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June 14, 2023

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission
of Orange County

FROM: Executive Officer
Assistant Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Legislative Report (June 2023)

BACKGROUND

The Legislature is in the second half of the 2023 legislative session and proposed legislation continues to move through multiple committees represented by Assembly and Senate members. This report provides a status update on legislation previously reviewed by the Commission and the staff recommendation on positions involving Assembly Bills 557 and 1637 for Commission consideration.

UPDATE TO PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED LEGISLATION

The table below provides the status of each bill reviewed by the Commission during the current legislative session.

Bill	Description	Commission's Adopted Position	Status
AB 1753	Makes minor and/or non-substantive changes to the CKH Act.	Support	AB 1753 is currently under review in the Senate Governance and Finance Committee. The next hearing date for the bill is June 7, 2023.

Bill	Description	Commission's Adopted Position	Status
SB 360	Proposes to expand the list of offices that a locally elected official may be seated on concurrently involving the Coastal Commission, LAFCO, and Joint Powers Authority.	Support	SB 360 is currently under review in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. The next hearing date has not been identified.
SB 878 SB 879 SB 880	Yearly Validating Acts are meant to retroactively fix typographical, grammatical, and procedural errors that might invalidate boundary changes or bond issues.	Support	SB 878, 879, and SB 880 are currently under review in the Assembly Local Government Committee. The next hearing date has not been identified.

AB 557 (Hart) – Open Meetings: Local Agencies: Teleconferencing

During the pandemic, Governor Newsom enacted a series of executive orders to allow members of a legislative body at the State and local levels to hold meetings by teleconference during a state of emergency. One of the orders signed by the Governor was AB 361 and currently allows a legislative body to hold meetings through an electronic platform that has the capabilities for audio and video, and, under limited circumstances, does not require the legislative body to identify the meeting location. These provisions will sunset on December 31, 2023 and AB 557 proposes to extend them with changes to the requirement of the legislative body to make the appropriate state of emergency finding from 30 days to 45 days and removal of the sunset provision.

On March 8, the Commission adopted a **Watch** position on AB 557 as it was expected that the bill would experience additional amendments. There have been no amendments to the bill language since that time, and, as currently written, the bill will be reviewed by the Senate Governance and Finance Committee on June 7. If AB 557 is signed into law, it would continue to facilitate the Commission's ability to conduct the agency's regular and special meetings by teleconference during a state of emergency. Therefore, staff recommends the Commission adopt a **Support** position on AB 557.

RECOMMENDED POSITION: Adopt **SUPPORT** position on AB 557.

SUPPORT: California Special Districts Association [CO-SPONSOR], League of California Cities [CO-SPONSOR], Alameda County Mosquito, Abatement District Alameda County Resource Conservation District, Anderson Valley Community Services District / Fire Department, Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, Arbuckle Parks and Recreation District, Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District, Artesia Cemetery District, Association of California Healthcare

