

Date of Hearing: July 1, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Juan Carrillo, Chair

SB 1187 (Durazo) – As Amended June 22, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 36-0

SUBJECT: Open meetings

SUMMARY: Removes specified language access requirements for the purposes of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) established by SB 707 (Durazo), Chapter 327, Statutes of 2025.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Removes provisions of law, outlined below, established by SB 707 that apply to “eligible legislative bodies” as defined to mean any of the following:
 - a) A city council of a city with a population of 30,000 or more.
 - b) A county board of supervisors of a county, or city and county, with a population of 30,000 or more.
 - c) A city council of a city located in a county with a population of 600,000 or more.
 - d) The board of directors of a special district that has an internet website and meets any of the following conditions:
 - i) The boundaries of the special district include the entirety of a county with a population of 600,000 or more, and the special district has over 200 full-time equivalent employees.
 - ii) The special district has over 1,000 full-time equivalent employees.
 - iii) The special district has annual revenues, based on the most recent Financial Transaction Report data published by the California State Controller, that exceed \$400 million adjusted annually for inflation commencing January 1, 2027, as measured by the percentage change in the California Consumer Price Index from January 1 of the prior year to January 1 of the current year, and the special district employs over 200 full-time equivalent employees.
- 2) Removes all of the following provisions from existing law as established by SB 707:
 - a) A requirement that an eligible legislative body reasonably assist members of the public who wish to translate a public meeting into any language or wish to receive interpretation provided by another member of the public, so long as the interpretation is not disrupting to the meeting. This includes a requirement that the eligible legislative body publicize instructions on how to request assistance, as determined by the eligible legislative body, as specified.

- b) A requirement that an eligible legislative body take the following actions to encourage residents, including those in underrepresented communities and non-English-speaking communities, to participate in public meetings:
 - i) Have in place a system for electronically accepting and fulfilling requests for meeting agendas and documents pursuant to specified provisions of the Brown Act through email or through an integrated agenda management platform, including a requirement that information about how to make a request using this system be accessible through a prominent direct link posted on the primary internet website home page of the eligible legislative body.
 - ii) Create and maintain an accessible internet webpage dedicated to public meetings that includes, or provides a link to, all of the following information:
 - (1) A general explanation of the public meeting process for the eligible legislative body.
 - (2) An explanation of the procedures for a member of the public to provide in-person or remote oral public comment during a public meeting or to submit written public comment.
 - (3) A calendar of all public meeting dates with calendar listings that include the date, time, and location of each public meeting.
 - (4) The agenda posted online pursuant to specified provisions of the Brown Act.
 - c) A requirement that the eligible legislative body include a link to the webpage required by b) ii), above, on the home page of the eligible legislative body's internet website.
 - d) A requirement that the agenda for each meeting of an eligible legislative body be translated into all applicable languages, and that each translation be posted in accordance with specified provisions of the Brown Act, including instructions in the applicable language describing how to join the meeting by the telephonic or internet-based service option, including any requirements for registration for public comment.
 - e) A requirement that the accessible internet webpage provided required by b) ii), above, be translated into all applicable languages, and that each translation be accessible through a prominent direct link posted on the primary internet website home page of the eligible legislative body, as specified.
 - f) A requirement that the eligible legislative body make available a physical location that is freely accessible to the public in reasonable proximity to the physical location in which the agenda and translations are posted and allow members of the public to post additional translations of the agenda in that location, as specified.
 - g) The definition of "applicable languages" provided for the purposes of the provisions outlined above.
- 3) Finds and declares that this bill imposes a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning

of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest: This act is necessary to ensure minimum standards for public participation and notice requirements allowing for greater public participation in meetings.

- 4) Finds and declares that this bill furthers, within the meaning of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional section as it relates to the right of public access to the meetings of local public bodies or the writings of local public officials and local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the Legislature makes the following findings: This act is necessary to ensure minimum standards for public participation and notice requirements allowing for greater public participation in meetings.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Provides, pursuant to Article I, Section 3 of the California Constitution, the following:
 - a) The people have the right to instruct their representatives, petition government for redress of grievances, and assemble freely to consult for the common good.
 - b) The people have the right of access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business, and, therefore, the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies shall be open to public scrutiny.
 - c) In order to ensure public access to the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies, as specified in b), above, each local agency is required to comply with the California Public Records Act, the Brown Act, and with any subsequent statutory enactment amending either act, enacting a successor act, or amending any successor act that contains findings demonstrating that the statutory enactment furthers the purposes of these constitutional provisions.
- 2) Provides, pursuant to the Brown Act, requirements for local agency meetings. [Government Code (GOV) §§ 54950 – 54963]
- 3) Provides, pursuant to SB 707, numerous consolidations, updates and requirements for the purposes of the Brown Act. Among these many provisions, provides the following:
 - a) A definition of “eligible legislative bodies” for the purposes of the provisions outlined in b) through h), below, to mean any of the following:
 - i) A city council of a city with a population of 30,000 or more.
 - ii) A county board of supervisors of a county, or city and county, with a population of 30,000 or more.
 - iii) A city council of a city located in a county with a population of 600,000 or more.
 - iv) The board of directors of a special district that has an internet website and meets any of the following conditions:

