



Bill Analysis

Author: Holden

Sponsor:

Bill Number: AB 105

Related Bills: See Legislative
History

Introduced: December 14,
2020

SUBJECT

The Upward Mobility Act of 2021

SUMMARY

This bill would, under the Government Code, modify several processes related to civil service job announcements, examinations, and classifications. This analysis only addresses the provisions that would impact the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) and only with regard to the FTB.

RECOMMENDATION

No position.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

None noted.

REASON FOR THE BILL

The reason for this bill is to provide civil service employees with greater opportunity to move upward within state service through additional accountability and procedural requirements.

ANALYSIS

As explained in detail below, this bill would under the Government Code (GC), add oversight authority to the Department of Human Resources (CalHR) with respect to state agency hiring, discipline, and promotion.

This bill would;

- Remove existing provisions, which authorizes CalHR to designate an appointing power to design, announce, or administer examinations, and replaces it with provisions requiring State Personnel Board (SPB) to establish a process that includes diversity and best practices in each aspect of the design, announcement, and administration of examinations for the establishment of employment lists for all state agencies.

- Eliminates the requirement that the SPB establish minimum qualifications for each class of position, instead requiring the SPB and CalHR to work together to create, for each class of position, standards for statements of qualifications used as examination criteria in determining the fitness and qualifications of employees.
- Replaces the requirement that a job announcement include "the nature of the minimum qualifications" with the requirement to include "the functional core competencies" and requires job announcements to contain a standard statement of qualifications, if applicable.
- Adds a mandate that a designated appointing power and CalHR be comprised of an ethnically diverse team of men and women.
- Require oral examinations to be video and otherwise electronically recorded with all other examination materials being used to be maintained, with no data retention date specified.
- Require each appointing power to utilize an independent arbitrator to conduct state civil service disciplinary hearings when an adverse action is taken against an employee.
- Require the department to establish a list of approved independent arbitrators for these purposes and specify that these provisions do not prevent an employee from appealing the decision of the arbitrator as otherwise authorized.

In addition, this bill would add a minimum two or more consecutive years of civil service experience requirement for all career executive assignment (CEA) candidates. The time frame must include the most recent two years, unless otherwise specified under the law.

Effective/Operative Date

This bill would become effective and operative January 1, 2022.

Federal/State Law

Federal Law

No provision comparable in federal law.

State Law

CalHR may designate an appointing power to design, announce, or administer examinations for the establishment of employment lists as specified. The SPB may audit examinations and order corrective action or nullify any examination or parts thereof which have been conducted improperly. A designated appointing power may contract with CalHR or another designated appointing power for the purpose of designing, publicizing, or administering an examination, as specified.

The SPB establishes minimum qualifications for determining the fitness and qualifications of employees for each class of position. CalHR may require applicants for examination or appointment to provide documentation as it deems necessary to establish the applicants' qualifications.

CalHR or a designated appointing power announce or advertise examinations for the establishment of eligible lists.

CalHR or a designated appointing power may refuse to examine, or after examination may refuse to declare as eligible, or may withhold or withdraw from an eligible list, before the appointment, anyone who meets any of the criteria as specified.

Eligibility for appointment to positions in the career executive assignment category is established as a result of competitive examinations. Candidates must meet the minimum qualifications as specified by the SPB. No person employed in a CEA position shall be deemed to acquire as a result of such service any rights to or status in positions governed by the provisions of this part relating to the civil service other than the category of career executive assignment, except as provided by SPB rule.

Implementation Considerations

FTB staff has identified the following implementation considerations with regard to its operations for purposes of a high-level discussion; additional concerns may be identified as the bill moves through the legislative process. FTB staff is available to discuss these and other concerns with the author's office.

This bill would require oral examinations be video recorded and otherwise electronically recorded. FTB conducts numerous hiring interviews on an ongoing and frequent basis and electronically recording each would require significant changes to FTB's processes, which could be costly to implement. If this provision remains in the bill, allowing the option to use either video or other electronic recordings would be helpful.

Technical Considerations

None noted.

Policy Considerations

The bill indicates that oral examinations must be video and otherwise electronically recorded with all data and materials used retained, however the bill does not specify a retention period.

Additionally, this bill would change the minimum civil service requirement for CEAs, which could impact the number of qualified applicants.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Research of California legislation history found no legislation similar to the provisions of this bill.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

State Personnel Board (SPB)

The SPB oversees the merit-based, job-related recruitment and selection process for the hiring of state employees. SPB provides direction to departments through simplifying civil service laws, rules, and policy. In addition, SPB audits departments for merit system compliance, investigates and arbitrates alleged violations of civil service law which are filed by employees, applicants, and members of the public.

Department of Human Resources (CalHR)

CalHR was created by Governor Brown's Reorganization Plan, which consolidated the State of California's two personnel departments, combining the Department of Personnel Administration with certain programs of the SPB. CalHR is responsible for issues related to employee salaries and benefits, job classifications, civil rights, training, examinations, recruitment and retention.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FTB's costs to implement this bill have yet to be determined. As the bill moves through the legislative process, costs will be identified but could be significant.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

This bill as introduced December 14, 2020, would not impact state income or franchise tax revenue.

This analysis does not account for changes in employment, personal income, or gross state product that could result from this bill or for the net final payment method of accrual.

LEGAL IMPACT

None noted.

APPOINTMENTS

None noted.

SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

To be determined.

ARGUMENTS

To be determined.

LEGISLATIVE STAFF CONTACT

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