

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2477 (Chen) – As Amended April 8, 2026

Policy Committee:	Business and Professions	Vote:	19 - 0
	Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials		7 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill, beginning January 1, 2028, authorizes an unlicensed individual employed by a registered structural pest control company who has applied for a structural pest control applicator examination to apply specified pesticides under the supervision of a licensed operator or field representative for up to 60 days.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Authorizes, beginning January 1, 2028, an unlicensed individual employed by a registered structural pest control company who has applied for a structural pest control applicator examination in Branch 2 or Branch 3 to apply pesticides included in Branch 2 or Branch 3 under the supervision of a licensed operator or field representative for a period of up to 60 days, commencing upon Live Scan approval, if the unlicensed individual has:
 - a) Submitted a complete structural pest control applicator examination application to the Structural Pest Control Board (SPCB), as evidenced by written or electronic confirmation of receipt.
 - b) Completed a minimum of 80 hours of documented, in-person training in pesticide application under the direct supervision of a licensed operator or field representative.
 - c) Submitted fingerprint identification to, and completed a background investigation with, the SPCB.
- 2) Requires the supervising licensee to maintain documentation demonstrating compliance with the above requirements, as specified.
- 3) Defines “supervision” for these purposes as either direct supervision or the direction of actions by a licensed operator or field representative who is immediately available to the unlicensed individual during pesticide application, either by being physically present at the site or through audio and video communication with access to the customer’s relevant information and the ability to intervene by directing onsite personnel.
- 4) Provides the 60-day authorization period may be granted once per individual; commences upon Live Scan approval; may not be renewed or granted again, and terminates upon license issuance, application denial, or expiration of the 60-day period, whichever occurs first.

- 5) Prohibits the 60-day authorization period from overlapping with or extending the optional 90-day directly supervised training period authorized under existing law.

FISCAL EFFECT:

The SPCB, withing the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), anticipates minor and absorbable costs (special fund).

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by the California Pest Management Association. According to the author:

This bill addresses a gap between hiring and licensure, during which new employees—despite completing training and initiating the licensing process—are unable to fully contribute to routine operations. By establishing a narrow, one-time provisional supervision period of up to 60 days, [this bill] allows qualified applicants who have completed at least 80 hours of supervised training, submitted to background checks, and applied for licensure to perform work under enhanced supervision, including real-time audio and video oversight. This measured approach preserves regulatory integrity while reducing unnecessary workforce bottlenecks, lowering operational costs, and supporting the viability of small, often family-run pest control businesses across the state.

- 2) **Background.** Structural pest control, regulated by the SPCB under DCA, is the practice of inspecting, identifying, and eradicating pests like insects, rodents, termites, and other creatures that infest human dwellings or other structural premises.

Existing law establishes three classifications for purposes of delimiting the type and character of structural pest control work authorized by licensure: Branch 1 - Fumigation. Branch 2 – General Pests, and Branch 3 – Wood Destroying Organisms. The SPCB administers three types of licenses pursuant to the different branches: applicator; field representative; and operator.

The applicator license is the SPCB's entry-level license. Any individual 18 years of age or older may apply for licensure as a structural pest control applicator, subject to passage of a written examination that tests sufficient knowledge in pesticide equipment, pesticide mixing and formulation, pesticide application procedures and pesticide label directions for purposes of Branch 2 and Branch 3 services.

Existing law prohibits an unlicensed individual employed by a registered structural pest control company from applying any pesticides included in Branch 2 or Branch 3 structural pest control, but does allow an unlicensed person, for a 90-day period from the date of employment with a registered company, to apply pesticides for training purposes under the direct supervision of a licensed field representative or operator employed by the company. Direct supervision means the unlicensed person is in the presence of the licensed field representative or operator at all times.

The author and sponsors contend the largest bottleneck in recruiting and retaining entry-level applicators is exam availability and administrative timelines in processing licenses. They assert there is often a period when an employee's 90-day training period has expired but the employee is still awaiting the completion of the licensing process.

This bill provides a one-time, 60-day period by which a prospective applicator licensee may provide Branch 2 and Branch 3 pest control services under the indirect supervision of a licensed field representative or operator, if the unlicensed individual has submitted a completed examination application, met all fingerprinting and background check requirements, and completed a minimum of 80 hours of in-person training.

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