

# MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: SB 470  
AUTHOR: Laird  
CHAPTER: Chaptered, #222  
BILL DATE: April 10, 2025, Amended  
SUBJECT: Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing  
SPONSOR: Author  
POSITION: Support

## 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.

**SB 470 was not amended after the previous meeting of the Medical Board of California (Board).**

## IMPLEMENTATION TASKS:

- Report in the Board's newsletter (expected to be published by January 2026).
- In consultation with Board leadership, continue to make use of remote meeting options, as appropriate (ongoing).

## 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."

FISCAL: No fiscal impact to extend current law.

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

ATTACHMENT: [SB 470, Laird - Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act:  
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