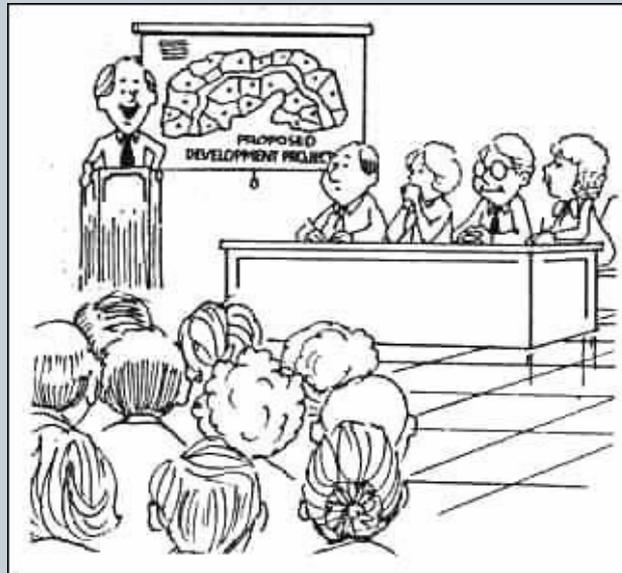


SENATE BILL 707:

Brown Act Updates



BACKGROUND OF SB 707



- Mostly effective on January 1, 2026
- Purpose to modernize the Brown Act
- Updates applicable to LAFCO include:
 - Changes to existing teleconferencing options
 - New teleconferencing option
 - Other miscellaneous changes

LEGISLATIVE BODIES COVERED



- “Eligible Legislative Bodies”
 - Definition does not include LAFCO
- All Other Legislative Bodies
 - Any other body not fitting the “eligible” description
 - Includes LAFCO
 - Most significant changes under SB 707 do not apply to these bodies

TRADITIONAL TELECONFERENCING



- Traditional teleconferencing rules – no changes
 - Agenda posted at all meeting locations, including teleconference location
 - Agenda identifies teleconference location
 - Public can attend and provide public comment from all meeting locations
 - At least a quorum of the body participates from within the agency's jurisdiction
 - All votes are taken by rollcall

TELECONFERENCING AS ACCOMMODATION UPDATE



- Teleconferencing as reasonable accommodation
 - Commissioner participate through both audio and visual technology, unless a physical condition related to disability results in a need to participate without video
 - Must disclose whether anyone 18 or older is in the room and the general nature of relationship to that person
 - Treated like in-person participation, including for quorum purposes, and other teleconferencing requirements under the Brown Act do not apply

ALTERNATIVE TELECONFERENCING UPDATES



- Alternative teleconferencing updates applicable to LAFCO:
 - Proclaimed state or local emergencies – minor changes
 - Just cause – minor changes
 - Eligible multijurisdictional bodies – new option

PROCLAIMED STATE OR LOCAL EMERGENICES



- Continuation/expansion of AB 361, adopted during COVID-19, for Governor-declared emergencies
- If necessary, can allow for fully remote public meetings
- Adds *local emergencies* as basis

JUST CAUSE



- Continuation of AB 2449 teleconferencing, adopted in 2022
- Continues same rules (e.g., quorum from one location, announce reason remote, camera on)
- Revised the list of “just cause,” allowing remote participation for certain family caregiving responsibilities, illness, family medical emergencies, travel while on official business, immunocompromised family members, or military service
- Use limits apply - 2x/year for commissioners

ELIGIBLE MULTIJURISDICTIONAL BODY OPTION



- Eligible Multijurisdictional Body: A legislative body with appointed members that includes representatives from more than one local agency, or a legislative body of a joint powers agency
- MUST adopt resolution authorizing use of this type of teleconferencing at a regular meeting in open session

ELIGIBLE MULTIJURISDICTIONAL BODY OPTION (*CONT'D*)



- May use if: (a) agenda identifies commissioner participating remotely; (b) commissioner must use both audio and visual technology; and (c) commissioner must be more than 20 miles each way from any physical meeting location open to public.
- At least a quorum participates from one or more physical locations open to public and within agency boundaries
- Use limits apply
- No meeting stipend or per diem compensation for member joining remotely

MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES



- Social media restrictions – removal of sunsets
- Providing copies of Brown Act
- Special & Emergency Meetings – posting and notice requirements
- Removal of disruptive virtual attendees



QUESTIONS?