

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1187
Author: Durazo (D)
Amended: 7/6/26
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/29/26

AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Ashby, Cervantes, Laird, Seyarto

SENATE FLOOR: 36-0, 5/7/26 (Consent)

AYES: 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

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Gonzalez, Grove, Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 8/17/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Open meetings

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill repeals language access requirements for local government meetings.

Assembly Amendments repeal SB 707's language access provisions.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Guarantees, pursuant to Article I, Section 3 of the California Constitution, that “the people have the right to instruct their representatives, petition government for redress of grievances, and assemble freely to consult for the common

good.” This includes a right to access information concerning the meetings and writings of public officials.

- 2) Requires, pursuant to the Constitution, local agencies to comply with certain state laws that outline the basic requirements for public access to meetings and public records. If a subsequent bill modifies these laws, it must include findings demonstrating how it furthers the public’s access to local agencies and their officials.
- 3) Provides, pursuant to SB 707 (Durazo, Chapter 327, Statutes of 2025), 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.

This bill repeals SB 707's language access provisions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/19/26)

California Municipal Clerks Association
California State Association of Counties
City of Chino Hills
City of Lakewood
City of Rohnert Park
League of California Cities
Marin County Council of Mayors and Council Members
Rural County Representatives of California
San Bernardino County
Urban Counties of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/19/26)

None received

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."

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 73-0, 8/17/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Bonta, Bryan, Hart, Patterson, Quirk-Silva, Wicks

Prepared by: Itzel Vargas / L. GOV. / (916) 651-4119
8/19/26 21:32:35

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