



MEMORANDUM

DATE	February 5, 2026
TO	California Board of Behavioral Sciences, Policy & Advocacy Committee
FROM	Christy Berger, Regulatory Manager
SUBJECT	Regulation Update

Below is the status of Board-approved regulation proposals. See **Attachment** for information on the required steps of the regulatory process.

Advertising

Status: Approved by OAL; Takes Effect April 1, 2026

This proposal would do the following:

- Delete references to MFT Referral Services, as the Board no longer registers these services.
- Delete use of the title “Registered Associate CSW,” as it is not a title typically used by the profession.
- Permit the use of a nickname or former legal name in an advertisement.
- Add a requirement that all registrants must include in an advertisement that they are supervised by a licensed person.

The proposal was approved by the Board at its meeting in September 2024.

Fee Reductions

Status: Approved by OAL; Takes Effect July 1, 2026

This proposal would set a fee for renewals, initial registration, initial license issuance, law & ethics examinations, LMFT clinical examination, application licensure that is 50% of the current established fee. These fees will be in place for period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2030.

The proposal was approved by the Board at its meeting in May 2025.

Continuing Education

Status: Noticed to the Public December 5, 2025; Comments to be Considered by the Board at February 2026 Meeting

This proposal would do the following:

- Credit up to 6 hours of CE per renewal cycle for licensees attending California Board of Behavioral Sciences meetings.
- Credit up to 18 hours of CE per renewal cycle for licensees providing direct supervision to an associate, or marriage and family therapist trainee.
- Allow other types of healthcare providers to verify a disability or medical condition for purposes of a temporary waiver of CE, and update the waiver request forms.
- Specify that the 6-hour law and ethics course required of licensees must be based on California law and ethics.
- Codify the application requirements for renewal of a license or registration.

The proposal was approved by the Board at its meeting in September 2024 with additional changes approved by the Board at its meeting in February 2025.

English as a Second Language: Additional Examination Time

Status: Submitted for DCA Production Phase Review August 14, 2025

This proposal would provide an alternate method of qualification for applicants who wish to obtain additional examination time due to English being their second language.

The proposal was approved by the Board at its meeting in November 2024.

AMFTRB National LMFT Examination

Status: Staff Preparing Documents for Production Phase Review

This proposal would formally designate the use of the Association of Marital and Family Therapist Regulatory Board's (AMFTRB) Marital and Family National Examination (AMFTRB National Exam) for LMFT licensure in California with an effective date of January 1, 2027 or after, instead requiring passage of a state-developed clinical exam.

The proposal was approved by the Board at its meeting in August 2025.

Licensed Educational Psychologist (LEP) Experience

Status: Staff Preparing Documents for Production Phase Review

This proposal would do the following:

- Specify the documentation required to verify completion of experience required for LEP licensure.
- Specify additional documentation required for experience gained in a private or parochial school or temporary employment agency.
- Specify additional requirements for experience gained under the direction of an LEP.

- Strike language that duplicates statute.

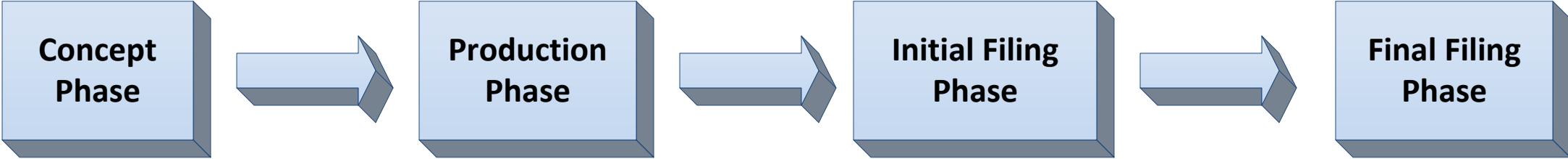
The proposal was approved by the Board at its meeting in August 2025.

Attachment

Regulation Process

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Regulation Package Approval Process



- Kick-Off Meeting with relevant Board and DCA staff to discuss potential regulation.
- Board staff drafts proposed regulation.
- Regulations Counsel and Second Level Reviewer reviews and approves proposed regulation.
- Board meeting is held, proposed regulation text is presented for vote and approval.

Phase Goal: Proposed Regulation is drafted and approved by the Board to move forward.