Districts, Association of California School Administrators Bodega Bay Public Utility District, Burbank Sanitary District California Association of Public Authorities, California Association of Recreation & Park Districts, California Downtown Association, California In-home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance, California Municipal Utilities Association, California School Boards Association, California State Association of Counties, California Travel Association (CALTRAVEL), Calwa Recreation and Park District, Cameron Estates Community Services District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, Chico Area Recreation and Park District, Chino Valley Fire District, City and County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, City Clerks Association of California, City of Belmont, City of Carlsbad, City of Mountain View, City of Woodland, Civicwell (formally the Local Government Commission), Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District, Coachella Valley Water District, Coastside County Water District, Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District, Copper Cove Rocky Road Community Service District, Cortina Community Services District, Cosumnes Community Services District, County of Monterey, County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors, Davis Cemetery District, Delta Diablo, Donner Summit Public Utility District, East Kern Health Care District, Eden Health District, Fall River Resource Conservation District, Feather River Resource Conservation District, Fresno Mosquito and Vector Control District, Fulton-el Camino Recreation and Park District, Gold Mountain Community Services District, Golden Valley Municipal Water District, Goleta West Sanitary District, Grossmont Healthcare District, Groveland Community Services District, Health Officers Association of California, Helix Water District, Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District, Hilmar County Water District, Indian Wells Valley Water District, Inverness Public Utility District, Ironhouse Sanitary District, Irvine Ranch Water District, Karr Advocacy Strategies, Kern County Cemetery District No. 1, Keyes Community Services District, Ladera Recreation District, Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, Los Angeles Unified School District, Mckinleyville Community Services District, Mckinney Water District, Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation, Mi Wuk Sugar Pine Fire Protection District, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District, Monte Rio Recreation and Park District, Monte Vista Water District, Montecito Fire Protection District, Mosquito & Vector Management District of Santa Barbara County, Mt. View Sanitary District, Muir Beach Community Services District, Murphys Sanitary District, Nevada Sierra Connecting Point Public Authority, North County Fire Protection District, North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District, Novato Sanitary District, Olympic Valley Public Service District, Orange County Cemetery District, Orange County Water District, Palm Springs Cemetery District, Palos Verdes Library District, Pauma Valley Community Services District, Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance (COMMUTE.ORG), Pit Resource Conservation District, Placer County Air Pollution Control District, Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District, Ponderosa Community Services District, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, Reclamation District, Richardson Bay Sanitary District, Riechel Reports Blog, Rolling Hills Community Services District, Rowland Water District, Running Springs Water District, Rural County Representatives of California, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, San Diego County Water Authority, San Geronio PASS Water Agency, San Mateo County Harbor District, Santa Barbara County, Santa Clara County Valley Open Space Authority, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, Santa Margarita Water District, Santa Ynez Community Services District, Santa Ynez River Water

Conservation District, Small School Districts Association, Sonoma County Water Agency, South Coast Water District, Southern Marin Fire Protection District, Stallion Springs Community Services District, Stege Sanitary District, Stockton East Water District, Stockton Port District, Strawberry Fire Protection District, Tahoe City Public Utility District, Templeton Community Services District, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Trinity County Resource Conservation District, Truckee Sanitary District, Tulare Mosquito Abatement District, Tuolumne Fire District, Twain Harte Community Services District, Urban Counties of California (UCC) Valley Center Fire Protection District, Vandenberg Village Community Services District, Vista Irrigation District, Walnut Valley Water District, Water Replenishment District of Southern California, West Kern Water District, West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District.

OPPOSE: None on record.

BILL LOCATION/STATUS: Senate Governance and Finance Committee. Next hearing date: June 7, 2023.

AB 1637 (Irwin) Local Government: Internet Websites and Email Addresses

The intent of AB 1637 is for local agencies that maintain an internet website for public use and employee email addresses to utilize “.gov” top-level or a “ca.gov” second-level domains. Recently amended on May 18, the bill was modified to narrow its focus to require cities and counties to use these domains.

On May 10, the Commission adopted an **Oppose Unless Amended** position on AB 1637 based on the potential fiscal and other general impacts of the bill’s requirements to OC LAFCO. As the current bill language does not apply to LAFCOs, staff recommends the Commission modify and adopt a **Neutral** position on AB 1637.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Modify position on AB 1637 to **NEUTRAL**.

SUPPORT: None on record.

OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED: City Clerks Association of California, City of Redwood, City of San Marcos, Local Agency Formation Commission of Orange County.

OPPOSE: Association of California School Administrators, League of California Cities, California Special Districts Association, California State Association of Counties, Urban Counties of California.

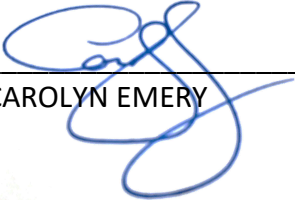
BILL LOCATION/STATUS: Senate Rules Committee. No hearing date scheduled at the time of agenda distribution.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Staff recommends the Commission:

1. Adopt a **Support** position on AB 557.
2. Modify and adopt a **Neutral** position on AB 1637.
3. Direct staff to send position letters to respective bill authors.

Respectfully submitted,



CAROLYN EMERY



LUIS TAPIA

Attachments:

1. Assembly Bill AB 557 (Hart)
2. Assembly Bill 1637 (Irwin)

Exhibits:

- A. Letter of Support Position – AB 557
- B. Letter of Neutral Position – AB 1637

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AB-557 Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences. (2023-2024)

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 557

Introduced by Assembly Member Hart
(Coauthors: [Assembly Members Garcia and Pacheco](#))

February 08, 2023

An act to amend and repeal Section 54953 of the Government Code, relating to local government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 557, as introduced, Hart. Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

(1) Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. The act contains specified provisions regarding providing for the ability of the public to observe and provide comment. The act allows for meetings to occur via teleconferencing subject to certain requirements, particularly that the legislative body notice each teleconference location of each member that will be participating in the public meeting, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that members of the public be allowed to address the legislative body at each teleconference location, that the legislative body post an agenda at each teleconference location, and that at least a quorum of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the local agency's jurisdiction. The act provides an exemption to the jurisdictional requirement for health authorities, as defined.

