

Brown Act Updates SB 707 Amendments

Board of Public Utilities

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Remote Participation Rules That Have Changed:

- SB 707 combined the “Just Cause” and “Emergency” provisions under one category called “Just Cause” and expanded the qualifying reasons
- No board action required for a member to participate under the alternative
- Requires disclosure by members of the presence of other adults and their general relationship
- Public Comments must be taken from Zoom on all items on agenda
- If there is a technology disruption when a board member is participating under the alternative participation rules, no further action may be taken until service is restored
- Minutes must identify remote member(s) and the legal basis used to participate remotely

Just Cause Applies To:

- Caregiving needs for qualifying family members
- Contagious illness
- Physical or mental condition (non-ADA)
- Official business travel (City related only, not for personal business)
- New: Care for immunocompromised family member
- New: Physical or family medical emergency
- New: Military service preventing attendance

Reasonable Accommodation

- A member of a Board or Commission may now participate remotely as a reasonable accommodation for a qualifying disability.
 - City Clerk staff will be making recommendations to Council to adopt the Reasonable Accommodations Policy for Council and Boards/Commissions members and to make amendments to SRCC1-10.070 regarding related minutes requirements.

Teleconferencing Rules

- Traditional Teleconferencing Rules are Unchanged
- Alternate teleconferencing framework under “Just Cause”
 - “Just Cause” has been streamlined into a single framework which now includes personal emergency circumstances. With this change, there is no need to motion for personal emergency circumstances.

New Rules Applicable to All Brown Act Bodies

- A copy of the Brown Act and list of meeting locations must be provided to:
 - All elected officials
 - All appointed officials serving on legislative bodies

Social Media

- Social Media provisions were originally set in 2021
- Social Media Communication provision has been updated to remove the 2026 sunset



Disruptive Behavior Language



The updated disruptive behavior language now explicitly applies to virtual attendees too

Questions?