- After the Board approves the proposed text, Board staff develop remaining documents in the initial regulatory package.
- Regulation package is prepared with assistance from DCA Budget Analyst and Board Regulations Counsel.
- Following review and approval of the regulatory package by the Budget Analyst and Regulations Counsel, the package is reviewed and approved by the DCA Director and Agency.

Phase Goal: Regulation Package is approved by Agency.

- Following Agency approval, the regulatory package is submitted to OAL for publication in the Notice Register for a 45-day comment period.
- If comments are received, Board Staff draft responses for review by the Regulations Counsel.
- Board meeting is held to approve the responses and modified text, if necessary.
- If substantial changes are made to the text, a 15-day comment period commences.

Phase Goal: Completion of the Public Comment Period with all comments appropriately addressed and any changes to the text approved by the Board.

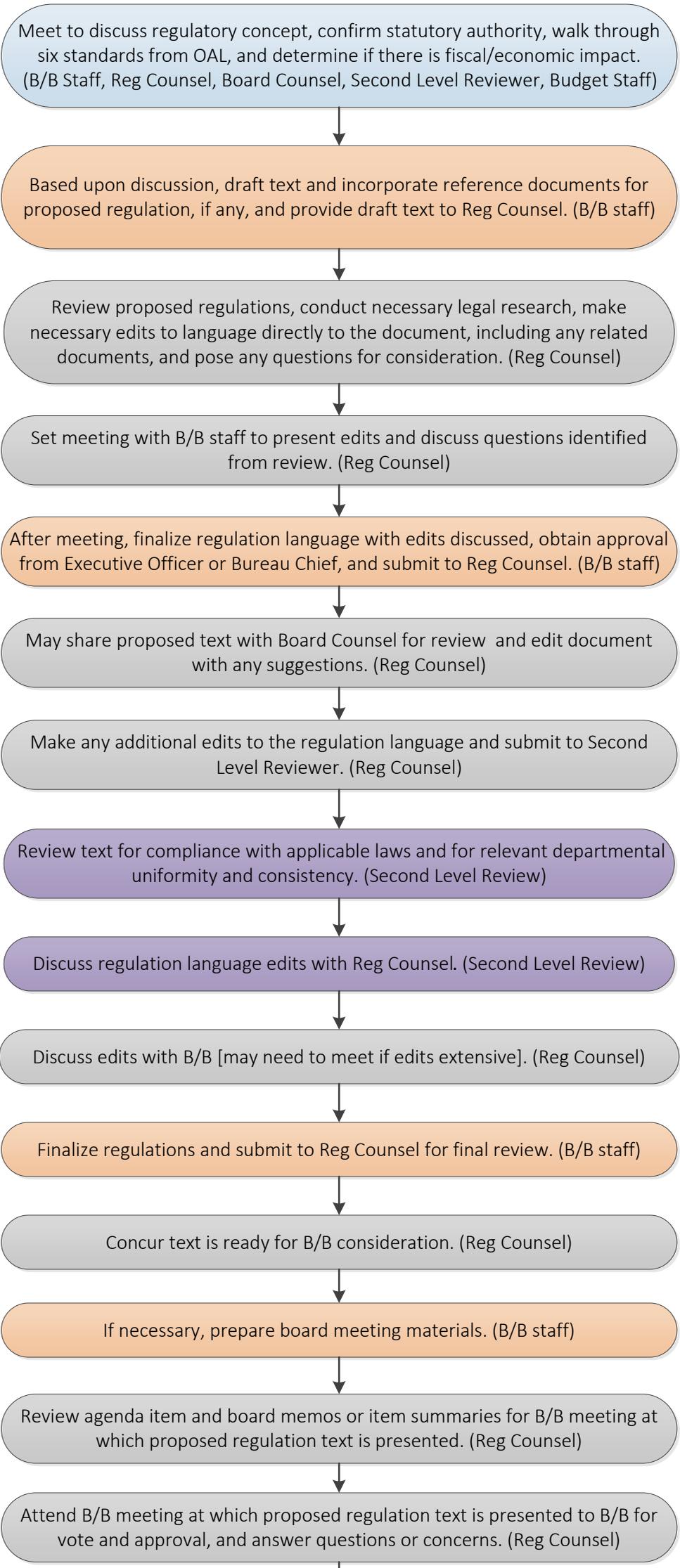
- Board Staff develops and submits a final regulatory package to the Regulations Coordinator for review.
- If there is a fiscal impact to the regulations, the Budget Analyst submits the package to the Department of Finance (DOF) for review and approval, as necessary.
- The package is reviewed by Regulations Counsel, DCA Director, and Agency.
- Final package is submitted to OAL.
- OAL approves package, Board Staff updates the Board website with the new regulation, and contacts interested parties with notification of the effective date.

