

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the impacts of Senate Bill 707 will have on current City procedures and the necessary changes the City would be required to complete to be in compliance with the new adaptations to the Brown Act.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. AUTHORIZE the purchase and annual renewal of the necessary Zoom licenses, in the estimated amount of \$30,000 to ensure City Council will meet Senate Bill 707 requirements for remote access (voice-only) for the public for full session meetings in City Hall Council Chambers and committee meetings in the 4th floor committee room.
2. INSTRUCT the City Clerk, Information Technology Agency, and Department of General Services to analyze and report back on the specific engineering, construction, labor, and equipment costs from this substantial upgrade of the Van Nuys Council Chambers.
3. NOTE and FILE the February 24, 2026 City Clerk report.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The ITA reports that the recommendations contained in the January 20, 2026 ITA report, attached to the Council File, will have an annual General Fund impact estimated at \$30,000 in software licensing costs.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For:
Pacoima Neighborhood Council
Reseda Neighborhood Council

For, If Amended:
North Hollywood Neighborhood Council

Summary:

On March 27, 2026, your Committee considered January 20, 2026 ITA and February 24, 2026 City Clerk reports relative to the impacts of Senate Bill 707 will have on current City procedures and the necessary changes the City would be required to complete to be in compliance with the new adaptations to the Brown Act.

According to the ITA, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 707 into law on October 3, 2025. This bill makes significant changes to the Brown Act, intending to increase public participation and expand remote access to public meetings. As the City meets the definition of an eligible legislative body (a city council with a population of 30,000 or more), current policies and procedures must be updated to comply with the new requirements.

The new law mandates several key actions, including, but not limited to the following: (1) the City must offer remote participation in meetings via a two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform; (2) the City has a new responsibility for public outreach, requiring reasonable efforts to encourage residents that do not traditionally participate in public meetings to attend; and (3) the City must commit to offering translation services, both during public meetings and on the City's dedicated webpages. It is important to note that these are only a portion of the changes enacted by the bill. The implementation date for SB 707 is July 1, 2026; therefore, the City must move diligently to fully understand and fulfill all new requirements by this deadline.

According to the City Clerk, it has identified specific changes necessary to comply with SB 707. These changes are primarily administrative and focus on improving the accessibility and translation of meeting and public comment information on the legislative body's main webpage. The required updates are:

- Providing a direct link to the online Council meeting agendas.
- Electronically and physically posting translated Council agendas in all applicable languages for each meeting.
- Offering a general explanation of the public meeting process, including procedures for both in-person and remote public comment.
- Implementing functionality to translate the public meeting webpage into all applicable languages.
- Ensuring closed captioning for the broadcasted Council meeting.
- Providing interpretive and translation services for the Council meeting.

The City Clerk already provides many of the services required by SB 707 as standard practice. The only remaining requirements to implement are: 1) Electronic and physical posting of translated Council agendas. 2) Publication of a general explanation of the public meeting process and procedures for public comment on the legislative body's main webpage. These two changes are expected to be completed and rolled out by the July 1, 2026 deadline. All other requirements are already routinely met. SB 707 requires Council meeting agendas to be translated into all "applicable languages." An "applicable language" is defined as one "spoken jointly by 20 percent or more of the applicable population, according to data from the most recent American Community Survey, provided that 20 percent or more of the population that speaks that language in that city or county speaks English less than 'very well.'" Based on the 2024 American Community Survey data for the City of Los Angeles, Spanish is the only language that meets this threshold, as it is spoken at home by 39 percent of the population. Consequently, the City Clerk will proceed with translating and posting Council meeting agendas in Spanish, both electronically and physically. Further, a general explanation of the public meeting process and procedures for public comment is currently provided in all City Council meeting

agendas. This information will be expanded and made available on the legislative body's main webpage as well.

After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the recommendations contained in each report. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Government Operations Committee

COUNCILMEMBER VOTE

PADILLA: YES

LEE: YES

JURADO: YES

ARL

3/27/26

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-