



ELIGIBILITY TO MEET VIA TELECONFERENCE IN COMPLIANCE WITH SENATE BILL 707 (DURAZO)



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Senate Bill 707 Overview

Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 707 into law on October 3, 2025. SB 707 both restores and restructures various provisions (Brown Act modifications) that expired on December 31, 2025 (AB 2449).

SB 707 also makes permanent some transparency-related reforms and establishes new requirements regarding public access and participation in local government proceedings. Some of the amendments became effective January 1, 2026, while others will become effective July 1, 2026.

Under SB 707, before subsidiary advisory bodies (Independent Oversight Committees) can adopt some of the provisions, the legislative body (Metro Board) had to adopt findings authorizing their subsidiary bodies to consider holding teleconference meetings.



SB 707 Metro Board Findings

On January 22, 2026, the Metro Board adopted the following findings on behalf of eligible subsidiary bodies as defined by SB 707:

- (i) The Board of Directors has considered the circumstances of the eligible subsidiary body.*
- (ii) Teleconference meetings of the eligible subsidiary body would enhance public access to meetings of the eligible subsidiary body, and the public has been made aware of the type of remote participation, including audio-visual or telephonic, that will be made available at a regularly scheduled meeting and has been provided the opportunity to comment at an in-person meeting of the legislative body authorizing the subsidiary body to meet entirely remotely.*
- (iii) Teleconference meetings of the eligible subsidiary body would promote the attraction, retention, and diversity of eligible subsidiary body members.*

The Board has power to authorize or revoke the remote meeting option.



SB 707 All Legislative Bodies, updates

- Public must have access via either two-way audio-visual platform (like Teams/Zoom) or two-way telephonic PLUS live webcasting
 - both when using relaxed teleconferencing, under “just cause” or proclaimed state of emergency
- Any members who are teleconferencing (under relaxed teleconferencing rules, just cause, or as a reasonable accommodation):
 - must use both audio and video, or audio if a physical condition related to their disability results in a need to participate off camera
 - must announce whether anyone 18 or older in the room with them
 - must announce the reason prior to turning off their camera due to challenges with internet connectivity



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SB 707 Just Cause Teleconferencing Requirements

SB 707 allows virtual participation for “just cause”

- Members must notify the legislative body at the earliest opportunity possible (including at the start of a meeting) of the need to participate remotely and their “just cause” reason
 - The member is not required to disclose specifics: medical diagnosis or disability, or personal medical information that is otherwise exempt under existing law
- At least a quorum of the members (Measure M = 4/7) must participate in person from a single physical location open to the public within the boundaries of the agency's territory
- The member participating remotely must use audio and visual technology
- The minutes for the meeting shall identify the specific provision that each member relied upon to participate remotely
- “Just cause” remote appearance limits based on regular meeting schedules:
 - ✓ two meetings per year, if the body regularly meets once per month or less



SB 707 Just Cause Reasons for Teleconferencing

“Just cause” reasons include:

- Childcare or caregiving needs of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner;
- Contagious illness preventing the member from attending;
- Physical or mental conditions not subject to reasonable accommodation;
- Official travel on behalf of the legislative body or another state/local agency;
- Needs related to an immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner;
- Physical or family medical emergency; or
- Military service obligations

Remote appearance for just cause is effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029.

SB 707 Relaxed Teleconferencing Rules

- The Metro Board authorized eligible subsidiary bodies to meet via teleconference, by either audio-visual or telephonic means, *if they choose*, subject to SB 707 requirements; and updating relaxed teleconferencing rules as stated in SB 707
 - *Subsidiary bodies must vote to adopt relaxed teleconferencing rules at their respective meetings by vote*
 - The key difference is that eligible subsidiary bodies will have the ability to meet remotely *without* just cause, *if they choose*
 - If the subsidiary body *does not* adopt relaxed teleconferencing rules for their respective meetings, they would still be able to use the just cause/emergency rules or during a proclaimed a state of emergency
 - Findings must be made every 6 months by the Board after the initial adoption for eligible subsidiary bodies to continue to meet under relaxed teleconferencing rules

SB 707 Relaxed Teleconferencing Rules

- Eligible subsidiary bodies can meet by teleconference **entirely remotely**:
 - Without identifying all teleconferencing locations on the agenda or posting agendas at them
 - One physical meeting location within the boundaries of the legislative body that created it must be designated so members and the public can physically attend the meeting;
 - at least one of staff member is present at the physical meeting location during the meeting
 - The meeting agenda is posted at the physical meeting location (not required at remote locations)
 - Meeting agenda specifies the means of public access and allows for public comment, including a call-in or internet-based option, in real time
 - Public comments shall not be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting
 - Quorum not required to be in the room
 - Two-way audio/visual platform or telephonic service with live webcasting is provided for remote public access
 - If service is disrupted, no further action can be taken until phone or internet-based option is restored
 - Members participating remotely visibly appear on camera (subject to connectivity or disability)



To Adopt or Not to Adopt: Relaxed Teleconferencing

Just Cause: already in effect. Allows members to participate virtually up to twice per year for just cause or due to a locally declared emergency.

Relaxed Teleconferencing: requires vote for members to be able to meet entirely virtually, without limits (except for elected officials)

To Adopt Relaxed Teleconferencing:

*Motion: The Metro Board of Directors having made the requisite findings under Government Code section 54953.8.6, this **Service Council** hereby approves the use of teleconferencing authorized for eligible subsidiary bodies pursuant to Government Code 54953.8.6.*

If Council does not want to adopt:

No action needs to be taken. Council can reconsider at any time as long as the Metro Board continues to adopt the required findings twice per year.



Questions?