

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

BILL ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: SB 544

VERSION: AMENDED AUGUST 14, 2023

AUTHOR: LAIRD

SPONSOR: CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON AGING

PREVIOUS POSITION: SUPPORT

SUBJECT: BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT: TELECONFERENCING

Overview:

This bill would modernize the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements for state bodies conducting a meeting by teleconferencing.

Existing Law:

- 1) Establishes the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, which requires that actions and deliberations of state agencies be conducted openly. (Government Code (GC) §11120)
- 2) Defines a “state body” to mean any of the following (GC §11121):
 - A state board, commission, or multimember body of the state created by statute to conduct official meetings.
 - A board, commission or committee that exercises authority of a state body delegated to it by that state body.
 - An advisory board, commission, committee, or subcommittee that consists of three or more persons and is created by formal action of the state body or any of its members.
 - A board, commission, or committee on which a member of a state body serves in official capacity as a representative and that is supported, wholly or partially, by funds from the state body.
- 3) Requires boards under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to meet at least two times each calendar year. Boards must meet at least once each calendar year in northern California, and once in southern California, in order to facilitate participation by the public and licensees. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §101.7)

- 4) Defines a “meeting” to include any congregation of a majority of the members of a state body at the same time and place, to hear, discuss, or deliberate an item within its subject matter jurisdiction. (GC §11122.5(a))
- 5) Requires that all meetings of a state body be open and public, and all persons permitted to attend, with certain specified exceptions. (GC §11123(a))
- 6) Does not prohibit a state body from holding an open or closed meeting by teleconference if it otherwise complies with all requirements in law. (GC §11123(b))
- 7) Requires an open teleconferenced meeting to be audible to the public at the location specified in the meeting notice. (GC §11123(b))
- 8) For meetings conducted by teleconference, requires the state body to do the following (GC §11123(b)):
 - Post agendas at all teleconference locations and conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the rights of any party or member of the public appearing before the state body.
 - Identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting and make each teleconference location accessible to the public.
 - Provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the state body directly at each teleconference location.
- 9) Requires at least one member of the state body to be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting. (GC §11123(b))
- 10) Defines a “teleconference” as a meeting of a state body where the members are at different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or both audio and video. (GC §11123(b))
- 11) Requires a state body to provide notice at least 10 days prior to a meeting, which includes an agenda for that meeting. (GC §11125)
- 12) Temporarily waives some of the teleconferencing requirements for state bodies currently in law due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, until July 1, 2023. (GC §11133)

This Bill:

- 1) Removes the requirement that a state body conducting a meeting by teleconference must post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the meeting notice and agenda, and make each teleconference location accessible to the public. Instead, requires the state body conducting a teleconference meeting to do the following (GC §11123(b)(1)(C)):

- Provide a means for the public to remotely hear audio of the meeting, remotely observe the meeting, or attend the meeting by providing a teleconference phone number, website, and physical address for at least one site on the posted agenda. If available, this must include access equivalent to the access a member of the state body participating remotely would have.
 - The telephone number, website, and physical address to access or attend the meeting must be specified in the meeting notice.
- 2) The meeting agenda must provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the state body directly. (GC §11123(b)(1)(D))
 - 3) Instead of requiring at least one member of the state body to be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting, amends the law to require at least one member or staff of the state body to be physically present at the location specified in the meeting notice. (GC §11123(b)(1)(G))
 - 4) Requires a majority of the state body members to be present at the same physical location for at least half of its meetings each year. (GC §11123(b)(1)(H))
 - 5) Provides that the meeting notice and agenda shall not disclose information regarding a remote location from where a member is participating. (GC §11123(b)(1)(I))
 - 6) States that members of the public are entitled to exercise their right to directly address the state body during the teleconference meeting without having to submit public comments prior to the meeting or in writing. (GC §11123(b)(1)(J))
 - 7) Provides that upon discovering a required means of remote participation failed and cannot be restored, the meeting must end and the state body must provide notice that the meeting ended on its website and via email to specified persons. If reconvening that same day, an automated message on a phone line on the state body's agenda, website, or similar must communicate when the state body intends to reconvene and how to hear or observe the meeting. (GC §11123(b)(1)(K))
 - 8) Provides that a remote location where a member of a state body participates in a meeting does not need to be accessible to the public. (GC §11123(b)(2)(B))
 - 9) Requires that a state body that holds a meeting through teleconference and allows members of the public to observe and address the meeting via telephone or other electronic means, that it must do both of the following (GC §11123(c)):
 - Implement a procedure to receive and swiftly resolve reasonable modification or accommodation requests from individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any doubt must be resolved in favor of accessibility.

