

Fact Sheet

AB 453 – Skinner

State Scientist Qualifications

PROBLEM

It is important to ensure that the State's scientists actually have a scientific background appropriate for their classifications. In the absence of such a requirement, employees without a degree in a scientific discipline may be eligible for appointment or promotion to state scientist positions.

THIS BILL

This bill establishes specific academic standards for persons appointed to state scientist classes. Specifically, the bill requires that a person appointed to any state scientist class on or after January 1, 2012 shall, at a minimum, have a baccalaureate degree in a scientific discipline from an accredited university.

EXISTING LAW

All state employees must meet minimum qualifications prior to employment.

There are currently no statutory requirements that those appointed into state scientific classifications have a degree in a scientific discipline. Even when the minimum qualifications do require academic standards, employees may be promoted or otherwise appointed to those positions without meeting such requirements.

SUPPORT

California Association of Professional Scientists (Sponsor)