Existing law, until January 1, 2024, authorizes a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with those specified teleconferencing requirements in specified circumstances when a declared state of emergency is in effect, or in other situations related to public health, as specified. If there is a continuing state of emergency, or if state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, existing law requires a legislative body to make specified findings not later than 30 days after the first teleconferenced meeting, and to make those findings every 30 days thereafter, in order to continue to meet under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures.

Existing law requires a legislative body that holds a teleconferenced meeting under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures to give notice of the meeting and post agendas, as described, to allow members of

the public to access the meeting and address the legislative body, to give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment, including an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option. Existing law prohibits a legislative body that holds a teleconferenced meeting under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures from requiring public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and would specify that the legislative body must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

This bill would extend the above-described abbreviated teleconferencing provisions when a declared state of emergency is in effect, or in other situations related to public health, as specified, indefinitely. The bill would also extend the period for a legislative body to make the above-described findings related to a continuing state of emergency and social distancing to not later than 45 days after the first teleconferenced meeting, and every 45 days thereafter, in order to continue to meet under the abbreviated teleconferencing procedures.

The bill would additionally make nonsubstantive changes to those provisions and correct erroneous cross references .

(2) The California Constitution requires local agencies, for the purpose of ensuring public access to the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies, to comply with a statutory enactment that amends or enacts laws relating to public records or open meetings and contains findings demonstrating that the enactment furthers the constitutional requirements relating to this purpose.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: no Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 54953 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 285 of the Statutes of 2022, is amended to read:

54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, the legislative body of a local agency shall comply with all of the following:

(A) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.

(B) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.

(C) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

(D) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3.

(3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivisions (d) and (e).

(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.

(2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.

(3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.

(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.

(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.

(e) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if the legislative body complies with the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subdivision in any of the following circumstances:

(A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.

(B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(C) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to subparagraph (B), that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(2) A legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this subdivision shall do all of the following:

(A) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option.

(B) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(C) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

(D) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(E) (i) A legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph ~~(F)~~, (D), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

(ii) A legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph ~~(F)~~, (D), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.

(iii) A legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph ~~(F)~~, (D), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

(3) If a state of emergency remains active, or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, in order to continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the legislative body shall, not later than ~~30~~ 45 days after teleconferencing for the first time pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1), and every ~~30~~ 45 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

(A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency.

(B) Any of the following circumstances exist:

(i) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.

(ii) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

(4) This subdivision shall not be construed to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.

(f) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if, during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda, which location shall be open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction and the legislative body complies with all of the following:

(A) The legislative body shall provide at least one of the following as a means by which the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting, and remotely address the legislative body:

(i) A two-way audiovisual platform.

(ii) A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting.

(B) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment.

(C) The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend and address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 via a call-in option, via an internet-based service option, and at the in-person location of the meeting.

(D) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(E) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

(F) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(2) A member of the legislative body shall only participate in the meeting remotely pursuant to this subdivision, if all of the following requirements are met:

(A) One of the following circumstances applies:

(i) The member notifies the legislative body at the earliest opportunity possible, including at the start of a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just cause, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.

(ii) The member requests the legislative body to allow them to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances and the legislative body takes action to approve the request. The legislative body shall request a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. A general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words and shall not require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability, or any personal medical information that is already exempt under existing law, such as the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 56) of Part 2.6 of Division 1 of the Civil Code). For the purposes of this clause, the following requirements apply:

(I) A member shall make a request to participate remotely at a meeting pursuant to this clause as soon as possible. The member shall make a separate request for each meeting in which they seek to participate remotely.

(II) The legislative body may take action on a request to participate remotely at the earliest opportunity. If the request does not allow sufficient time to place proposed action on such a request on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made, the legislative body may take action at the beginning of the meeting in accordance with paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.

