

## AB 2449, SHORT SUMMARY

Per AB 2449 when other criteria (i.e. state of emergency) do not apply, there must be just cause or emergency circumstances for the member to participate remotely. The following must be applied:

### **Just Cause:**

- Can only be used two times per calendar year.
- Member notifies the legislative body at the earliest opportunity, including at the start of a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just cause, including a general description of the circumstances related to their need to appear remotely. (No action of legislative body needed.)
- “Just cause” means any of the following:
  - (A) A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely. “Child,” “parent,” “grandparent,” “grandchild,” and “sibling” have the same meaning as those terms do in Section 12945.2.
  - (B) A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.
  - (C) A need related to a physical or mental disability as defined in Sections 12926 and 12926.1 not otherwise accommodated by subdivision (g).
  - (D) Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.

### **Emergency Circumstances:**

- “Emergency circumstances” means a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.
- The legislative body must take action at the earliest opportunity to approve the request (agendize if possible, vote to approve. If no time to agendize, take action at the beginning of the meeting per GC 54954.2).
- Member must provide a general description regarding the need to appear remotely.
  - This description does not need to exceed 20 words, no medical diagnosis, disability, or personal medical info exempt under the law required to be disclosed.
- Member makes request as soon as possible. Member must make a separate request for each meeting they intend to appear remotely.

A member may participate remotely for just cause or for an emergency (combined) only for three consecutive months, or for 20 percent of regular meetings in a calendar year.

In both circumstances, member must publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member’s relationship with any such individuals.

Member must participate via AUDIO and VISUAL technology (i.e. camera must be on).

Roll call vote will be required for all items when any member is participating remotely.