

## SB 751 – AMENDMENT TO THE BROWN ACT PROMOTING GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC AGENCIES

On January 1, 2014, SB 751 will go into effect, requiring the legislative body of every California local agency to publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each Board member present for the action. The purpose of the legislation is to promote greater transparency and improve public accountability.

Signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on September 6, 2013, SB 751 amends the Brown Act (Government Code 54953) to require, essentially, a recordation of a roll call vote for each action taken at public meetings. Under current law, the votes of individual board members are reported for closed meetings and meetings conducted by teleconference. SB 751 will apply the same requirement to open meetings. This means that the current practice, by some agencies, of merely recording the number of “ayes” or “nays” for an action will no longer be sufficient.

This new law applies to the legislative bodies of local public agencies, including the boards of K-12 schools, community colleges, municipalities, special districts and Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs). Those agencies will have to implement procedures by January 1, 2014 to ensure that a roll call vote is taken and individual Board member votes or abstentions are recorded in the minutes for every action taken at a meeting.

For meetings in which Keenan assists an agency in scheduling the meeting and recording the minutes, Keenan staff is ready to assist the agency to ensure compliance with SB 751 as of January 1, 2014.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, or how the Brown Act impacts your agency, please contact your Keenan representative for assistance.

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