Phase Goal: OAL approves Final Regulatory Package.

Note:
All references to timeframes throughout the Phases shall be calendar days, unless the Parties agree otherwise during the kick-off meeting or subsequently to alternative timeframes.

Light Blue: B/B Staff/Reg Counsel, Board Counsel, Second Level Reviewer, Budget Staff
Purple: Second Level Reviewer
Orange: B/B Staff
Gray: Reg Counsel

Concept Phase



Note:
30-day timeframe for reviewing of proposed regulations and legal research.

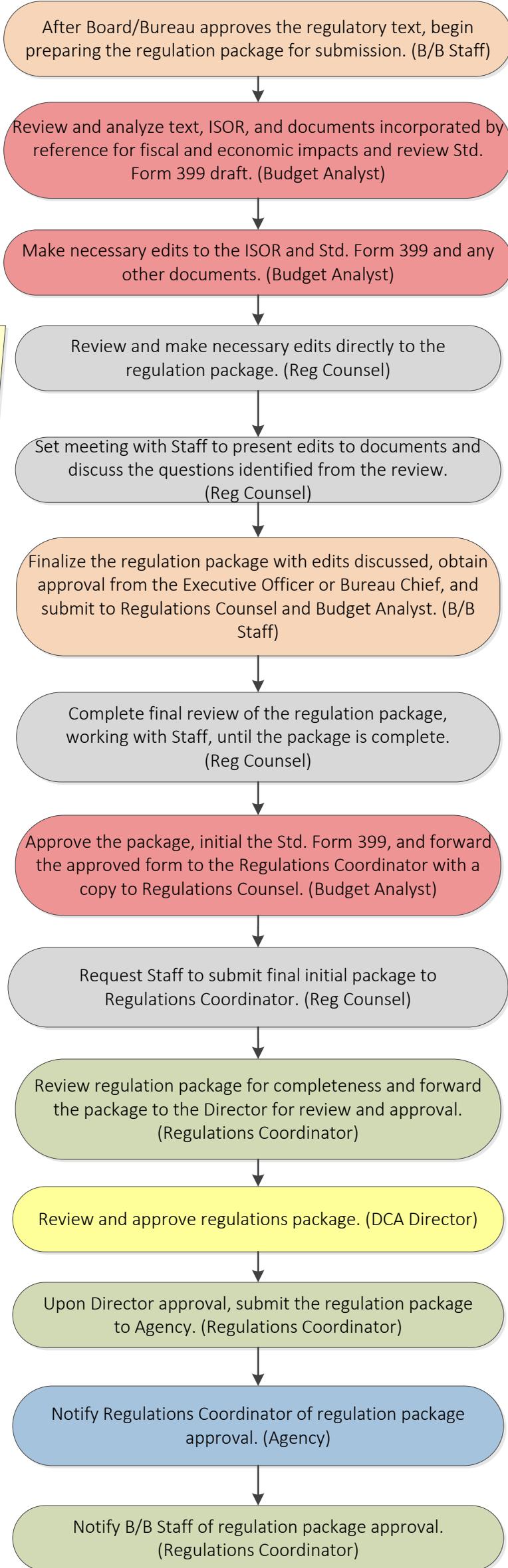
Note:
If suggestions are substantial from the Board Counsel, the Regulations Counsel may need to confer with Staff and Executive Officer or Bureau Chief.

Note:
Regulation Counsel and Second Level Reviewer have a 30-day timeframe for reviewing and finalizing regulation language.

Note:
Additional revisions to the text may raise new legal issues not previously identified, which may also alter the review timeframe.

