

Date of Hearing: March 24, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TOXIC MATERIALS

Damon Connolly, Chair

AB 2380 (Papan) – As Introduced February 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Pest control: registration fees

SUMMARY: Removes the caps on multiple registration fees levied by County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs) for structural pest control businesses and various pest control licensees as well as increases the cap to \$75 per year for registering pest control businesses. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Raises the cap, from \$25 per year to \$75 per year, for the board of supervisors of any county when establishing fees for the registration of pest control business.
- 2) Removes the cap on registration fees for county boards of supervisors when setting fees cover the cost of registering pest control aircraft pilots.
- 3) Removes the cap on registration fees for county boards of supervisors when setting fees cover the cost of registering pest control advisors.
- 4) Removes the cap on registration fees for county boards of supervisors when setting fees cover the cost of registering structural pest control businesses. Requires the fee to be set in an amount that does not exceed the actual cost of processing the registration.
- 5) Removes the cap on registration fees, for county boards of supervisors when setting fees to cover the cost of registering structural pest controller licensees. Requires the fee to be set in an amount that does not exceed the actual cost of processing the registration.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Provides, under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), for federal regulation of pesticide distribution, sale, and use. Requires that all pesticides distributed or sold in the United States be registered (licensed) by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). Requires, before US EPA registers a pesticide under FIFRA, the applicant to show, among other things, that using the pesticide according to specifications will not generally cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment. (7 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 136, et seq.)
- 2) Authorizes the state's pesticide regulatory program and mandates the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to, among other things, provide for the proper, safe, and efficient use of pesticides essential for the production of food and fiber, for the protection of public health and safety, for the protection of the environment from environmentally harmful pesticides, and to assure agricultural and pest control workers safe working conditions where pesticides are present by prohibiting, regulating, or otherwise ensuring proper stewardship of those pesticides. (Food and Agriculture Code (FAC) § 11401, et seq.)

- 3) Regulates the use of pesticides and authorizes the director of DPR to adopt regulations to govern the registration, sale, transportation, or use of pesticides, as prescribed. (FAC §11501, et. seq.)
- 4) Requires the director and the County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) of each county, under the direction and supervision of the director, to enforce the pesticide program and the regulations that are issued pursuant to it. (FAC § 11501.5)
- 5) Authorizes the governing body of the local certified unified program agency (CUPA) to establish the amounts to be paid by each person regulated by the unified program under the single fee system at a level sufficient to pay the necessary and reasonable costs incurred by the CUPA. (Health and Safety Code § 25404.5 (a)(2))

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill: According to the author,

"AB 2380 modestly increases the fee cap for pest control operator registrations, enabling counties to fully fund their local pesticide enforcement programs. County agricultural commissioners play a critical role in ensuring the safe and effective application of pesticides across all 58 counties. They are responsible for addressing a wide range of potential risks associated with pesticide use and must report annually to the state on both program successes and incidents.

Importantly, fees collected from pesticide applicator and adviser registrations are reinvested directly into county oversight activities, supporting nearly all of the commissioners' work.

Despite the significant responsibility counties bear in mitigating pesticide-related harm, fee caps have not been raised in decades.

AB 2380 acknowledges the essential role of county agricultural commissioners in protecting the environment, local communities, and farmworkers. By increasing the fee cap on pesticide operator registrations from \$25 to \$75, the bill gives county boards of supervisors the flexibility to cover program costs and strengthen local oversight."

DPR's mission: Since most pesticides are, by design, inherently toxic to their target pest – and may be harmful to human health or the environment - pesticide use must be strictly controlled. Amendments to FIFRA have delegated responsibility and authority for pesticide regulation to states for training, registration, and enforcement through cooperative agreements, with U.S. EPA maintaining oversight responsibility over state programs. In California, these duties lie with DPR, which is housed within the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and has the express mission "to protect human health and the environment by fostering sustainable pest management and regulating pesticides." Separately, structural pesticide control is housed at the Department of Consumer Affairs (under the Structural Pest Control Board), and local enforcement lies with CACs, who receive guidance and support from DPR.

