

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: SB 470
 AUTHOR: Laird
 BILL DATE: April 10, 2025, Amended
 SUBJECT: Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing
 SPONSOR: Author

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION

Extends from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2030, the repeal date for certain remote meeting options available to state bodies under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Act), to meet remotely, as specified.

BACKGROUND

The Act generally requires all state bodies, including the Medical Board of California (Board) to conduct business in meetings that are open to the public, publish their meeting agendas at least 10 calendar days prior to the meeting, and make their meeting materials available to the public.

SB 544 of 2023, which was supported by the Board, provided state bodies, like the Board, the option to hold their public meetings by teleconference or online software (e.g., through WebEx), if they provide at least one physical location where the public can participate in the meeting and meet other requirements. At that physical location the public must be able to hear, observe, and address the state body. If available, they must have access equivalent to the access of the members of the state body (e.g., access via WebEx). At least one member or employee of the state body must be present at that physical location. Further, a majority of the Board members must be present at the same physical location for at least half of the Board's meetings each year. The Board has not used this authority for its Quarterly Board meetings.

In addition, SB 544 authorized advisory state bodies (like the Midwifery Advisory Council, or MAC) to hold a meeting with all members participating remotely, subject to certain requirements (e.g., appearing visibly on camera, unless technologically impractical). The Board has regularly used this option since it was enacted.

ANALYSIS

According to the author's fact sheet:

“...when the Bagley-Keene Act was adopted in 1967, no one envisioned the computer age. The Americans with Disabilities Act had not been adopted. The idea that citizens could participate in public meetings remotely was not common. The COVID pandemic demonstrated the need to address those

changes. The state conducted meetings remotely to continue the public process, and learned of the benefits and drawbacks of virtual participation.

“Senate Bill 470 builds upon the successful implementation of SB 544 by [extending] the January 1, 2026 sunset to enshrine public and disability access in state board and commission meetings, while preserving transparency in the decision-making process. The provisions provide that boards and commissions must have a quorum present in public at one location, require that remote public officials have their camera on, and require remote testimony options for public hearings.”

Consideration of a Board Position

SB 470 extends from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2030, the sunset date for the remote meeting options added by SB 544 of 2023. The Board supported SB 544 and has regularly used this authority for meetings of the MAC and the Special Faculty Permit Review Committee. Those remote meetings have reduced Board costs (e.g., travel expenses and staff time) and facilitated the involvement of the members of these advisory bodies. Accordingly, staff recommend the Board adopt a Support position on SB 470.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact to extend current law, however, if SB 470 is not enacted into law, the Board may face increased costs to hold certain meetings in a physical location.

SUPPORT: AARP
 Alzheimer's Association
 Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles
 Alzheimer's Orange County
 Alzheimer's San Diego
 Association of California State Employees With Disabilities
 Association of Regional Center Agencies
 California Association of Licensed Investigators
 California Coalition on Family Caregiving
 California Commission on Aging
 California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
 California Long Term Care Ombudsman Association
 Disability Rights California
 DMS Registered Service Agency Advisory Committee
 Easterseals Northern California
 Family Caregiver Alliance
 LeadingAge California
 Little Hoover Commission
 State Council on Developmental Disabilities

OPPOSITION: ACLU California Action
California Broadcasters Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Common CAUSE
California News Publishers Association
CCNMA: Latino Journalists of California
First Amendment Coalition
Freedom of the Press Foundation
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association
League of Women Voters of California
Media Guild of the West
National Press Photographers Association
Orange County Press Club
Pacific Media Workers Guild
Radio Television Digital News Association
Society of Professional Journalists, Northern California Chapter

POSITION: Recommendation: Support

ATTACHMENT: [SB 470, Laird - Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing.](#)
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