~(e)~~

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

31 (1) (A) “Applicable languages” means languages, according
32 to data from the most recent American Community Survey, spoken
33 jointly by 20 percent or more of the applicable population, provided
34 that 20 percent or more of the population that speaks that language
35 in that city or county speaks English less than “very well.”

36 (B) For the purposes of subparagraph (A), the applicable
37 population shall be determined as follows:

38 (i) For an eligible legislative body that is a city council or county
39 board of supervisors, the applicable population shall be the
40 population of the city or county.

1 (ii) For an eligible legislative body of a special district, the
2 applicable population shall be either of the following, at the
3 discretion of the board of directors of the special district:

4 (I) The population of the county with the greatest population
5 within the boundaries of the special district.

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

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

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

20 (2) “Eligible legislative body” means any of the following:

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

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

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

26 (D) The board of directors of a special district that has an
27 internet website and meets any of the following conditions:

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

31 (ii) The special district has over 1,000 full-time equivalent
32 employees.

33 (iii) The special district has annual revenues, based on the most
34 recent Financial Transaction Report data published by the
35 California State Controller, that exceed four hundred million dollars
36 (\$400,000,000), adjusted annually for inflation commencing
37 January 1, 2027, as measured by the percentage change in the
38 California Consumer Price Index from January 1 of the prior year
39 to January 1 of the current year, and the special district employs
40 over 200 full-time equivalent employees.

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

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

8 ~~(d)~~

9 ~~(f)~~ This section shall become operative on July 1, 2026.

10 ~~(e)~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 SEC. 8. Section 54953.8 is added to the Government Code, to
40 read:

1 54953.8. (a) The legislative body of a local agency may use
2 teleconferencing as authorized by subdivision (b) of Section 54953
3 without complying with the requirements of paragraph (3) of
4 subdivision (b) of Section 54953 in any of the circumstances
5 described in Sections 54953.8.1 to 54953.8.7, inclusive.

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

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

13 (A) A two-way audiovisual platform.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 (9) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this
39 chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and
40 nondiscrimination laws.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (3) "Two-way audiovisual platform" means an online platform
34 that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting
35 via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic
36 service. *A two-way audiovisual platform may be structured to*
37 *disable the use of video for the public participants.*

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

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

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

6 54953.8.1. (a) A health authority may conduct a teleconference
7 meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8, provided that it complies
8 with the requirements of that section.

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

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

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

26 54953.8.2. (a) A legislative body of a local agency may
27 conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8
28 during a proclaimed state of emergency or local emergency,
29 provided that it complies with the requirements of that section and
30 the teleconferencing is used in either of the following
31 circumstances:

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

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

38 (b) If the state of emergency or local emergency remains active,
39 in order to continue to teleconference pursuant to this section, the
40 legislative body shall, no later than 45 days after teleconferencing

1 for the first time pursuant to this section, and every 45 days
2 thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

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

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

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

10 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section
11 54953.8, a legislative body conducting a teleconference meeting
12 pursuant to this section may elect to use a two-way telephonic
13 service without a live webcasting of the meeting.

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

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

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

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

30 54953.8.3. (a) A legislative body of a local agency may
31 conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8 if,
32 during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the
33 members of the legislative body participates in person from a
34 singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda, which
35 location shall be open to the public and situated within the
36 boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises
37 jurisdiction, provided that the legislative body complies with the
38 requirements of Section 54953.8 and all of the following additional
39 requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 (7) *Military service obligations that result in a member being*
11 *unable to attend in person because they are serving under official*
12 *written orders for active duty, drill, annual training, or any other*
13 *duty required as a member of the California National Guard or a*
14 *United States Military Reserve organization that requires the*
15 *member to be at least 50 miles outside the boundaries of the local*
16 *agency.*

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

19 ~~(e)~~

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

22 SEC. 12. Section 54953.8.4 is added to the Government Code,
23 to read:

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

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

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

39 (C) Upon receiving notification from an eligible neighborhood
40 council described in subparagraph (B), the city council may adopt