Local enforcement: County Agricultural Commissioners: California's geography, population size and the diversity of its agricultural commodities necessitate a more complex partnership between state and local authorities when compared with any other state in the nation. While DPR is responsible for the delivery of an effective statewide pesticide regulatory program, the legislature has delegated local pesticide use enforcement to CACs.

County boards of supervisors appoint CACs who must be licensed by the state. Numbering approximately 400 in total, CACs and their staff receive funding for their enforcement activities from DPR; their respective county governments; grants; registration fees; fines; and from the Department of Food and Agriculture. CACs are tasked with the enforcement of laws and regulations that cover environmental protection, pest prevention, worker and consumer protection, and other special services.

Critically, CACs investigate reports of illnesses and injuries associated with pesticide use. They are also responsible for the inspection of operations and records of growers, non-agricultural pesticide applicators, pest control businesses (agricultural and structural), farm labor contractors, and government agencies to ensure compliance with safety standards and requirements. They further certify private applicators, issue restricted materials permits, train field workers, and conduct public outreach efforts. CAC staff also conduct inspections to prevent pesticide misapplication and drift, ground and surface water contamination, and to protect endangered species and non-target wildlife. If violations are found, CACs can levy civil penalties.

CAC registration fees: Existing law authorizes board of supervisors of a county to establish fees for the registration of pest control businesses, pest control aircraft pilots, pest control advisors, structural pest control businesses, and structural pest control licensees. These fees have caps that are in state law, meaning if a county needs more resources to process these registrations, they would need to change state law. Additionally, the current fees were placed into law from 20 to 40 years ago.

CUPA's: CUPAs are local agencies certified by the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency to implement and enforce six "unified hazardous waste and hazardous materials management" regulatory programs (Unified Program). Currently, there are 81 CUPAs in California tasked with implementation and enforcement of these six statewide programs. Existing law authorizes the governing body of the CUPA to establish the amounts to be paid by each person regulated by the unified program under the single fee system at a level sufficient to pay the necessary and reasonable costs incurred by the CUPA. CUPAs, like CACs are local governments that implement and enforce state environmental protection programs. However, unlike CACs, CUPAs have fee authority that allows them to set their fees to cover their regulatory costs.

This bill: Removes the cap on multiple registration fees levied by CACs for registering structural pest control businesses and various pest control licensees and increases the cap to \$75 per year for registering pest control businesses. These changes are consistent with other local agencies (the CUPAs) that implement and enforcement state environmental protection programs. AB 2380 will align the registration fees for CAC's with the actual cost of implementing the registration process.

Technical considerations: As the bill moves through the legislative process the author and stakeholders may wish to consider the following:

- 1) While the CACs register a variety of pest control licensees, the wording in each of these sections is not the same. Specifically, one of the proposed changes requires the registration fee to not exceed the actual costs of the registration process. It may be helpful to apply this language to each of these sections.
- 2) The bill removes the cap for four pest control registration fees under the CAC's, however it leaves one cap in statute (meaning to change it, further legislation is needed). It may be helpful to additionally remove this lone cap and conform it with the other registration fees.

Arguments in support: According to the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association,

"County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs) are responsible for enforcing state and federal pesticide regulations. This responsibility includes reviewing site-specific pesticide permits, maintaining applicator registration databases, inspecting pesticide applications, investigating crop loss complaints, auditing PCA records, and enforcing worker safety standards. These duties are carried out through the Pesticide Use Enforcement Program, which protects agricultural productivity, public health, and environmental safety across the state.

A key component of this program is the registration process for pest control professionals, including PCAs, structural pest control operators and pest control aircraft pilots. These individuals must register in each county where they operate so CAC offices can maintain accurate records identifying who is applying pesticides, where they are operating, and how they can be contacted. These county-level databases are essential for transparency, regulatory oversight, and accountability.

Unfortunately, the current statutory registration fee caps, established decades ago – no longer reflects the true cost of administering these programs. As operational costs have increased over time, counties have been left without the ability to adjust fees to meet current needs. As a result, CAC offices are often forced to rely on limited local taxpayer dollars to subsidize regulatory oversight that should be supported by the professional registration system itself."

Arguments in opposition: None on file.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Agricultural Commissioners & Sealers Association (Sponsor)

Opposition

None on file.

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