

RULES OF ORDER

Public Comment & Disruption Policies (File No. 260563)



June 1, 2026, Rules Committee

CA SENATE BILL NO. 707 (SB707)

SB707 amended the Ralph M. Brown Act (CA Government Code, Section 54952 et seq).

SB707 requires legislative bodies in California to provide a two-way telephonic or audiovisual service for the public to provide public comment by July 1, 2026.

BOARD RULE 1.3.3 REVISED

In-Person and Remote Public Comment

- Bifurcates the handling of Public Comment at the Full Board Meetings and Committee Meetings
- Beginning July 1, 2026, Full Board Meetings will provide Remote Public Comment, as well as In-Person Public Comment
- Committee Meetings will continue to provide In-Person Public Comment

CA SENATE BILL NO. 707 (SB707)

SB707 requires legislative bodies to adopt a policy regarding the procedures for recessing/reconvening a meeting in the event of a disruption of the telephonic or internet service, no later than July 1, 2026.

NEW BOARD RULE 1.3.4

Remote Public Comment Disruption Policy

- Beginning July 1, 2026, a Full Board Meeting will need to recess in the event of a technical disruption that prevents the public from providing Remote Public Comment.
- A good faith attempt to restore the services must be made for no less than one hour.
- After one hour has lapsed, and if remote services have not been restored, the Full Board Meeting may reconvene.
- A verbal motion must be made/approved finding that a good faith effort was attempted and continuing the meeting outweighs the public interest in remote public access.

CA SENATE BILL NO. 707 (SB707)

SB707 expands the authority of a presiding member to remove an individual for disrupting a meeting to include persons participating through a two-way telephonic or audiovisual platform.

NEW BOARD RULE 1.3.5

Disorderly Conduct by Public Commenters

- CA Government Code, Section 54957.95, currently allow a presiding member to remove, or cause the removal of, an individual for disrupting a meeting.
- This new Rule codifies the authority to remove an individual into the San Francisco Board of Supervisors' Rules of Order and expands this authority to include those participating remotely.
- The presiding officer, the clerk, or any member shall warn the individual that their behavior is out of order and is disrupting the meeting. If the individual does not cease their behavior, the Clerk will move on to the next caller (remote) of speaker (in-person).

CA SENATE BILL NO. 707 (SB707)

SB707 allows members of the public to address the full legislative body on certain items that were previously considered by a committee, if the legislative body has not adopted a law that prohibits the committee from placing a limit on the total amount of time for public comment on an item.

BOARD RULE 3.8 REVISED

Public Comment at Committee Meetings

- There is no current rule that allows a committee to limit the total amount of time allotted for public comment nor do committees practice this limitation.
- The revised Rule establishes the prohibition to limit the total amount of time.
- Codifying the prohibition will continue the practice that the “work happens in committee” and the Full Board Meetings will continue to exclude public comment on matters that have already been heard in committee.



QUESTIONS