1 a resolution to prohibit the eligible neighborhood council from
2 using teleconferencing pursuant to this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 SEC. 13. Section 54953.8.5 is added to the Government Code,
2 to read:

3 54953.8.5. (a) An eligible community college student
4 organization may conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to
5 Section 54953.8, provided that it complies with the requirements
6 of that section and all of the following additional requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 (II) The person is incarcerated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 (b) For purposes of this section, “eligible community college
39 student organization” means a student body association organized
40 pursuant to Section 76060 of the Education Code, or any other

1 student-run community college organization that is required to
2 comply with the meeting requirements of this chapter, that is in
3 any community college recognized within the California
4 Community Colleges system and includes the Student Senate for
5 California Community Colleges.

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

8 SEC. 14. Section 54953.8.6 is added to the Government Code,
9 to read:

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

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

25 (2) (A) A member of the eligible subsidiary body shall visibly
26 appear on camera during the open portion of a meeting that is
27 publicly accessible via the internet or other online platform, except
28 if the member ~~has a disability, as defined in Section 12102 of Title~~
29 ~~42 of the United States Code, that precludes the member from~~
30 ~~being physically capable of appearing on camera.~~ *has a physical*
31 *or mental condition not subject to subdivision (c) of Section 54953*
32 *that results in a need to participate off camera.*

33 (B) The visual appearance of a member of the eligible subsidiary
34 body on camera may cease only when the appearance would be
35 technologically ~~impracticable~~, *infeasible*, including, but not limited
36 to, when the member experiences a lack of reliable broadband or
37 internet connectivity that would be remedied by joining without
38 video, ~~or when the visual display of meeting materials, information,~~
39 ~~or speakers on the internet or other online platform requires the~~

1 ~~visual appearance of a member of a subsidiary body on camera to~~
2 ~~cease— video.~~

3 (C) If a member of the eligible subsidiary body does not appear
4 on camera due to challenges with internet connectivity, the member
5 shall announce the reason for their nonappearance ~~when they turn~~
6 *prior to turning off their camera.*

7 (3) An elected official serving as a member of an eligible
8 subsidiary body in their official capacity shall not participate in a
9 meeting of the eligible subsidiary body by teleconferencing
10 pursuant to this section unless the use of teleconferencing complies
11 with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section
12 54953.

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

19 (i) The legislative body has considered the circumstances of the
20 eligible subsidiary body.

21 (ii) Teleconference meetings of the eligible subsidiary body
22 would enhance public access to meetings of the eligible subsidiary
23 ~~body— body, and the public has been made aware of the type of~~
24 *remote participation, including audio-visual or telephonic, that*
25 *will be made available at a regularly scheduled meeting and has*
26 *been provided the opportunity to comment at an in-person meeting*
27 *of the legislative body authorizing the subsidiary body to meet*
28 *entirely remotely.*

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

32 (B) (i) An eligible subsidiary body authorized to use
33 teleconferencing pursuant to this section may request to present
34 any recommendations it develops to the legislative body that
35 created it.

36 (ii) Upon receiving a request described in clause (i), the
37 legislative body that created the subsidiary body shall hold a
38 discussion at a regular meeting held within 60 days after the
39 legislative body receives the request, or if the legislative body does
40 not have another regular meeting scheduled within 60 days after

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

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

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

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

18 (b) (1) For purposes of this section, "eligible subsidiary body"
19 means a legislative body that meets all of the following:

20 ~~(1)~~

21 (A) Is described in subdivision (b) of Section 54952.

22 ~~(2)~~

23 (B) Serves exclusively in an advisory capacity.

