



Bill Analysis

Author: Holden

Sponsor:

Bill Number: AB 1604

Related Bills: See Legislative
History

Introduced: January 4, 2022

SUBJECT

The Upward Mobility Act of 2022

SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATION

No position.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Not applicable.

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 GC, add oversight authority to the Department of Human Resources (CalHR) with respect to state agency hiring, discipline, and promotion.

This bill would:

- Require the 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.

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- Requires that demographic data collected related to ancestry and ethnic origin be collected in separate categories and tabulations, as specified;
- Modify the requirement for the SPB to establish minimum qualifications by requiring the SPB, while developing the minimum qualifications, to incorporate, for each class of position, standards for statements of qualifications used as examination criteria in determining the fitness and qualifications of employees. CalHR could require applicants for examination or appointment to provide documentation as it deems necessary to establish the applicants' qualifications.
- Adds requirements for an examination announcement to include "the functional core competencies" in addition to "the nature of the minimum qualifications" and to contain a standard statement of qualifications, if applicable.
- Require oral examinations to be video and otherwise electronically recorded with all other examination materials being used to be maintained for three years, after which will be disposed of pursuant to a SPB adopted policy. Examinees will be required to be notified that they are being recorded.
- By July 1, 2023, Require CalHR to develop model upward mobility goals that may include, race, gender, LGBTQ, veteran status, and physical or mental disability factors to the extent permissible under state and federal laws. If an appointing authority fails to meet these goals for two consecutive fiscal years, it must submit a report explaining why it failed and what is necessary to achieve its goals in the subsequent two fiscal years to CalHR, the Director of the Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst.
- 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. By April 1 of each year, each appointing power shall provide to CalHR a report. The report must include, for the preceding calendar year:
 - The number of adverse actions taken on state employees;
 - The gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or race of each employee served with an adverse action, if available. This information may be provided at the discretion of the employee, and an appointing power shall not require an employee to disclose this information;
 - The statutory basis for discipline for each adverse action;
 - A brief factual summary of the action taken for each employee; and
 - The type of discipline imposed in each adverse action.
- CalHR would be required to include in its annual workforce analysis and census report the items as reported by each appointing authority and submit this report to the Legislature by June 1 of each year. The report would be required to be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the GC.

Effective/Operative Date

This bill would become effective and operative January 1, 2023.

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Federal/State Law

Federal Law

No comparable provision 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.

Section 9795 of the GC provides that reports required or requested by law to be submitted by a state or local agency to the Members of either house of the Legislature generally, shall be submitted as a printed copy to the Secretary of the Senate, as an electronic copy to the Chief Clerk of the Assembly, and as an electronic or printed copy to the Legislative Counsel. Each report must include a summary of its contents, as specified. State agencies submitting reports must also provide an electronic copy of the summary directly to each member of the appropriate house or houses of the Legislature. Notice of receipt of the report shall also be recorded in the journal of the appropriate house or houses of the Legislature by the secretary or clerk of that house.

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Implementation Considerations

None noted.

Technical Considerations

None noted.

Policy Considerations

None noted.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

AB 105 (Holden, 2021/2022), similar to this bill would have made modified several processes related to civil service job announcements, examination and classifications. AB 105 was vetoed by the governor, whose veto message stated in part, "...elements of the bill conflict with existing constitutional requirements, labor agreements, and current data collection efforts. Therefore, it may have unintended consequences that warrant further consideration."

SB 83 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 24, Statutes of 2019), allowed the department to charge designated appointing powers for the design, announcement or administration of examinations for the establishment of employment lists, and requires the Controller to transfer to the department any moneys owed to the department under these provisions.

AB 1062 (Jones-Sawyer, Chapter 427, Statutes of 2013), named the CalHR as the successor of the powers and duties exercised and performed by the Department of Personnel Administration.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

State Personnel Board (SPB)

According to the SPB website, 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.

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Department of Human Resources (CalHR)

According to the CalHR website, 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 department's costs to implement this bill have yet to be determined. As the bill moves through the legislative process, costs will be identified.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Revenue Estimate

This bill as introduced January 4, 2022, would not impact state income or franchise tax revenue.

LEGAL IMPACT

None noted.

APPOINTMENTS

None noted.

SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

To be determined.

ARGUMENTS

To be determined.

LEGISLATIVE CONTACT

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