SB 707 (Durazo) – Brown Act – Summary of Chaptered Legislation

Policy	Existing Law (pre-SB 707)	Proposed Language from Earlier Drafts	Final Language	Effective
Definition of meeting	Any congregation re: subject matter jurisdiction, *et. al.*	Expanded to include: any conversation re: boundary lines, exec. comp., or personnel matters	Deletion of proposed language; no changes to existing law.	N/A
Definition of body	Standing committees solely w/members of leg bodies w/continuing subject matter or fixed by formal action are legislative, even if less than quorum	Expanded existing law to any fixed advisory body *regardless of composition*; AND any committee, commission or board re: elections, budgets, police oversight, or library circulation	Deletion of proposed language; no changes to existing law.	N/A
Reasonable accommodation (Remote participation for disabled) GC § 54953(b)(4)	Uncodified AG opinion declares remote participation as reasonable accommodation under ADA	Versions of language to codify **AG opinion no. 23-1002** re: remote meeting participation as reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	Language added to clarify that members do not have to appear on camera if they have a disability that prevents them from doing so. Additional language added to ensure general language codifying AG opinion matches that opinion.	January 1, 2026
Closed Session – Personnel actions GC § 54953(d)(3)(A)(ii)	Prior to final action on executive benefits, must orally report	Expanded requirement to include 'unrepresented employee'	Expands existing requirement to include officers and department heads; No proposed language re: 'unrepresented employee.	January 1, 2026
Teleconference definition GC § 54953(e)(2)	Defined as meeting with members in different locations connected by electronic needs	Clarifies that definition of teleconference meeting *does not* apply to members watching or listening webcast in which they cannot interact	Clarifying amendments	January 1, 2026

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Remote Participation GC § 54953.4	N/A	Would have required video broadcasting in addition to remote participation options for eligible legislative bodies	• Removes proposed language requiring video broadcasting • Requires county boards of supervisors to provide for remote public comments (telephonic or two-way audiovisual) if population exceeds 30,000 • Allows limits on remote public comment period (both per commenter and per item) if consistent with in-person limits • If time limit placed on general public comment, comment period must remain open until established time limit elapses • Allows for removal of disruptive remote commenter • Exempts judicial or administrative proceedings, inspections of property, meetings with state or federal officials to discuss legislative or regulatory issue, or emergency situation defined by GC § 54956.5 from remote participation requirements **Technology Failure** • Allows for cessation of remote meeting if technology fails – if unable to fix issue after one hour; allows closed session to be held during technology failure • Requires good faith effort to restore service during break and adoption via roll call vote that good faith effort was attempted and public interest in continuing the meeting outweighs postponement • Requires boards to adopt policy, not on consent, on such disruptions before July 1, 2026	July 1, 2026 - January 1, 2030

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Teleconferencing – without posting remote location (AB 2449) GC § 54953.8 & GC § 54953.8.3	Members may use flexibility for just cause; expires Dec. 31, 2025; limited to: 2x/year if body meets less often than once monthly 5x/year if meets twice monthly 7x/year if meets three or more times monthly	Similar language to final law, but would have required posting of just cause used in agenda	• Extends sunset date to 2030 and adds new just causes: immunocompromised family member; physical or family medical emergency; or military service obligations if it requires the member to be at least 50 miles outside the boundaries of the agency • Meeting minutes must disclose just cause used for remote meeting, unless it would disclose medical or disability diagnoses	July 1, 2026 - January 1, 2030
Emergency Meeting Rules Existing law: GC § 54953 (e) SB 707: GC § 54953.8.2	Allows agencies to meet remotely without posting locations during *proclaimed state of emergency*	Expands law to also include local emergencies	No change to proposed language; Expands law to also include local emergencies, as established in GC § 8630	January 1, 2026
Subsidiary Bodies (non-decision-making advisory bodies) GC § 54953.8.6	N/A	• Required in-person quorum, with just causes that count toward quorum • Prohibited use of flexibility for compensated members • Majority elected boards could not have used flexibility • Would have required advisory bodies to be present at Board of Supervisors meetings at least once annually if using remote meeting option	• Allows non-decision-making advisory bodies to meet entirely remotely, with some qualifications and requirements • Removes proposed language requiring in-person quorum • Gives boards of supervisors power to authorize or revoke remote meeting option; must be considered at least twice a year (may be on consent) • Requires one in-person location for public participation, with staff present (but not members)	July 1, 2026 - January 1, 2030

