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September 29, 2016

Governor Jerry Brown of California just signed into law AB 2516, which enables a special cannabis cultivation license for "specialty cottage" type businesses and enables regulation of pesticide use in cannabis cultivation.

A "Specialty Cottage" license shall include 2,500 square feet or less of total canopy size for mixed-light cultivation, 500 square feet for indoor cultivation, and up to 25 mature plants for outdoor cultivation. This is intended to enable small grows to participate within a regulatory framework, which could mitigate environmental impact of larger grows, improve neighborhood safety, and bring the cultivation of cannabis into compliance with current agricultural farming regulations.

The CA Department of Food and Agriculture, Dept. of Pesticide Regulation shall have the authority necessary to set safe pesticide residue levels in harvested cannabis.

These new regulations precede a ballot initiative vote in November that could legalize cannabis in the state. The impact of these new regulations will protect consumers by offering a cost-competitive framework that supports both small and large players in the industry. The new regulations will assure product safety by limiting pesticide use and residue concentrations.

For any questions or updates on this topic, please contact Kevin Fortin at kevin@hoban.law or 303-674-7000.