



Title

Medical Cannabis Cultivation and Commerce Measure

Summary

If adopted by a majority of the voters, this initiative would repeal Chapter 34A of the Butte County Code and establish new regulations regarding the cultivation of medical cannabis and related commercial activities within Butte County consistent with the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act. The proposed initiative would also amend section 24-166 of the Butte County Code that prohibits marijuana dispensaries and permit dispensaries subject to new regulations.

The new regulations would generally regulate the cultivation, manufacturing, testing, distribution, transportation, and storage of medical cannabis within the county. All existing cannabis cultivations and related commercial activities would be required to comply with the new regulations within 12 months of the adoption of the new regulations.

The new regulations would establish specific land use requirements in existing zoning districts for the cultivation of medical cannabis and related commercial activities within the county and establish requirements and procedures for zoning clearances, administrative use permits, and conditional use permits for such uses. The new regulations would also require permits for all commercial cannabis activities and would require that the scale of agricultural cannabis operations be consistent with the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act.

The new regulations would establish design requirements that vary by zoning district for parcels that contain cannabis cultivations including required permanent residences in certain zoning districts, limits on the size of cultivation areas, fencing and screening requirements, and required setbacks.

The new regulations would establish design requirements for buildings used in the distribution and manufacturing of cannabis including a requirement that buildings be reasonably secured, required filtration systems, required access for emergency personnel, required best practices to protect against damage to crops and to minimize perceived security risks, and limits on external signage.

The new regulations would establish design requirements for buildings and vehicles used in the transportation of cannabis including a requirement that buildings be reasonably secured, required filtration systems, required access for emergency personnel, a requirement that vehicles have security features to deter criminal activity, required best practices to protect against damage to crops and to minimize perceived security risks, and limits on external signage.

The new regulations would establish design requirements for dispensary operations including the disclosure of all dispensary owners and certain related criminal history information, required setbacks, a prohibition on cannabis consumption in areas where retail sales occur, limits on external signage, and required security plans and protocols.

The new regulations would require persons and entities engaged in commercial cannabis activities to obtain all required state and local licenses and permits consistent with the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act.

The new regulations would be enforced pursuant to Butte County Code section 24-251 which establishes land use permit revocation and modification procedures. Cannabis would not be classified as a nuisance unless a person or entity is in violation of the new regulations or a related permit.