- (1) The boundaries of the special district include the entirety of a county with a population of 600,000 or more, and the special district has over 200 full-time equivalent employees.
 - (2) The special district has over 1,000 full-time equivalent employees.
 - (3) The special district has annual revenues, based on the most recent Financial Transaction Report data published by the California State Controller, that exceed \$400 million adjusted annually for inflation commencing January 1, 2027, as measured by the percentage change in the California Consumer Price Index from January 1 of the prior year to January 1 of the current year, and the special district employs over 200 full-time equivalent employees.
- b) A requirement that an eligible legislative body reasonably assist members of the public who wish to translate a public meeting into any language or wish to receive interpretation provided by another member of the public, so long as the interpretation is not disrupting to the meeting. This includes a requirement that the eligible legislative body publicize instructions on how to request assistance, as determined by the eligible legislative body, as specified.
- c) A requirement that an eligible legislative body take the following actions to encourage residents, including those in underrepresented communities and non-English-speaking communities, to participate in public meetings:
- i) Have in place a system for electronically accepting and fulfilling requests for meeting agendas and documents pursuant to specified provisions of the Brown Act through email or through an integrated agenda management platform, including a requirement that information about how to make a request using this system be accessible through a prominent direct link posted on the primary internet website home page of the eligible legislative body.
 - ii) Create and maintain an accessible internet webpage dedicated to public meetings that includes, or provides a link to, all of the following information:
 - (1) A general explanation of the public meeting process for the eligible legislative body.
 - (2) An explanation of the procedures for a member of the public to provide in-person or remote oral public comment during a public meeting or to submit written public comment.
 - (3) A calendar of all public meeting dates with calendar listings that include the date, time, and location of each public meeting.
 - (4) The agenda posted online pursuant to specified provisions of the Brown Act.
- d) A requirement that the eligible legislative body include a link to the webpage required by b) ii), above, on the home page of the eligible legislative body's internet website.

- e) A requirement that the agenda for each meeting of an eligible legislative body be translated into all applicable languages, and that each translation be posted in accordance with specified provisions of the Brown Act, including instructions in the applicable language describing how to join the meeting by the telephonic or internet-based service option, including any requirements for registration for public comment.
- f) A requirement that the accessible internet webpage provided required by b) ii), above, be translated into all applicable languages, and that each translation be accessible through a prominent direct link posted on the primary internet website home page of the eligible legislative body, as specified.
- g) A requirement that the eligible legislative body make available a physical location that is freely accessible to the public in reasonable proximity to the physical location in which the agenda and translations are posted and allow members of the public to post additional translations of the agenda in that location, as specified.
- h) A definition of “applicable languages” that means languages, according to data from the most recent American Community Survey, spoken jointly by 20% or more of the applicable population, provided that 20% or more of the population that speaks that language in that city or county speaks English less than “very well.” The applicable population shall be determined as follows:
 - i) For an eligible legislative body that is a city council or county board of supervisors, the applicable population shall be the population of the city or county.
 - ii) For an eligible legislative body of a special district, the applicable population shall be either of the following, at the discretion of the board of directors of the special district:
 - (1) The population of the county with the greatest population within the boundaries of the special district.
 - (2) The population of the service area of the special district, if the special district has the data to determine what languages spoken by the population within its service area meet the requirements of g), above.
 - iii) If more than three languages meet the criteria set forth above, “applicable languages” shall mean the three languages described above that are spoken by the largest percentage of the population.
 - iv) An eligible legislative body may elect to determine the applicable languages based upon a source other than the most recent American Community Survey if it makes a finding, based upon substantial evidence, that the other source provides equally or more reliable data for the territory over which the eligible legislative body exercises jurisdiction. (GOV § 54953.4)

FISCAL EFFECT: None

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Author's Statement.** According to the author, "Last year, I authored SB 707 (Chaptered, 2025), which comprehensively modernized Ralph Brown Act rules for government bodies to improve transparency and allow public access to their governments. The bill allowed governments to better serve their communities, and increase the public's access to meetings, especially for disabled, working, and non-English speaking communities.