- Advertise this procedure for reasonable modification or accommodation requests each time notice is given of how the public may observe and comment.

- 10) Provides that if a state body member attends a meeting by teleconference from a remote location, that member must disclose if there are any other individuals age 18 or older present in the room with them at the remote location, and the general nature of the relationship. (GC §11123(e))
- 11) Defines “participating remotely” as participating in a meeting at a location other than the physical location designated in the agenda of the meeting. (GC §11123(f))
- 12) Includes a sunset date of January 1, 2026, at which time the law reverts back to what is currently in place today. (GC §11123(g))

Comment:

- 1) **Author’s Intent.** The author states that the intent of this bill is to promote equity and public participation through virtual meetings, while ensuring the personal safety of board members. In their fact sheet for the bill, they note the following:

“...The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, initially passed in 1967, establishes the rules for meetings of state bodies. These rules are intended to ensure public access and allow input on meetings of state boards and commissions. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom issued an executive order in March 2020 permitting state bodies to hold meetings virtually, without requiring a physical location or the posting of the addresses of the teleconference location of attending board members as currently required under the Bagley-Keene Act. What started as an experiment to promote health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be successful and enhances public participation while still ensuring sufficient access to state hearings. Virtual meetings have improved access for Californians that face barriers to physical attendance, such as those living in different areas of the state, individuals with limited mobility, caretakers, and more. Members of the public without the economic means to travel could still provide public comment.

The Governor’s executive order waiver is set to expire on June 30, 2023. Beginning in July, state bodies holding virtual meetings will again be required to post the physical location of all attending board and commission members. This poses personal safety concerns since remote attendance of board and commission members is often a private residence or hotel room, and members would also be required to provide the public with physical access to the remote meeting location. In addition, private residences may not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.”

- 2) **Board Utilization of Teleconference.** Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board occasionally held a meeting via teleconference, but most meetings were

held in-person. Typically, the board met twice a year in northern California, and twice in southern California. Any teleconference meetings held utilized a telephone conference call line, rather than a video platform. Per the law, members utilizing teleconference needed to list their physical location in the agenda and allow it to be accessible to the public, even if that was a home address.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board transitioned to using a video platform for all meetings. This has increased the ability of the public to participate in the Board's meetings. During the pandemic, due to the State of Emergency, several components of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act were waived. However, those waivers are ending in July 2023.

- 3) **Physical Location Required for Board Meetings.** As written in this bill, if the Board held a board meeting or committee meeting by teleconference, it would always be required to have a physical location for each meeting where the public could attend and participate. At least one board member or staff member would need to be physically present at that location.
- 4) **Fiscal Impact.** Staff expects a cost savings from this bill due to some reduced travel costs if some Board members participate remotely. However, there is still a requirement to have a physical location, and Board members can opt to participate in-person. Therefore, it is difficult to estimate an exact cost savings per meeting.
- 5) **Previous Position.** At its May 5, 2023 meeting, the Board took a "support" position on this bill. Since that time, the bill has been amended as follows:
 - To require a majority of members of the state body be physically present at the same location for at least half of its meetings per year; and
 - To include a sunset date of January 1, 2026, after which the law would revert back to the teleconferencing requirements for meetings that are currently in place today.

Based on the new amendments, Board staff would need to track whether each Board member attended in person or remotely for each meeting, to ensure compliance with the physical presence requirement.

6) **Previous Legislation.**

- AB 1733 (Quirk, 2022) was a previous attempt to modernize the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements for state bodies conducting a meeting to include a teleconference component. AB 1733 died in the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee.
- AB 885 (Quirk, 2021) also attempted to modernize the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to better incorporate teleconferencing. AB 885 died in the Assembly.

