

1 [Rules of Order - Public Comment - Disruption Policies]

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3 **Motion amending the Board of Supervisors' Rules of Order by amending Rule 1.3.3 (In-**
4 **Person and Remote Public Comment) to conform the Rule with the public comment**
5 **changes; adding a new Rule 1.3.4 (Remote Public Comment Disruption Policy) to adopt**
6 **a policy for the Board of Supervisors to handle disruptions to remote public**
7 **participation; adding a new Rule 1.3.5 (Disorderly Conduct by Public Commenters) to**
8 **codify the procedures around disorderly conduct by public commenters; and**
9 **amending Rule 3.8 (Public Comment at Committee Meetings) to prohibit committees**
10 **from limiting the total amount of time for public comment on an item.**

11

12 WHEREAS, The California State Senate approved Senate Bill No. 707 (SB 707;
13 Durazo), approved by Governor Gavin Newsom and filed with the Secretary of State on
14 October 3, 2025, that amends the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code, Section
15 54952 et seq.) to require legislative bodies in California to provide a two-way telephonic or
16 two-way audiovisual service for members of the public to provide public comment beginning
17 July 1, 2026; and

18 WHEREAS, The requirement of SB 707 to allow remote public comment only applies to
19 meetings of the full Board of Supervisors; and

20 WHEREAS, California Government Code, Section 54953.4(b)(1)(A)(ib)(I) et seq.,
21 requires legislative bodies to adopt a policy by July 1, 2026, regarding the procedures for
22 recessing and reconvening a meeting in the event of disruption of the telephonic or internet
23 service and the efforts that the eligible legislative body shall make to attempt and restore the
24 service; and

25

1 WHEREAS, California Government Code, Sections 54957.95 and 54957.96, provide
2 the presiding member of a legislative body or their designee the authority to remove, or cause
3 the removal of, an individual for disrupting the meeting, including any teleconferenced
4 meeting, after a warning has been provided and the individual fails to cease their behavior;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, SB 707 also amended California Government Code, Section 54954.3(a),
7 to allow members of the public to address the legislative body on certain items that were
8 previously considered by a committee, including items that related to elections, budgets,
9 police oversight, privacy, removing from – or restricting access to – materials available in
10 public libraries, or taxes or related spending proposals, if the local agency has not adopted a
11 law that prohibits the committee from placing a limit on the total amount of time for public
12 comment on the item; and

13 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors' structure provides that the work
14 and discussions for proposed legislation occurs at the committee level, including providing the
15 opportunity to allow members of the public to provide their testimony, and under the Board's
16 current practice, the Board does not limit the total amount of time for public comment on items
17 heard in committee; now, therefore, be it

18 MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
19 hereby amends Rule 1.3.3 (In-Person and Remote Public Comment) of the Rules of Order, as
20 follows:

21 **1.3.3. In-Person and Remote Public Comment.** Where opportunity for public
22 comment is required under Rules 3.8 (Public Testimony in Committee), *4.19 (Public Hearings*
23 *on Appeals), and 4.22 (General Public Comment Before the Full Board of Supervisors),* members of
24 the public shall be given the option to comment in-person at a meeting of ~~the Board or~~ a
25 committee.

1 The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall offer opportunities to provide remote public
2 comment to members of the public at full Board of Supervisors meetings, as required under Rules
3 4.19 (Public Hearings on Appeals) and 4.22 (General Public Comment Before the Board of
4 Supervisors and during Committee of the Whole hearings). Remote public comment shall also be
5 provided as necessary to enable the participation of people with disabilities, to the extent
6 required by law. For purposes of this Rule 1.3.3, “remotely” means telephonically or otherwise
7 electronically, as determined by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

8 MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
9 hereby adds a new Rule 1.3.4 (Remote Public Comment Disruption Policy) to the Rules of
10 Order, as follows:

11 **1.3.4. Remote Public Comment Disruption Policy.** In the event of a technical disruption that
12 prevents members of the public from observing, participating or providing public comment remotely at
13 a meeting where the Board provides remote access under Rule 1.3.3, the Board of Supervisors shall
14 recess the meeting and make every good faith attempt to restore the services for no less than one hour.
15 The Board of Supervisors may convene in closed session during this period. The open session meeting
16 may not reconvene until after services have been restored or one hour has lapsed since the disruption,
17 whichever occurs first. If the Board of Supervisors reconvenes the meeting and the remote services
18 have not been restored, upon reconvening, the Board shall adopt a verbal motion by a majority of the
19 Members present, finding that a good faith effort was attempted to restore service and the public
20 interest in continuing the meeting outweighs the public interest in remote public access.

21 MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
22 hereby adds a new Rule 1.3.5 (Disorderly Conduct by Remote Public Commenters) to the
23 Rules of Order, as follows:

24 **1.3.5. Disorderly Conduct by Public Commenters.** In the event a member of the public engages
25 in behavior that disrupts, disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting

1 while providing public comment, the presiding officer, the clerk, or any other member shall explicitly
2 warn the individual that their behavior is out of order, is disrupting the meeting, and the continuation
3 of their behavior may result in moving on to the next public commenter. If the individual does not cease
4 their disruptive behavior, the presiding officer, the clerk, or any other member may move on to the next
5 speaker. This Rule shall apply to public commenters in-person and those utilizing the remote public
6 comment system. Individuals providing public comment in-person may also be subject to the provisions
7 of Rule 1.7 and be removed from the meeting room.

8 MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
9 hereby amends Rule 3.8 (Public Comment at Committee Meetings) of the Rules of Order to
10 prohibit the committee from placing a limit on the amount of time for public comment, in order
11 to satisfy the requirements of California Government Code, Section 54954.3(a), as follows:

12 **3.8. Public Comment at Committee Meetings.** Public comment is welcome on any
13 item on committee agendas. Public comment is not provided on other matters, because
14 committees may consider only items which have been referred to the committee and properly
15 posted, published, and noticed. This is the opportunity to hear public testimony for and against
16 proposed legislation pending before the committee. Committees are prohibited from placing a
17 limit on the total amount of time for public comment to be taken on each item on the agenda.

18 FURTHER MOVED, That the addition of Rule 1.3.3 and the amendment to Rule 3.8
19 shall become operative on July 1, 2026, and the Clerk of the Board is directed to incorporate
20 those amendments into the Rules of Order on July 1, 2026; and the addition of Rule 1.3.4 to
21 the Rules of Order shall be incorporated by the Clerk of the Board on the effective date of this
22 Motion.