



SENATE BILL 707 BROWN ACT UPDATES AND PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 26-3520 ADOPTING POLICIES FOR SB 707 COMPLIANCE

June 1, 2026
City Council Meeting



KEY SB 707 PROVISIONS

- ▶ Legislative body members
 - Alternate rules and allowances for remote participation (under certain circumstances)
- ▶ Members of the public
 - Remote attendance and public comments at City Council meetings
- ▶ Non-English Speakers
 - Translated City Council agendas
 - Language accommodations at public meetings in line with ADA laws



PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 26-3520 ADOPTS POLICIES FOR:

- ❑ **Service Disruptions Preventing 2-way Remote Participation at Council Meetings**
- ❑ **Disruptions by Remote Participants at Council Meetings**
- ❑ **ADA/Language Assistance**

LEGISLATIVE BODY MEMBER TELECONFERENCING

- ▶ **If any member participates remotely, the following rules (still) apply:**
 - **Quorum of members must be present at meeting**
 - **Must use a two-way method for listening and speaking during the meeting**
 - **Must disclose presence of anyone 18 or older at remote location, and relationship to member**
 - **All votes must be taken by roll call (voice vote)**

LEGISLATIVE BODY MEMBER TELECONFERENCING

- ▶ **3 remote participation options for legislative body members:**
 - 1. Traditional Brown Act**
 - 2. Just Cause (amended by SB 707)**
 - 3. Disability (new provision of SB 707)**

LEGISLATIVE BODY MEMBER TELECONFERENCING

1. TRADITIONAL BROWN ACT

- ▶ **Still in effect, no particular reason needed**
- ▶ **Remote location must be stated on agenda**
 - **Agenda also must be posted at remote site**
 - **Public can attend/participate from remote site**
- ▶ **Can use audio only, or both audio and video**
- ▶ **No limit to the number of times per year**

LEGISLATIVE BODY MEMBER TELECONFERENCING

2. JUST CAUSE (AMENDED BY SB 707)

▶ Remote site:

- Location not disclosed on agenda
- Agenda not posted at site
- No public access to site required for meeting
- ▶ Each member limited based on meeting frequency
 - Meetings held twice a month: 5 times/year
 - Meetings held once a month: 2 times/year
- ▶ Must have video on when meeting begins and state why they are remotely participating
 - Reported in meeting's minutes
- ▶ Quorum (3/5) must be present at the main meeting place

LEGISLATIVE BODY MEMBER TELECONFERENCING

2. JUST CAUSE (AMENDED BY SB 707)

▶ Seven “just cause” reasons (GC 54953.8.3):

- Childcare or family caregiving
- Contagious illness
- Official agency business travel
- Physical or mental condition that is not a disability
- **New:** Immunocompromised family member
- **New:** Active military service preventing attendance
- **Revised:** Physical or family medical emergency

LEGISLATIVE BODY MEMBER TELECONFERENCING

3. DISABILITY (ADDED BY SB 707)

- ▶ Allowed as a “reasonable accommodation” under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
 - Reverses earlier AG opinion denying teleconferencing as a disability accommodation for legislative body members
- ▶ Treated as physically present at meeting for quorum and location requirements
- ▶ Video must be on unless disability requires off-camera participation

SB 707 - REMOTE PUBLIC ACCESS

- ▶ **Requires two-way participation option for the public to attend Council meetings**
- Audio-visual platform and/or telephonic service**
 - **Zoom Webinar provides both options; minimal set-up required.**
 - **Council meetings are live-streamed for viewing on YouTube, which includes automated closed captioning.**
 - **Must rescind current policy that discontinued remote public comments in response to Zoom bombing incident in March of 2024.**

SB 707 - REMOTE PUBLIC ACCESS

- ▶ **Requires policy to address disruptions to remote participation.**

Resolution No. 26-3520 would:

- Rescind the current policy that discontinued remote public comments**
- Adopt two remote meeting disruption policies:**
 - **Technical disruptions to remote meeting service**
 - **Disruptive behavior by remote participants**

SB 707 - REMOTE PUBLIC ACCESS

▶ Technical Disruptions Policy

- If service goes out, open session immediately halted
- Closed session can occur during remote outage
- Cannot resume open session until at least 1 hour has passed or the problem is fixed, whichever comes first
- After 1 hour, can resume open session to adjourn meeting, or make a finding that public interest better served resuming meeting without remote participation

SB 707 - REMOTE PUBLIC ACCESS

▶ Disruptive Behavior by Remote Participants Policy

- Cannot be based solely on content of participant's comments (free speech)
- Behavior causes or incites actual disruption to peace and orderly conduct of meeting
- Verbal warnings must be given by Mayor before taking action against participant
- Can remove participant's ability to turn on their microphone or remove them from the meeting.
- City Clerk and IT staff can assist with implementing these actions

SB 707 – LANGUAGE ACCESS & ASSISTANCE

- ▶ City must provide a means for the public to post translated agendas in other languages
 - The law shields the City from liability for the accuracy and content of translated agendas posted by the public
 - Staff is evaluating the area and method by which this would be accomplished to prevent inappropriate uses.

SB 707 – LANGUAGE ACCESS & ASSISTANCE

- ▶ **Clear ADA and language assistance procedures must be included on all public meeting agendas and on the City's website where agendas are posted**
 - **Resolution No. 26-3520 adopts a third policy for making and responding to requests**
 - **Simplified language on agenda with link to full procedure on the City's website**
 - **Assistance determined on a case-by-case basis**
 - **Work to accommodate based on time, available resources, and needs of requester**
 - **Readily available accommodations: listening assistance devices, space can be designated for interpreters at the meeting site, additional time provided for public comment**



RECOMMENDATION:

**ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 26-3520
ADOPTING THE BELOW 3 POLICIES
FOR SB 707 COMPLIANCE:**

- 1. Addressing Service Disruptions
Preventing 2-way Remote Participation
at Council Meetings**
- 2. Addressing Disruptive Behavior by
Remote Participants at Council
Meetings**
- 3. Outlining Procedures for Requesting &
Providing ADA and Language
Assistance at Public Meeting**

QUESTIONS?