7) **Support and Opposition.**

Support

- California Commission on Aging (Sponsor)
- AARP
- Advisory Council for Sourcewise
- Agency on Aging
- Alcoholic Beverage Control Appeals Board
- Board of Behavioral Sciences
- California Acupuncture Board
- California Architects Board
- California Board of Accountancy
- California State Board of Optometry
- California State Board of Pharmacy
- California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)
- California Structural Pest Control Board
- Dental Board of California
- Dental Hygiene Board of California
- Department of Consumer Affairs, Board of Barbering and Cosmetology
- Department of Consumer Affairs, Speech-language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid
- Dispensers Board
- Disability Rights California
- Health Officers Association of California
- Medical Board of California
- Osteopathic Medical Board of California
- Physical Therapy Board of California
- The Veterinary Medical Board

Oppose

- American Chemistry Council
- American Composites Manufacturers Association
- California Association of Winegrape Growers
- California Manufacturers & Technology Association
- Glass Packaging Institute

Oppose Unless Amended

- ACLU California Action
- California Broadcasters Association
- California Common CAUSE
- California News Publishers Association
- Californians Aware: the Center for Public Forum Rights
- Ccnma: Latino Journalists of California
- First Amendment Coalition
- Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (HJTA)

- Institute of Governmental Advocates
- Media Alliance
- National Press Photographers Association
- Nlgja: Association of LGBTQ+ Journalists
- Northern California Society of Professional Journalists
- Orange County Press Club
- Pacific Media Workers Guild (the Newsguild-communications Workers of America Local 39521)
- Radio Television Digital News Association
- San Diego Pro Chapter of The Society of Professional Journalists
- Society of Professional Journalists, Greater Los Angeles Chapter

8) History.

08/14/23 Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
07/18/23 From committee: Do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 12. Noes 2.) (July 12).
05/26/23 Referred to Com. on G.O.
05/15/23 In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.
05/15/23 Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 26. Noes 3. Page 1079.) Ordered to the Assembly.
05/09/23 Read second time. Ordered to third reading.
05/08/23 From committee: Be ordered to second reading pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8.
05/02/23 Set for hearing May 8.
04/27/23 Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
04/26/23 From committee: Do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 9. Noes 0.) (April 25).
04/13/23 Set for hearing April 25.
04/11/23 From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on JUD. (Ayes 13. Noes 1.) (April 11). Re-referred to Com. on JUD.
04/06/23 Set for hearing April 11.
03/29/23 Re-referred to Coms. on G.O. and JUD.
03/20/23 From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on RLS.
02/22/23 Referred to Com. on RLS.
02/16/23 From printer. May be acted upon on or after March 18.
02/15/23 Introduced. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment. To print.

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 14, 2023

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 27, 2023

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 20, 2023

SENATE BILL

No. 544

Introduced by Senator Laird

February 15, 2023

An act to ~~amend~~ *amend, repeal, and add* Section 11123 of the Government Code, relating to state government.

legislative counsel's digest

SB 544, as amended, Laird. Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing.

Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a state body be open and public and all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body. The act authorizes meetings through teleconference subject to specified requirements, including, among others, that the state body post agendas at all teleconference locations, that each teleconference location be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that the agenda provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the state body directly at each teleconference location, and that at least one member of the state body be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.

Existing law, until July 1, 2023, ~~authorizes~~ *authorized*, subject to specified notice and accessibility requirements, a state body to hold public meetings through teleconferencing and ~~suspends~~ *suspended*

certain requirements of the act, including the above-described teleconference requirements.

~~This bill would amend existing law that will remain operative after July 1, 2023, to remove indefinitely the teleconference requirements that a state body post agendas at all teleconference locations, that each teleconference location be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and that each teleconference location be accessible to the public. The bill would require a state body to provide a means by which the public may remotely hear audio of the meeting, remotely observe the meeting, or attend the meeting by providing on the posted agenda a teleconference telephone number, an internet website or other online platform, and a physical address for at least one site, including, if available, access equivalent to the access for a member of the state body participating remotely. The bill would require any notice required by the act to specify the applicable teleconference telephone number, internet website or other online platform, and physical address indicating how the public can access the meeting remotely and in person. The bill would revise existing law to no longer require that members of the public have the opportunity to address the state body directly at each teleconference location, but would continue to require that the agenda provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the state body directly. The bill would require a member or staff to be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting. *The bill would require a majority of the members of the state body to be physically present at the same location for at least 1/2 of the meetings of that state body.*~~

This bill would provide that it does not affect prescribed existing notice and agenda requirements and would require the state body to post an agenda on its internet website and, on the day of the meeting, at any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. The bill would prohibit the notice and agenda from disclosing information regarding any remote location from which a member is participating and define “remote location” for this purpose. The bill would provide that members of the public shall be entitled to exercise their right to directly address the state body during the teleconferenced meeting without being required to submit public comments prior to the meeting or in writing.