(B) The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals.

(C) The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.

(3) The provisions of this subdivision shall not serve as a means for any member of a legislative body to participate in meetings of the legislative body solely by teleconference from a remote location for a period of more than three consecutive months or 20 percent of the regular meetings for the local agency within a calendar year, or more than two meetings if the legislative body regularly meets fewer than 10 times per calendar year.

(g) The legislative body shall have and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.

(h) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and nondiscrimination laws.

(i) (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing ~~members of~~ the public with additional physical locations in which the public may observe and address the legislative body by electronic means.

(j) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Emergency circumstances" means a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.

(2) "Just cause" means any of the following:

(A) A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely. "Child," "parent," "grandparent," "grandchild," and "sibling" have the same meaning as those terms do in Section 12945.2.

(B) A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.

(C) A need related to a physical or mental disability as defined in Sections 12926 and 12926.1 not otherwise accommodated by subdivision (g).

(D) Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.

(3) "Remote location" means a location from which a member of a legislative body participates in a meeting pursuant to subdivision (f), other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Remote locations need not be accessible to the public.

(4) "Remote participation" means participation in a meeting by teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Watching or listening to a meeting via webcasting or another similar electronic medium that does not permit members to interactively hear, discuss, or deliberate on matters, does not constitute remote participation.

(5) "State of emergency" means a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act (Article 1 (commencing with Section 8550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2).

(6) "Teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.

(7) "Two-way audiovisual platform" means an online platform that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic function.

(8) "Two-way telephonic service" means a telephone service that does not require internet access, is not provided as part of a two-way audiovisual platform, and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.

(9) "Webcasting" means a streaming video broadcast online or on television, using streaming media technology to distribute a single content source to many simultaneous listeners and viewers.

(k) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, ~~2024~~, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 2. Section 54953 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 2 of Chapter 285 of the Statutes of 2022, is amended to read:

54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, the legislative body of a local agency shall comply with all of the following:

(A) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.

(B) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.

(C) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

(D) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3.

(3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in ~~subdivision (d)~~: *subdivisions (d) and (e)*.

(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.

(2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.

(3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.

(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.

(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.

(e) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with *the requirements of* paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) ~~if, during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda, which location shall be open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction and the legislative body complies with all of the following:~~

~~(A)The legislative body shall provide at least one of the following as a means by which the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting, and remotely address the legislative body:~~

~~(i)A two-way audiovisual platform.~~

~~(ii)A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting.~~

if the legislative body complies with the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subdivision in any of the following circumstances:

(A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.

(B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(C) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to subparagraph (B), that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(2) A legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this subdivision shall do all of the following:

~~(B)~~

(A) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option.

~~(C) The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend and address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 via a call-in option, via an internet-based service option, and at the in-person location of the meeting.~~

~~(D)~~

(B) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

~~(E)~~

(C) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

~~(F)~~

(D) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

~~(2) A member of the legislative body shall only participate in the meeting remotely pursuant to this subdivision, if all of the following requirements are met:~~

~~(A) One of the following circumstances applies:~~

~~(i) The member notifies the legislative body at the earliest opportunity possible, including at the start of a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just cause, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.~~

~~(ii) The member requests the legislative body to allow them to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances and the legislative body takes action to approve the request. The legislative body shall request a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. A general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words and shall not require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability, or any personal medical information that is already exempt under existing law, such as the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (Chapter~~

~~1 (commencing with Section 56) of Part 2.6 of Division 1 of the Civil Code). For the purposes of this clause, the following requirements apply:~~

~~(I) A member shall make a request to participate remotely at a meeting pursuant to this clause as soon as possible. The member shall make a separate request for each meeting in which they seek to participate remotely.~~

~~(II) The legislative body may take action on a request to participate remotely at the earliest opportunity. If the request does not allow sufficient time to place proposed action on such a request on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made, the legislative body may take action at the beginning of the meeting in accordance with paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.~~

~~(B) The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals.~~

~~(C) The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.~~

~~(3) The provisions of this subdivision shall not serve as a means for any member of a legislative body to participate in meetings of the legislative body solely by teleconference from a remote location for a period of more than three consecutive months or 20 percent of the regular meetings for the local agency within a calendar year, or more than two meetings if the legislative body regularly meets fewer than 10 times per calendar year.~~

(E) (i) A legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

(ii) A legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (D), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.