Policy	Existing Law (pre-SB 707)	Proposed Language from Earlier Drafts	Final Language	Effective
			• If members of body participate in person, they must do so from singular location • No rules for compensated members • Elected members cannot use flexibility outside of existing remote participation options • Exempts bodies with primary subject matter jurisdiction over elections, budgets, police oversight, privacy, taxes or tax spending, or library circulation • Adds language allowing for advisory body to request a presentation at a legislative body meeting; requires item must be non-consent and that item must be heard within 60 days of request (or soonest meeting following 60 days, if not already scheduled)	
Multi-jurisdictional body remote meeting participation GC § 54953.8.7	N/A	Would have allowed members of multi-jurisdictional bodies to participate remotely if 20 miles *round trip* from meeting	• Allows members of multi-jurisdictional bodies to participate remotely if 20 miles *each way* from any meeting location • Limits use of remote meetings to 5/year (2x monthly) or 7/year (3x monthly) • Limits use of remote meeting option if member is compensated by the multi-jurisdictional body (does not apply to actual or necessary expenses)	July 1, 2026 - January 1, 2030
Interpretation Services GC § 54953(b)(2)	N/A	Would have required county boards of supervisors to maintain system for the public to request and receive interpretation services for public meetings, including the public comment periods	Requires bodies to reasonably assist members of the public who wish to receive meeting interpretation, including arranging space, allowing extra time, or ensuring participants may use their personal equipment – as long as it does not interfere with meeting.	July 1, 2026 - January 1, 2030

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			Includes protection from lawsuits against the county for any interpretation facilitated, assisted, or provided by the county.	
Outreach Efforts GC § 54953.4(b)(3)	N/A	Would have required boards of supervisors to actively outreach and encourage participation by underrepresented communities and non-English-speaking communities	Requires outreach to underrepresented and non-English-speaking communities, but adds language giving legislative bodies "broad discretion," to decide what is reasonable for outreach and holds them only to standard of reasonability; AND includes legal liability protection	July 1, 2026 - January 1, 2030
Webpage and Meeting Info Distribution GC § 54953.4(b)(3)(B)-(C)	Requires meeting agendas to be distributed to those who request it	Requires boards of supervisors to maintain webpage dedicated to public meetings with prominent link on homepage *and* method to receive regular notice (e.g. ListServ)	Requires city councils and boards of supervisors to maintain webpage dedicated to public meetings with prominent link on homepage *and* clarifies method to receive regular notice (e.g. ListServ)	July 1, 2026
Eligible Legislative Body GC 54953.4(e)(2)	N/A	Would have applied to all counties, but allow them to adopt a resolution declaring that a hardship prevents them from translating agendas.	Defines "Eligible legislative body" to include boards of supervisors in counties with a population exceeding 30,000 Definition does not include other bodies, e.g. sub-committees, advisory bodies, or any body besides the board of supervisors	July 1, 2026 - January 1, 2030

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Agenda Translation & Accessibility GC § 54953.4(b)-(c)	N/A	• Would have required translation of agenda in "all languages spoken jointly by 20% or more among those that speak English less than 'very well'"; • Would have required all counties to translate, but allow avoidance of requirement upon hardship declaration; • No clear language on which tools may be used • No legal protections; • No limit on total number of translations	• Requires boards of supervisors to translate board of supervisor meeting agendas, based on the criteria: ◦ County must have at least 20% of total population speak English less than very well; ◦ Eligible counties translate into any language spoken if more than 20% of the population that speaks that language speaks English less than very well; and ◦ Translations limited to maximum of three. • Digital tools (e.g. Google Translate) may be used • Counties protected from lawsuit over content of translated information • Requires physical location accessible to public where community-translated agendas may be posted • Clarifies only agenda must be translated, not entire packet • Legal liability protection from inaccurate info posted on public posting location	July 1, 2026 - January 1, 2030
Public comment periods on items already considered by committee GC § 54954.3(a)	Provides that agendas need not provide public comment opportunity on item already considered by a committee composed exclusively of members of the body	Would have removed the language in existing law providing that bodies need not include public comment on an item if it has already been considered by a committee composed entirely of the body members.	Amends existing law to provide exception for times when a quorum of the committee members did not participate from a single physical location; or if the committee has primary subject matter jurisdiction over elections, budgets, police oversight, privacy, taxes and related spending proposals, or library circulation policies.	January 1, 2026

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Special Meetings GC § 54956	Prohibits calling special meeting for salaries, salary schedules, or fringe benefits of a local agency executive	Would have prohibited special meetings on evaluation of performance, discipline, or dismissal of a local agency executive, public employee, or board member; require 4/5 vote to proceed with the meeting; and require the discussion to be held in open session	Imposes new restriction on calling of special meeting regarding salaries, salary schedules, or compensation for members of a legislative body	January 1, 2026
Closed Session GC § 54957.6	Requires public reports on personnel actions	Would have added requirement to report a fiscal estimate due to a personnel action made in closed session	No substantive changes to existing law; reformats some sections for clarity	January 1, 2026
Video broadcasting	N/A	Would have required any board of supervisors or city council that *ever* used video streaming to continue to provide video streaming	No change to existing law: imposes no requirement for video broadcasting	N/A
Disruption in remote comments ('Zoombombing') GC § 54957.96	GC § 54957.95 allows boards to clear the room for disruptive behavior	Clarifies that existing authority to remove or limit participation for *individuals* or *groups* for actual disruption applies to members of public participating remotely	Clarifies that existing authority to remove or limit participation for *individuals* for actual disruption applies to members of public participating remotely	January 1, 2026
Clarification re: Social Media Rules (AB 992 (Mullin, 2020) GC § 54952.2	Clarifies definition of a meeting does not include certain activity on social media platforms	Removes sunset date	Enactment of removal of sunset date	N/A