This bill would require a state body, upon discovering that a means of remote participation required by the bill has failed during a meeting and cannot be restored, to end or adjourn the meeting in accordance

with prescribed adjournment and notice provisions, including information about reconvening.

This bill would require a state body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing pursuant to the bill and allows members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically to implement and advertise, as prescribed, a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable modification or accommodation from individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

This bill would require a member of a state body who attends a meeting by teleconference from a remote location to disclose 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.

This bill would repeal its provisions on January 1, 2026.

Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 11123 of the Government Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 11123. (a) All meetings of a state body shall be open and
- 4 public and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of
- 5 a state body except as otherwise provided in this article.
- 6 (b) (1) This article does not prohibit a state body from holding
- 7 an open or closed meeting by teleconference for the benefit of the
- 8 public and state body. The meeting or proceeding held by
- 9 teleconference shall otherwise comply with all applicable
- 10 requirements or laws relating to a specific type of meeting or
- 11 proceeding, including the following:
- 12 (A) The teleconferencing meeting shall comply with all
- 13 requirements of this article applicable to other meetings.

1 (B) The portion of the teleconferenced meeting that is required
2 to be open to the public shall be audible to the public at the location
3 specified in the notice of the meeting.

4 (C) If the state body elects to conduct a meeting or proceeding
5 by teleconference, it shall conduct teleconference meetings in a
6 manner that protects the rights of any party or member of the public
7 appearing before the state body. The state body shall provide a
8 means by which the public may remotely hear audio of the meeting,
9 remotely observe the meeting, or attend the meeting by providing
10 on the posted agenda a teleconference telephone number, an
11 internet website or other online platform, and a physical address
12 for at least one site, including, if available, access equivalent to
13 the access for a member of the state body participating remotely.
14 The applicable teleconference telephone number, internet website
15 or other online platform, and physical address indicating how the
16 public can access the meeting remotely and in person shall be
17 specified in any notice required by this article.

18 (D) The agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of
19 the public to address the state body directly pursuant to Section
20 11125.7.

21 (E) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be
22 by rollcall.

23 (F) The portion of the teleconferenced meeting that is closed to
24 the public may not include the consideration of any agenda item
25 being heard pursuant to Section 11125.5.

26 (G) At least one member or staff of the state body shall be
27 physically present at the location specified in the notice of the
28 meeting.

29 *(H) A majority of the members of the state body shall be present*
30 *at the same physical location for at least one-half of the meetings*
31 *of the state body each year.*

32 ~~(H)~~

33 *(I)* This section does not affect the requirement prescribed by
34 this article that the state body post an agenda of a meeting in
35 accordance with the applicable notice requirements of this article,
36 including Section 11125, requiring the state body to post an agenda
37 of a meeting at least 10 days in advance of the meeting, Section
38 11125.4, applicable to special meetings, and Sections 11125.5 and
39 11125.6, applicable to emergency meetings. The state body shall
40 post the agenda on its internet website and, on the day of the

1 meeting, at any physical meeting location designated in the notice
2 of the meeting. The notice and agenda shall not disclose
3 information regarding any remote location from which a member
4 is participating.

5 ~~(I)~~

6 (J) Members of the public shall be entitled to exercise their right
7 to directly address the state body during the teleconferenced
8 meeting without being required to submit public comments prior
9 to the meeting or in writing.

10 ~~(J)~~

11 (K) Upon discovering that a means of remote participation
12 required by this section has failed during a meeting and cannot be
13 restored, the state body shall end or adjourn the meeting in
14 accordance with Section 11128.5. In addition to any other
15 requirements that may apply, the state body shall provide notice
16 of the meeting's end or adjournment on the state body's internet
17 website and by email to any person who has requested notice of
18 meetings of the state body by email under this article. If the
19 meeting will be adjourned and reconvened on the same day, further
20 notice shall be provided by an automated message on a telephone
21 line posted on the state body's agenda, internet website, or by a
22 similar means, that will communicate when the state body intends
23 to reconvene the meeting and how a member of the public may
24 hear audio of the meeting or observe the meeting.

25 (2) For the purposes of this subdivision, both of the following
26 definitions shall apply:

27 (A) "Teleconference" means a meeting of a state body, the
28 members of which are at different locations, connected by
29 electronic means, through either audio or both audio and video.
30 This section does not prohibit a state body from providing members
31 of the public with additional locations in which the public may
32 observe or address the state body by electronic means, through
33 either audio or both audio and video.