(iii) A legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

(3) If a state of emergency remains active, or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, in order to continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the legislative body shall, not later than 45 days after teleconferencing for the first time pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1), and every 45 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

(A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency.

(B) Any of the following circumstances exist:

(i) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.

(ii) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

(4) This subdivision shall not be construed to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.

(f) The legislative body shall have and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.

(g) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and nondiscrimination laws.

(h) (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing ~~members of~~ the public with additional physical locations in which the public may observe and address the legislative body by electronic means.

(i) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

~~(1) "Emergency circumstances" means a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.~~

~~(2) "Just cause" means any of the following:~~

~~(A) A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely. "Child," "parent," "grandparent," "grandchild," and "sibling" have the same meaning as those terms do in Section 12945.2.~~

~~(B) A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.~~

~~(C) A need related to a physical or mental disability as defined in Sections 12926 and 12926.1 not otherwise accommodated by subdivision (f).~~

~~(D) Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.~~

~~(3) "Remote location" means a location from which a member of a legislative body participates in a meeting pursuant to subdivision (e), other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Remote locations need not be accessible to the public.~~

~~(4) "Remote participation" means participation in a meeting by teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Watching or listening to a meeting via webcasting or another similar electronic medium that does not permit members to interactively hear, discuss, or deliberate on matters, does not constitute remote participation.~~

(1) "State of emergency" means a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act (Article 1 (commencing with Section 8550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2).

~~(5)~~

(2) "Teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.

~~(6) "Two-way audiovisual platform" means an online platform that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic function.~~

~~(7) "Two-way telephonic service" means a telephone service that does not require internet access, is not provided as part of a two-way audiovisual platform, and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.~~

~~(8) "Webcasting" means a streaming video broadcast online or on television, using streaming media technology to distribute a single content source to many simultaneous listeners and viewers.~~

~~(j) This section shall become operative January 1, 2024, shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.~~

(j) This section shall become operative January 1, 2026.

SEC. 3. Section 54953 of the Government Code, as added by Section 3 of Chapter 285 of the Statutes of 2022, is repealed.

~~54953.(a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be~~

~~permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.~~

~~(b)(1)Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.~~

~~(2)Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.~~

~~(3)If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations and conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivision (d). The agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 at each teleconference location.~~

~~(4)For the purposes of this section, "teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a local agency from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.~~

~~(c)(1)No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.~~

~~(2)The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.~~

~~(3)Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.~~

~~(d)(1)Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.~~

~~(2)Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.~~

~~(3)For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.~~

~~(e)This section shall become operative January 1, 2026.~~

SEC. 4. The Legislature finds and declares that Sections 1 and 2 of this act, which amend Section 54953 of the Government Code, 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 teleconference meetings.

REVISIONS:

Heading—Line 2.


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AB-1637 Local government: internet websites and email addresses. (2023-2024)

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Date Published: 05/19/2023 04:00 AM

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 18, 2023

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2023

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 16, 2023

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 1637

Introduced by Assembly Member Irwin

February 17, 2023

An act to add Section 50034 to the Government Code, relating to local government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1637, as amended, Irwin. Local government: internet websites and email addresses.

(1) The California Constitution authorizes cities and counties to make and enforce within their limits all local, police, sanitary, and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws and further authorizes cities organized under a charter to make and enforce all ordinances and regulations in respect to municipal affairs, which supersede inconsistent general laws.

The California Public Records Act requires a local agency to make public records available for inspection and allows a local agency to comply by posting the record on its internet website and directing a member of the public to the internet website, as specified.

This bill, no later than January 1, ~~2026~~, 2027, would require a local agency, as defined, that maintains an internet website for use by the public to ensure that the internet website utilizes a ".gov" top-level domain or a ".ca.gov" second-level domain and would require a local agency that maintains an internet website that is noncompliant with that requirement to redirect that internet website to a domain name that does utilize a ".gov" or ".ca.gov" domain. This bill, no later than January 1, ~~2026~~, 2027, would also require a local agency that maintains public email addresses to ensure that each email address provided to its employees utilizes a ".gov" domain name or a ".ca.gov" domain name. By adding to the duties of local officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) The bill would include findings that changes proposed by this bill address a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair and, therefore, apply to all cities, including charter cities.

