

RULES, ELECTIONS, AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT and RESOLUTION relative to including in the City's 2023-24 State Legislative Program support for AB 817 (Pacheco) that would amend the Ralph M. Brown Act to authorize the Los Angeles City Council and other legal legislative bodies to permit subsidiary, purely advisory bodies to meet by teleconference, subject to provisions for public participation.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Resolution (Yaroslavsky – McOsker) and SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF THE MAYOR:

RESOLVE to include in the City's 2024-25 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Assembly Bill 2835 (Gabriel) to extend the January 2025 sunset included in AB 1991 (Chapter 645 of the Statutes of 2022).

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For:

North Westwood Neighborhood Council  
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

Summary:

On April 19, 2024, your Committee considered an April 19, 2024 CLA report and Resolution (Blumenfield – Hernandez - Krekorian) relative to including in the City's 2024-25 State Legislative Program support for AB 817 (Pacheco) that would amend the Ralph M. Brown Act to authorize the Los Angeles City Council and other legal legislative bodies to permit subsidiary, purely advisory bodies to meet by teleconference, subject to provisions for public participation. The CLA report contains a revised Resolution and was received subsequent to the release of the Committee agenda. According to the CLA, the Brown Act was enacted in 1953 and has been amended numerous times since its enactment. The legislative intent of the Brown Act is to ensure that the actions and deliberations of public commissions, boards, councils, and other public agencies in the State be conducted openly. The Brown Act generally requires meetings to be noticed in advance, including the posting of an agenda, and generally requires meetings to be open and accessible to the public.

The Brown Act also requires members of the public to have an opportunity to comment on agenda items and prohibits deliberation or action on items not listed on the agenda. During and after the COVID emergency, the State expanded the use of teleconferencing for Brown Act meetings by Executive Order and legislation. In March 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-29-20 in response to the COVID pandemic, which authorized

local legislative bodies and State bodies to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and accessible telephonically and electronically. Subsequently, AB 361 (Rivas; 2021) and AB 2449 (Rubio; 2022) provided flexibility to use teleconferencing both during and after a declared state of emergency, subject to certain provisions related to accessibility of the meeting to members of the public.

According to the author of AB 817, the intent of the bill is to address barriers to entry to achieve diverse participation and representation in civic leadership. The author states that this bill helps to promote equity and inclusion for many protected classes in local communities by increasing accessibility and removing barriers to entry into leadership opportunities in local advisory and appointed boards and commissions. Supporters of the bill note that the exemption to the Brown Act proposed by AB 817 would provide greater equity in opportunity to serve on local advisory bodies and increase diversity in leadership, as it removes challenges related to time commitments, time and location of meetings, physical limitations, conflicts with childcare, and work obligations. Opponents of the bill have indicated that this bill would hamper public access and participation at the meetings for the press, as well as members of the public who interact with public officials when decisions are being made. Support for AB 817 (Pacheco) would be consistent with past and current City support for State legislation associated with amendments to the Ralph M. Brown Act that would make public meetings accessible telephonically or electronically. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Resolution, as amended to reflect the amended Resolution that was submitted as part of the CLA report and attached to the Council File. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

<b>COUNCILMEMBER</b>	<b>VOTE</b>
KREKORIAN:	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES
BLUMENFIELD:	YES

ARL  
4/19/24

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**