34 (B) "Remote location" means a location from which a member
35 of a state body participates in a meeting other than any physical
36 meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Remote
37 locations need not be accessible to the public.

38 (c) If a state body holds a meeting through teleconferencing
39 pursuant to this section and allows members of the public to

1 observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise
2 electronically, the state body shall also do both of the following:

3 (1) Implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving
4 requests for reasonable modification or accommodation from
5 individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans
6 with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.), and
7 resolving any doubt whatsoever in favor of accessibility.

8 (2) Advertise that procedure each time notice is given of the
9 means by which members of the public may observe the meeting
10 and offer public comment.

11 (d) The state body shall publicly report any action taken and
12 the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for
13 the action.

14 (e) If a member of a state body attends a meeting by
15 teleconference from a remote location, the member shall disclose
16 whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present
17 in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general
18 nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals.

19 (f) For purposes of this section, "participate remotely" means
20 participation in a meeting at a location other than the physical
21 location designated in the agenda of the meeting.

22 (g) *This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026,*
23 *and as of that date is repealed.*

24 *SEC. 2. Section 11123 is added to the Government Code, to*
25 *read:*

26 *11123. (a) All meetings of a state body shall be open and*
27 *public and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of*
28 *a state body except as otherwise provided in this article.*

29 *(b) (1) This article does not prohibit a state body from holding*
30 *an open or closed meeting by teleconference for the benefit of the*
31 *public and state body. The meeting or proceeding held by*
32 *teleconference shall otherwise comply with all applicable*
33 *requirements or laws relating to a specific type of meeting or*
34 *proceeding, including the following:*

35 *(A) The teleconferencing meeting shall comply with all*
36 *requirements of this article applicable to other meetings.*

37 *(B) The portion of the teleconferenced meeting that is required*
38 *to be open to the public shall be audible to the public at the*
39 *location specified in the notice of the meeting.*

1 (C) If the state body elects to conduct a meeting or proceeding
 2 by teleconference, it shall post agendas at all teleconference
 3 locations and conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that
 4 protects the rights of any party or member of the public appearing
 5 before the state body. Each teleconference location shall be
 6 identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding,
 7 and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public.
 8 The agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public
 9 to address the state body directly pursuant to Section 11125.7 at
 10 each teleconference location.

11 (D) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be
 12 by rollcall.

13 (E) The portion of the teleconferenced meeting that is closed to
 14 the public may not include the consideration of any agenda item
 15 being heard pursuant to Section 11125.5.

16 (F) At least one member of the state body shall be physically
 17 present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.

18 (2) For the purposes of this subdivision, “teleconference” means
 19 a meeting of a state body, the members of which are at different
 20 locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or
 21 both audio and video. This section does not prohibit a state body
 22 from providing members of the public with additional locations
 23 in which the public may observe or address the state body by
 24 electronic means, through either audio or both audio and video.

25 (c) The state body shall publicly report any action taken and
 26 the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for
 27 the action.

28 (d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2026.

29 ~~SEC. 2.~~

30 SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of
 31 this act, which amends Section 11123 of the Government Code,
 32 imposes a limitation on the public’s right of access to the meetings
 33 of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies
 34 within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California
 35 Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the
 36 Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest
 37 protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:

38 (a) By removing the requirement for agendas to be placed at
 39 the location of each public official participating in a public meeting
 40 remotely, including from the member’s private home or hotel

1 room, this act protects the personal, private information of public
2 officials and their families while preserving the public’s right to
3 access information concerning the conduct of the people’s business.
4 (b) During the COVID-19 public health emergency, audio and
5 video teleconference were widely used to conduct public meetings
6 in lieu of physical location meetings, and those public meetings
7 have been productive, increased public participation by all
8 members of the public regardless of their location and ability to
9 travel to physical meeting locations, increased the pool of people
10 who are able to serve on these bodies, protected the health and
11 safety of civil servants and the public, and have reduced travel
12 costs incurred by members of state bodies and reduced work hours
13 spent traveling to and from meetings.
14 (c) Conducting audio and video teleconference meetings
15 enhances public participation and the public’s right of access to
16 meetings of the public bodies by improving access for individuals
17 that often face barriers to physical attendance.

O