24 ~~(3)~~

25 (C) 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)~~

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

35 (2) *An eligible subsidiary body may include members who are*
36 *elected officials, members who are not elected officials, or any*
37 *combination thereof.*

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

1 SEC. 15. Section 54953.8.7 is added to the Government Code,
2 to read:

3 54953.8.7. (a) An eligible multijurisdictional body may
4 conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to Section 54953.8,
5 provided that it complies with the requirements of that section and
6 all of the following additional requirements:

7 (1) The eligible multijurisdictional body has adopted a resolution
8 that authorizes the eligible multijurisdictional body to use
9 teleconferencing pursuant to this section at a regular meeting in
10 open session.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 (A) *Two meetings per year, if the legislative body regularly*
38 *meets once per month or less.*

39 ~~(A)~~

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

3 ~~(B)~~

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

6 ~~(C)~~

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

11 (b) For the purposes of this section, both of the following
12 definitions apply:

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 54954.2. (a) (1) At least 72 hours before a regular meeting,
31 the legislative body of the local agency, or its designee, shall post
32 an agenda that meets all of the following requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (ii) Platform independent and machine readable.

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

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

38 (i) A direct link to the integrated agenda management platform
39 shall be posted on the primary internet website home page of a
40 city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or

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

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

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

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

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

24 (E) For purposes of this paragraph, both of the following
25 definitions apply:

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

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

35 (3) No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not
36 appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a
37 legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made
38 or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony
39 rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative
40 or in response to questions posed by the public, a member of a

1 legislative body or its staff may ask a question for clarification,
2 make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on their own
3 activities. Furthermore, a member of a legislative body, or the
4 body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the legislative body,
5 may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual
6 information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent
7 meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to
8 place a matter of business on a future agenda.

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

14 (1) Upon a determination by a majority vote of the legislative
15 body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section
16 54956.5.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 members of the legislative body are also members of a legislative
2 body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

3 SEC. 17. Section 54954.3 of the Government Code is amended
4 to read:

5 54954.3. (a) (1) Every agenda for regular meetings shall
6 provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly
7 address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public,
8 before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item,
9 that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body,
10 provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing
11 on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by
12 subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.

13 (2) (A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the agenda need not
14 provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the
15 legislative body on any item that has already been considered by
16 a committee, composed exclusively of members of the legislative
17 body, at a public meeting wherein all interested members of the
18 public were afforded the opportunity to address the committee on
19 the item, before or during the committee's consideration of the
20 item.

21 (B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply if any of the following
22 conditions are met:

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

25 (ii) When considering the item, a quorum of the committee
26 members did not participate from a singular physical location, that
27 was clearly identified on the agenda, open to the public, and
28 situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local
29 agency exercises jurisdiction.

30 (iii) The committee has primary subject matter jurisdiction, as
31 defined by the charter, an ordinance, a resolution, or any formal
32 action of the legislative body that created the subsidiary body, that
33 focuses on elections, budgets, police oversight, ~~or privacy,~~
34 removing from, or restricting access to, materials available in
35 public ~~libraries.~~ *libraries, or taxes or related spending proposals.*
36 *This clause shall not apply to an item if the local agency has*
37 *adopted a law applicable to the meeting of the committee at which*
38 *the item that was considered prohibits the committee from placing*
39 *a limit on the total amount of time for public comment on the item.*

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

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

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

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

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

26 SEC. 18. Section 54956 of the Government Code is amended
27 to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 (2) Each local newspaper of general circulation and radio or
40 television station that has requested notice of special meetings

1 pursuant to Section 54956 shall be notified by the presiding officer
2 of the legislative body, or designee thereof, one hour prior to the
3 emergency meeting, or, in the case of a dire emergency, at or near
4 the time that the presiding officer or designee notifies the members
5 of the legislative body of the emergency meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

1 or designee of the legislative body, notified or attempted to notify,
2 a copy of the rollcall vote, and any actions taken at the meeting
3 shall be posted for a minimum of 10 days in a public place as soon
4 after the meeting as possible.

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

16 54957.95. (a) (1) In addition to authority exercised pursuant
17 to Sections 54954.3 and 54957.9, the presiding member of the
18 legislative body conducting a meeting or their designee may
19 remove, or cause the removal of, an individual for disrupting the
20 meeting, including any teleconferenced meeting.