"SB 707 included language access provisions related to the translation of agendas, additional languages, employed human translators, and conducting additional outreach, that are slated to go into effect immediately on July 1, 2026. Due to concerns from language access advocates, SB 1187 as recently amended removes the language access provisions, adds findings, and adds an urgency clause. Additionally, the recent amendments reduce costs for local governments.

"I am grateful to all the stakeholders who were a part of these critical historic conversations to ensure government bodies better serve their communities. Together, these legislative efforts took steps to strengthen our governments by creating robust meetings and empower our community members to be engaged and increase participation across the state."

- 2) **Background.** The Brown Act was enacted in 1953 and has been amended numerous times since then. The legislative intent of the Brown Act was expressly declared in its original statute, which remains unchanged:

"The Legislature finds and declares that the public commissions, boards and councils and other public agencies in this State exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly. The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created."

The Brown Act generally requires meetings to be noticed in advance, including the posting of an agenda, and generally requires meetings to be open and accessible to the public. The Brown Act also generally requires members of the public to have an opportunity to comment on agenda items and generally prohibits deliberation or action on items not listed on the agenda.

- 3) **SB 707 of 2025.** Following numerous changes to the Brown Act prompted primarily by the COVID epidemic, SB 707 was an extensive and comprehensive update to the Brown Act to reorganize and consolidate those changes as well as implement additional changes sought by the author. Among the many provisions of SB 707 were new language access requirements that were created for "eligible legislative bodies," which were defined to mean:

- a) A city council of a city with a population of 30,000 or more.
- b) A county board of supervisors of a county, or city and county, with a population of 30,000 or more.

- c) A city council of a city located in a county with a population of 600,000 or more.
- d) The board of directors of a special district that has an internet website and meets any of the following conditions:
 - i) The boundaries of the special district include the entirety of a county with a population of 600,000 or more, and the special district has over 200 full-time equivalent employees.
 - ii) The special district has over 1,000 full-time equivalent employees.
 - iii) The special district has annual revenues, based on the most recent Financial Transaction Report data published by the California State Controller, that exceed \$400 million adjusted annually for inflation commencing January 1, 2027, as measured by the percentage change in the California Consumer Price Index from January 1 of the prior year to January 1 of the current year, and the special district employs over 200 full-time equivalent employees.

These language access requirements of SB 707 included the following provisions:

- a) A requirement that an eligible legislative body reasonably assist members of the public who wish to translate a public meeting into any language or wish to receive interpretation provided by another member of the public, so long as the interpretation is not disrupting to the meeting, including a requirement that the eligible legislative body publicize instructions on how to request assistance, as specified.
- b) A requirement that an eligible legislative body take numerous actions to encourage residents, including those in underrepresented communities and non-English-speaking communities, to participate in public meetings, as specified
- c) A requirement that the agenda for each meeting of an eligible legislative body be translated into all applicable languages, and that each translation be posted in accordance with specified provisions of the Brown Act, including instructions in the applicable language describing how to join the meeting by the telephonic or internet-based service option, as specified.
- d) A requirement that an accessible internet webpage required by SB 707 to encourage public participation be translated into all applicable languages, and that each translation be accessible through a prominent direct link posted on the primary internet website home page of the eligible legislative body, as specified.
- e) A requirement that the eligible legislative body make available a physical location that is freely accessible to the public in reasonable proximity to the physical location in which the agenda and translations are posted and allow members of the public to post additional translations of the agenda in that location, as specified.
- f) A definition of “applicable languages” that means languages, according to data from the most recent American Community Survey, spoken jointly by 20% or more of the applicable population, provided that 20% or more of the population that speaks that

language in that city or county speaks English less than “very well,” to be determined according to specified criteria for each type of eligible legislative body, as specified.

- 4) **Bill Summary.** This bill removes all language access requirements of SB 707 outlined in 5), above. This bill is sponsored by the author.
- 5) **Urgency Clause.** The Assembly Rules Committee approved an urgency clause for this bill on June 22, 2026, which will be adopted should this bill be approved by this Committee.
- 6) **Arguments in Support.** The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the League of California Cities (CalCities), and the California Municipal Clerks Association (CMCA) write in support, “SB 1187 directly addresses concerns raised by both local agencies and language access advocates. While prescriptive requirements for agenda translation and general requirements for accommodation of language accessibility would be struck by this bill, nothing prevents local agencies from pursuing their own efforts to improve meeting accessibility through translation or interpretation services.

“To ensure SB 1187 (Durazo) can provide relief for local agencies, we believe it is critical to pass the legislation with an urgency clause so it will take effect immediately.”

- 7) **Arguments in Opposition.** None on file.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Municipal Clerks Association (CMCA)
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
League of California Cities
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)
Urban Counties of California (UCC)

Opposition

None on file

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