
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2477 (Chen) - Structural pest control

Version: June 30, 2026

Policy Vote: B., P. & E.D. 11 - 0, E.Q. 7 - 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: Yes

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 2477 allows an unlicensed individual who meets specified criteria and is employed by a registered company to apply pesticides under the supervision of a licensed operator or field representative for a period of 60 days if specified conditions are met.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown costs, likely ranging from the low tens of thousands to low hundreds of thousands of dollars, for the Structural Pest Control Board to implement the provisional supervision allowance. Actual costs will depend on applicant volume, the staff time required to review Live Scan documentation, and whether regulations or formal guidance are necessary to clarify operational ambiguities.

Assuming roughly 645 provisional supervision applications annually, the Board estimates total costs of \$32,000 in Fiscal Year 2026-27 and \$27,000 ongoing annually (Structural Pest Control Fund). This estimate accounts for the workload to promulgate regulations, though initial costs could increase if the Board needs to convene an advisory committee during the rulemaking process. While the Board expects these costs to be absorbable, staff notes the bill lacks a cost recovery mechanism to offset the administrative workload of reviewing provisional supervision applications.

The Office of Information Services estimates IT costs of \$50,000 to make several BreZE system updates to support the provisional supervision process.

Background: The Board was established in 1935 to regulate the pest control profession and ensure consumer protection in the application and operation of pest control activities. The Board issues three types of licenses for three different practice areas (branches) of pest control which include Applicator, Field Representative, and Operator. The three branches include fumigation, general pest, and termite (wood-destroying pests and organisms). Each branch covers a distinct area of pest control.

The branch types are as follows:

- Branch 1 Fumigation – The practice relating to the control of household and wood-destroying pests or organisms by fumigation with poisonous or lethal gases.
- Branch 2 General Pest – The practice relating to the control of household pests, excluding fumigation with poisonous or lethal gases.

- Branch 3 Termite – The practice relating to the control of wood-destroying pests or organisms by the use of insecticides, or structural repairs and corrections, excluding fumigation with poisonous or lethal gases.

The license types are as follows:

- Applicator - An entry-level license category issued in Branch 2 and 3 only. An Applicator is an individual licensed by the Board to apply a pesticide, or any other medium to eliminate, exterminate, control, or prevent infestations or infections. Applicators cannot inject lethal gases used in fumigation.
- Field Representative - A full journey-level license issued in all three branches. A Field Representative secures work, makes identifications, makes inspections, submits bids, and contracts for work on behalf of a registered company.
- Operator - The highest level of licensure issued in all three branches. Depending on the license category, an Operator must have at least two years, or as many as four years, qualifying experience. Only a licensed Operator may qualify a company for registration by assuming responsibility for the company and its employees as the company Qualifying Manager.

Proposed Law:

- Authorizes an unlicensed individual employed by a registered company to apply pesticides outdoors in Branch 2 and Branch 3 under the supervision of a licensed operator or field representative for up to 60 days, provided all the following conditions are met:
 - The unlicensed individual has submitted a complete structural pest control applicator examination application to the board, evidenced by written or electronic confirmation of receipt.
 - The unlicensed individual has completed specified training in pesticide application.
 - The unlicensed individual has submitted fingerprint identification to, and completed a background investigation with, the board.
- Specifies that the provisional supervision authorization:
 - Be granted only once per individual.
 - Commence upon Live Scan approval.
 - Not be renewed or granted again, including after failure of the examination, subsequent application submission, or change in employment.
 - Terminate upon license issuance, application denial, failure of the examination, or expiration of the 60-day period, whichever occurs first.
 - Not overlap with or extend any training or supervision period, as specified.

- Provides that the provisional supervision authorization does not expand or limit any laws authorizing or prohibiting an unlicensed individual from applying a restricted use pesticide.
- Requires the registered company employing the unlicensed individual to notify the board and the county agricultural commissioner in each county where the individual will work before work begins. Authorizes the notice to be provided electronically and require it to include:
 - The name of the unlicensed individual.
 - The name and registration number of the registered company.
 - The name and license number of the supervising licensee.
 - The applicable branch or branches.
 - The anticipated work dates.
- Requires the registered company and supervising licensee to maintain documentation demonstrating that an unlicensed employee complies with all provisional supervision requirements. Requires this documentation to be retained for at least three years and include:
 - The dates, start times, end times, and total number of hours of training completed.
 - The type or types of training provided during each training segment, including whether the training was classroom, field, audiovisual, electronic, written, demonstrative, supervised practical, or another substantially equivalent training method.
 - A brief description of the subject matter covered during each training segment.
 - The name, license type, license number, and signature, which may include an electronic signature, of the licensed operator or licensed field representative who provided, supervised, or was responsible for the training.
 - Proof of completion of the continuing education or equivalent board-approved training.
- States that the provisional supervision authorization does not require approval by the board or the county agricultural commissioner before the unlicensed individual may work.
- Requires the training required to work under provisional supervision to be relevant to Branch 2 and Branch 3 structural pest control work and include:

- A minimum of 80 hours of documented in-person training in pesticide application under the direct supervision of a licensed operator or field representative.
- At least four hours of board-approved continuing education, or equivalent board-approved training, focused on pesticide handling, pesticide application, pesticide safety, label compliance, and the applicable laws and regulations
- For each pesticide or chemically similar group of pesticides, all of the following:
 - The unlicensed individual's responsibility to consumer safety to protect persons, animals, and property while applying pesticides, including sensitive populations such as pregnant women and children.
 - The format and meaning of information contained in pesticide product labeling and safety data sheets applicable to the safe use of pesticides, including how to identify if a product is either a federal restricted use pesticide or a California restricted material as described in Section 6400 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations.
 - Site preparation requirements, proper pesticide application equipment use, and the necessity and appropriate use of any required personal protective equipment and measures.
 - Safety requirements and procedures, including decontamination procedures.
 - Hazards of pesticides, hazard communication, and hazard exposure routes for pesticides, including signs and symptoms of overexposure.
 - Employee rights.
- Requires training to be provided in a manner the employee can understand and in a format determined appropriate by the registered company or supervising licensee (including classroom, field, audiovisual, electronic, written, demonstrative, supervised practical, or other equivalent methods). The training must be provided by, or under the direction of, a licensed operator, licensed field representative, registered company, or their designee.
- Authorizes the board to adopt regulations to further specify the training components and competencies.
- Establishes the following definitions for purpose of the provisional supervision authorization:
 - "Direct supervision" means the direction of actions authorized by this section by a licensed operator or field representative who shall be physically present on location and immediately available to intervene.

- “Outdoors” means exterior areas, including exterior structural surfaces, exterior perimeters, landscape areas, hardscape areas, and other outdoor areas associated with a structure. “Outdoors” does not include the interior of any structure, including occupied spaces, food-handling areas, attics, crawlspaces, subareas, wall voids, or other enclosed interior areas.
 - “Supervision” means either direct supervision or the direction of actions authorized by this section 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.
- Delays implementation to January 1, 2028.
 - States legislative findings and declarations.

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