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

29 (b) As used in this section:

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

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

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

39 (2) “True threat of force” means a threat that has sufficient
40 indicia of intent and seriousness, that a reasonable observer would

1 perceive it to be an actual threat to use force by the person making
2 the threat.

3 SEC. 23. Section 54957.96 is added to the Government Code,
4 to read:

5 54957.96. (a) The existing authority of a legislative body or
6 its presiding officer to remove or limit participation by ~~individuals~~
7 ~~or groups of~~ persons who engage in behavior that actually disrupts,
8 disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the
9 meeting, including existing limitations upon that authority, shall
10 apply to members of the public participating in a meeting via a
11 two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform.

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

13 (1) “Two-way audiovisual platform” means an online platform
14 that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting
15 via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic
16 service. *A two-way audiovisual platform may be structured to*
17 *disable the use of video for the public participants.*

18 (2) “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 SEC. 24. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 4 of
22 this act, which amends Section 54953 of, Section 5 of this act,
23 which adds Section 54953.4 to, Sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of this
24 act, which add Sections 54953.8 to 54953.8.7, respectively, to,
25 Section 19 of this act, which amends Section 54956.5 of, Section
26 22 of this act, which amends Section 54957.95 of, and Section 23
27 of this act, which adds Section 54957.96 to, the Government Code,
28 impose a limitation on the public’s right of access to the meetings
29 of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies
30 within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California
31 Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the
32 Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest
33 protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:

34 (a) This act is necessary to provide opportunities for public
35 participation in meetings of specified public agencies and to
36 promote the recruitment and retention of members of those
37 agencies.

38 (b) This act is necessary to ensure minimum standards for public
39 participation and notice requirements allowing for greater public
40 participation in meetings.

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

4 (d) The exclusively virtual nature of the California Online
5 Community College presents unique barriers to the requirements
6 for an in-person quorum, a physical location for public
7 participation, and certain accommodations. Participating students
8 of the online community college come from all across the state
9 and necessitating travel for these requirements would pose a
10 significant and exclusionary barrier.

11 SEC. 25. The Legislature finds and declares that Sections 1
12 and 2 of this act, which amend and repeal Section 54952.2,
13 respectively, of, Section 3 of this act, which amends Section
14 54952.7 of, Section 4 of this act, which amends Section 54953 of,
15 Section 5 of this act, which adds Section 54953.4 to, Section 6 of
16 this act, which amends Section 54953.5 of, Section 7 of this act,
17 which amends Section 54953.7 of, Sections 8 to 15, inclusive, of
18 this act, which add Sections 54953.8 to 54953.8.7, respectively,
19 to, Section 16 of this act, which amends Section 54954.2 of,
20 Section 17 of this act, which amends Section 54954.3 of, Section
21 18 of this act, which amends Section 54956 of, Section 19 of this
22 act, which amends Section 54956.5 of, Section 20 of this act, which
23 amends Section 54957.6 of, Section 21 of this act, which amends
24 Section 54957.9 of, Section 22 of this act, which amends Section
25 54957.95 of, and Section 23 of this act, which adds Section
26 54957.96 to, the Government Code, further, within the meaning
27 of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the
28 California Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional section
29 as it relates to the right of public access to the meetings of local
30 public bodies or the writings of local public officials and local
31 agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section
32 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the Legislature makes
33 the following findings:

34 (a) This act is necessary to provide opportunities for public
35 participation in meetings of specified public agencies and to
36 promote the recruitment and retention of members of those
37 agencies.

38 (b) This act is necessary to ensure minimum standards for public
39 participation and notice requirements allowing for greater public
40 participation in meetings.

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

4 (d) The exclusively virtual nature of the California Online
5 Community College presents unique barriers to the requirements
6 for an in-person quorum, a physical location for public
7 participation, and certain accommodations. Participating students
8 of the online community college come from all across the state
9 and necessitating travel for these requirements would pose a
10 significant and exclusionary barrier.

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

16 SEC. 27. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
17 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
18 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
19 district under this act would result from a legislative mandate that
20 is within the scope of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section
21 3 of Article I of the California Constitution.