



**Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council**

**OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 707 (DURAZO)**

(City Clerk Myra Maravilla)

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**Recommended Action:**

Staff recommends City Council consider taking a position in opposition of Senate Bill 707 (SB 707) and authorize the Mayor to sign a letter expressing the City's position (**Attachment 1**).

**Executive Summary:**

The City of Hermosa Beach regularly expresses its support or opposition regarding legislative matters that would impact the City. Staff requests that City Council consider taking a position in opposition to Senate Bill 707, which amends the rules governing local agencies' public meetings under the Ralph M. Brown Act. SB 707 has the potential of adding a significant burden to the City by imposing unfunded mandates that would increase costs for staffing, equipment, cybersecurity, and compliance.

**Background:**

On April 2, 2025, Senator Durazo introduced Senate Bill 707, which amends the rules governing local agencies' public meetings under the Ralph M. Brown Act. SB 707 would amend Sections 54952.7, 54953, 54953.5, 54953.7, 54954.2, 54954.3, 54956, 54956.5, 54957.6, 54957.9, and 54957.95 of, to amend and repeal Section 54952.2 of, to add Sections 54953.8, 54953.8.1, 54953.8.2, and 54957.96 to, and to add and repeal Sections 54953.4, 54953.8.3, 54953.8.4, 54953.8.5, 54953.8.6, and 54953.8.7 of, the Government Code, relating to local government.

The League of California Cities and the California Municipal Clerks Association have taken a position of opposition to the proposed bill unless it is amended, citing significant costs and the administrative burdens. Additionally, many local agencies across California have taken a formal position in opposition to the proposed bill.

If passed, the provisions outlined in SB 707 would take effect on July 1, 2026, and until January 1, 2030, force certain eligible legislative bodies like Hermosa Beach, to comply with various rules to include:

- Provide two-way telephonic or audiovisual for all meetings and halt business during service disruptions.

- Translate agendas into “applicable languages” spoken by 20% or more of residents with limited English proficiency.
- Provide a space for community-submitted translations, even if they are inaccurate or misleading.
- Create and maintain multi-language webpages with agendas, instructions, and meeting procedures.

On September 18, 2025, SB 707 was enrolled and sent to the Governor’s desk to sign or veto. The Governor has until October 12, 2025, to sign or veto the bill, making staff’s request timely for the Council’s consideration.

### **Analysis:**

#### **Definition of Legislative Body**

SB 707 defines “legislative body” as “a commission, committee, board, or other body of a local agency, whether permanent or temporary, decision-making or advisory, created by charter, ordinance, or resolution, or formal action of a legislative body.” However, it would not include advisory committees composed solely of the members of the legislative body that are less than a quorum of the legislative body, except for specified standing committees of a legislative body.

The overly broad definition of “legislative body” in SB 707 would burden the City of Hermosa Beach by making it mandatory to provide real-time remote public comment by two-way telephonic or audiovisual methods and forces all the City’s legislative bodies to pause from acting on agenda items until any technological issues are resolved.

#### **Agenda Translations**

Agendas would need to be translated into all “applicable languages,” defined as those spoken by 20% or more of the local population with limited English proficiency. This would mandate a fully accessible, multilingual webpage that translates agendas and procedures for accessing them and assists members of the public seeking translation or interpretation, even if the translation provided by another member of the public is inaccurate.

Currently, this provision would not apply to the City since it does not have a local population of 20% or more with limited English proficiency. However, the City could be subject to this requirement in the future should its population makeup change to 20% of the population having limited English proficiency.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact with the recommended actions. If SB 707 is passed, costs to comply with the bill would be budgeted in future City budgets.

**Attachments:**

1. Letter Opposing SB 707
2. SB 707 Text

**Respectfully Submitted by:** Myra Maravilla, City Clerk

**Noted for Fiscal Impact:** Brandon Walker, Administrative Services Director

**Legal Review:** Jason Baltimore, Interim City Attorney

**Approved:** Steve Napolitano, Interim City Manager