SB 707: Brown Act Modernization

Internet disruption policy

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SB 707 Changes

- Counties with populations exceeding 30,000 **must** allow residents the opportunity to participate in all Brown Act meetings of the Board via two-way phone or internet platform.

- By July 1, 2026, the Board must adopt a policy regarding efforts to restore remote participation after a phone or internet disruption.

Proposed Internet/Phone Disruption Policy

Upon learning of internet/phone service disruption that prevents remote public participation:

- Recess open session
- Technology Services Department (TSD) and/or Department of Public Works (DPW) work to determine the origin of the service disruption
- For at least one hour, staff make good faith efforts to restore the service.
- The Board may meet in closed session.

Service Unrestored After One Hour

- Board reconvenes in opening session and reports publicly on efforts to restore service (including report from TSD and/or DPW)

- If service interruption continues, Board may

  – adjourn the meeting
  – allow more time for troubleshooting, or
  – resume open session upon a majority roll call vote that the

    (1) policy has been followed, and

    (2) public interest in continuing open session outweighs the public interest in remote public access.

Exceptions

This policy does NOT apply to

- Teleconference meetings during a proclaimed state of emergency or local emergency

- Meetings where at least one Board member is participating remotely for “just cause” under SB 707

In these cases, if a technological disruption prevents internet/phone public participation, Board shall take no further action on the agenda until service is restored.

Questions?

Just Cause

1. A caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires the Board Member to participate remotely
2. Contagious illness that prevents a Board Member from attending in person
3. A need related to a physical or mental condition other than a disability
4. Travel while on official business of the County or another state or local agency
5. An immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner of the member that requires the Board Member to participate remotely
6. A physical or family medical emergency that prevents a Board Member from attending in person
7. Military service that prevents the Board Member from attending in person