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PRESS RELEASE
California Commission on Aging

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Landmark Teleconferencing Bill Signed into Law

SACRAMENTO, October 03, 2025 --- The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) celebrates the passage of Senator John Laird's Senate Bill 470, signed into law by Governor Newsom on October 1, 2025. The bill, Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing, extends alternative teleconferencing procedures from January 1, 2026, until January 1, 2030.

In 2023, the Legislature recognized the critical need for increased flexibility in public meetings by passing SB 544 (Laird), which provided a pathway for advisory bodies to meet virtually while maintaining transparency and public participation. This was a significant step in modernizing California's approach to open meetings. SB 470 builds upon that progress by extending these provisions for another four years, ensuring that public bodies can continue operating in a manner that is both inclusive and efficient.

By extending the current January 1, 2026, repeal date, SB 470 ensures that state bodies, including advisory commissions like CCoA, can continue leveraging modern teleconferencing technology, for greater public participation and increased diversity among commissioners, ensuring broad representation and greater efficiency while maintaining full communications transparency.

SB 470 maintains strong safeguards to ensure accountability and public access, including:

- Requiring a primary physical location for public participation;
- Mandating visible on-camera participation by members during open meetings; and
- Ensuring staff presence at the designated physical location to facilitate public engagement.

By extending these provisions, California will continue to avoid unnecessary disruptions to established meeting structures and uphold the principles of open governance while embracing the practical benefits of technology. This bill is budget-neutral and will likely lead to cost savings for the state through reductions in advisory board member travel.



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This is an important measure to ensure that state and advisory bodies can continue serving the public effectively while maintaining transparency and accountability. CCoA thanks Governor Newsom and Senator Laird for their leadership and vision.

As the state's principal advocacy body for older adults, CCoA advises state leaders, legislators, and governmental agencies on policies and programs that impact the lives of older Californians and supports programs and services that promote equity, inclusion, autonomy, choice, access, respect, integrity, collaboration, and partnership.

For more information about CCoA and its initiatives, please visit <http://ccoa.ca.gov>.

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