



## New remote public meetings option AB2449 Emergency Provisions/Just Cause

Asm. Rubio Blanca's [AB 2449](#) allows local agencies to hold remote public meetings without identifying each teleconference location and without making each location accessible to the public. This alternative option can only be used under limited circumstances and expires on Jan. 1, 2026. Crucially, this measure may be used if "just cause" is met or if "emergency circumstances" exist.

"Just cause" is defined as any one of the following:

- Child care or caregiving of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires a member to participate remotely.
- A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.
- A need related to a physical or mental disability.
- Travel while on business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.

An "emergency circumstance" is a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member of a legislative body from attending in person.

In order to participate remotely for "just cause", a member must notify the legislative body at the earliest possible opportunity — including at the start of a meeting — of their need to participate remotely and provide a general description of the circumstances related to one of the four items above. A member may only use the just cause provision up to two meetings per calendar year.

To participate remotely under "emergency circumstances", the member must request that the legislative body allow them to participate in the meeting remotely because of emergency circumstances and the legislative body must take action to approve the request. The legislative body must request a general description of the circumstances relating to the member's need to appear remotely. This description does not have to be more than 20 words and does not need to include any personal medical information.

The following rules also apply when meeting under just cause or emergency circumstances:

- Members participating remotely must do so through audio and visual technology.
- The legislative body must provide a way for the public to remotely hear, visually observe, and remotely address the legislative body.
- The legislative body must provide notice of how the public can access the meeting and offer comment.
- The agenda must identify and include an opportunity for the public to attend and directly address the legislative body through a call-in option, an internet-based service option, and in person at the meeting.
- The legislative body cannot require comments to be submitted before the start of the meeting. The public must be allowed to make "real time" public comment.
- If there is a disruption to the meeting broadcast or in the ability to take call-in or internet-based public comment, no further action can be taken on agenda items until the issue is resolved.
- The legislative body must implement a procedure for receiving and resolving requests for reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities and must give notice of these procedures.
- A member may not participate in meetings remotely for more than three consecutive months or 20% of the agency's regular meetings within a calendar year. If the legislative body regularly meets less than 10 times a year, a member may not participate remotely for more than two meetings.

Additionally, members participating remotely must publicly disclose at the meeting whether anyone else 18 years or older is present with the member and the general nature of the member's relationship with the individual.