

SENATE THIRD READING

SB 1187 (Durazo)

As Amended July 6, 2026

2/3 vote. Urgency

SUMMARY

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

Major Provisions

- 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, as specified.
 - b) A requirement that an eligible legislative body take certain 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, as specified.

- d) A requirement that the accessible internet webpage required by SB 707 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.

COMMENTS

The Brown Act was enacted in 1953 and has been amended numerous times since then. 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.

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 include the governing bodies of counties or cities with a population of 30,000 or more, a city council of a city in a county with a population of 600,000 or more, and the boards of larger special districts, as defined. These language access requirements of SB 707 included translations of public meetings and agendas and actions to encourage public participation, as specified.

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."

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."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

None

VOTES

SENATE FLOOR: 36-0-4

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Grayson, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alvarado-Gil, Gonzalez, Grove, Niello

ASM LOCAL GOVERNMENT: 10-0-0

YES: Carrillo, Ta, Johnson, Pacheco, Ramos, Ransom, Blanca Rubio, Stefani, Ward, Wilson

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