~~(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.~~

~~This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.~~

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), within the Department of Homeland Security, sponsors the “.gov” top-level domain and makes it available solely to United States-based government organizations and publicly controlled entities, including California’s local agencies.

(b) California’s local agencies qualify for a “.gov” domain without paying any fee.

(c) Using “.gov” increases security by enforcing multifactor authentication on all accounts in the “.gov” registrar, requiring browsers to only use a Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) connection with “.gov” domains, and enabling the addition of a security contact, making it easier for the public to alert the agency about potential security issues with the agency’s online services.

(d) The Government Operations Agency oversees the “.ca.gov” domain name program, and the Department of Technology manages the registration, change, and renewal process for “.ca.gov” domains. Agencies are not required to pay any fee for a “.ca.gov” domain.

(e) To administer the “.ca.gov” second-level domain, the Department of Technology has established policies and protocols consistent with federal policy, including, but not limited to, the federal Interagency Committee on Government Information’s Recommended Policies and Guidelines for Federal Public Websites and the federal .gov Registrar administered by CISA.

(f) Users of websites or other internet services with a “.ca.gov” domain can be assured they are accessing an official California governmental resource.

SEC. 2. Section 50034 is added to the Government Code, to read:

50034. (a) (1) No later than January 1, ~~2026~~, 2027, a local agency that maintains an internet website for use by the public shall ensure that the internet website utilizes a “.gov” top-level domain or a “.ca.gov” second-level domain.

(2) If a local agency that is subject to paragraph (1) maintains an internet website for use by the public that is noncompliant with paragraph (1) by January 1, ~~2026~~, 2027, that local agency shall redirect that internet website to a domain name that does comply with paragraph (1).

(b) No later than January 1, ~~2026~~, 2027, a local agency that maintains public email addresses for its employees shall ensure that each email address provided to its employees utilizes a “.gov” domain name or a “.ca.gov” domain name.

(c) For purposes of this section, “local agency” ~~has the same meaning as that term is defined in Section 54951.~~ means a city, county, or city and county.

SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 2 of this act adding Section 50034 to the Government Code addresses a matter of statewide concern and is not a municipal affair as that term is used in Section 5 of Article XI of the California Constitution. Therefore, Section 1 of this act adding Section 50034 to the Government Code applies to all cities, including charter cities.

~~SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or~~

~~assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code:~~

SEC. 4. *If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

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Executive Officer

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General Counsel

June 14, 2023

Assembly Member Gregg Hart
California State Assembly
1020 O Street, Suite 6230
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: **Support** – AB 557 (Hart): Open Meetings: Local Agencies:
Teleconferencing

Dear Assembly Member Hart:

The Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (OC LAFCO) is pleased to support Assembly Bill 557 (AB 557) and commends your effort to broaden governmental transparency for local agency meetings. The bill would extend the ability for members of a legislative body at the State and local levels to hold meetings by teleconference during a state of emergency, as previously approved through the Governor's Executive Order (AB 361) and remove the sunset provision for this action. If AB 557 is signed into law, local agencies can continue to conduct meetings and critical business activities during emergency circumstances, such as a pandemic, while maintaining transparency standards as required by the Brown Act.

OC LAFCO appreciates your effort in authoring this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Douglass Davert
Chair

cc: René LaRoche, Executive Director, CALAFCO
Orange County Legislators

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Executive Officer

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June 14, 2023

Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 6011
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amended Position **(Neutral)** – AB 1637 (Irwin): Local Government: Internet Websites and Email Addresses

Dear Assembly Member Irwin:

On May 10, 2023, the Local Agency Formation Commission of Orange County (OC LAFCO) adopted an *oppose unless amended* position on AB 1637, and as the bill author, a letter was sent directly to you requesting that you consider amendments to the bill involving the requirement for local agencies to use “.gov” or “.ca.gov” domains for email addresses and internet websites. As the current bill language addresses the issues identified by OC LAFCO, on June 14, the Commission changed the agency’s position on AB 1637 to neutral.

OC LAFCO appreciates your consideration of our concerns involving AB 1637.

Respectfully,

Douglass Davert
Chair

Cc: René LaRoche, Executive Director, CALAFCO
Orange County Legislators