Production Phase

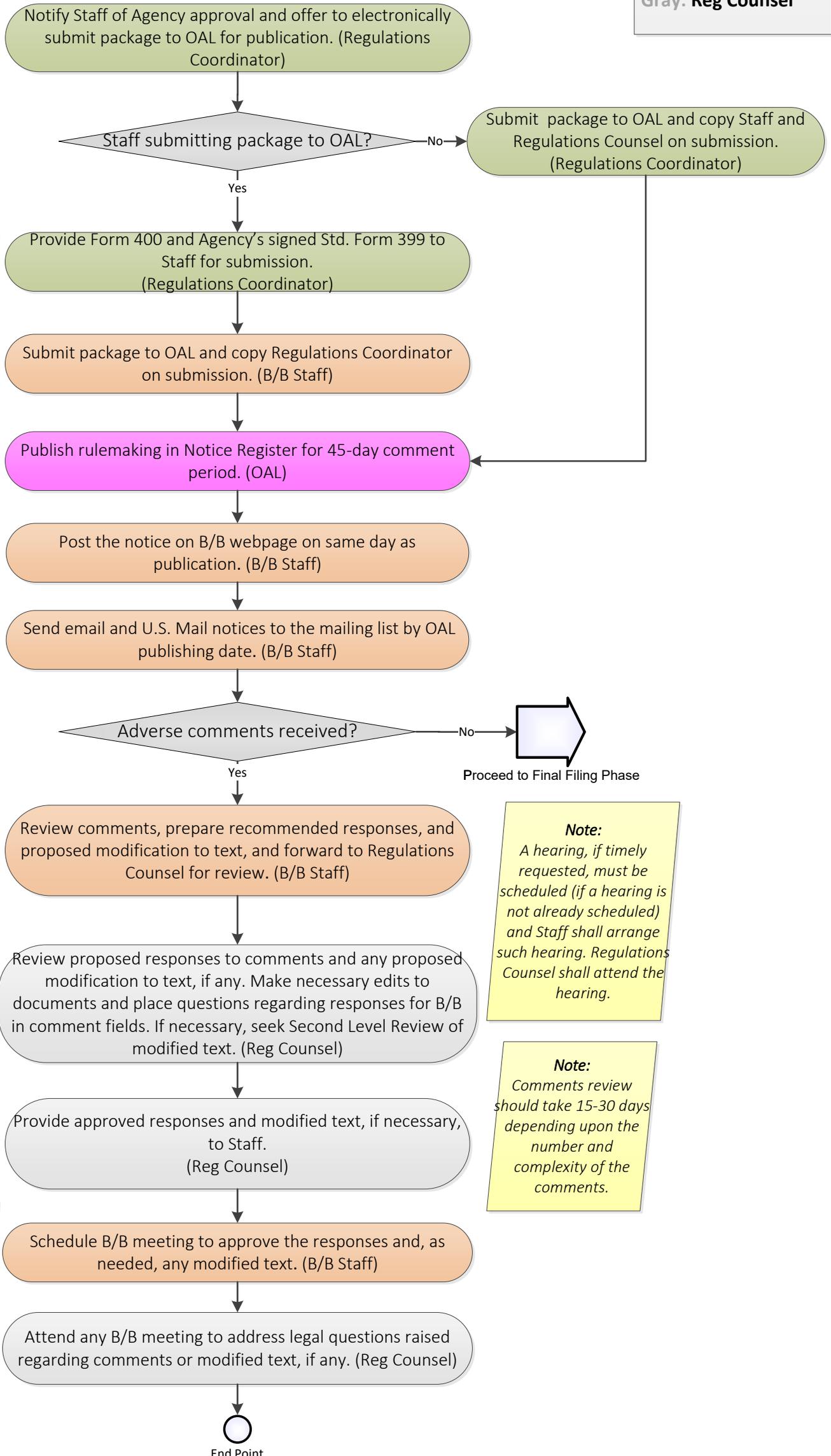
Blue: Agency
Yellow: DCA Director
Green: Regulations Coordinator
Red: Budget Analyst
Orange: B/B Staff
Gray: Reg Counsel



Note:
Regulations Counsel review will be completed within a 30-day timeframe.

Green: Regulations Coordinator
Orange: B/B Staff
Pink: OAL
Gray: Reg Counsel

Initial Filing Phase



Note:
 Regulations Counsel and the Second Level Reviewer are copied as appropriate throughout the process.

Note:
 A hearing, if timely requested, must be scheduled (if a hearing is not already scheduled) and Staff shall arrange such hearing. Regulations Counsel shall attend the hearing.

Note:
 Comments review should take 15-30 days depending upon the number and complexity of the comments.

Note:
 Board commences any 15-day comment period. Process would repeat if adverse comments were received, and edits or responses were needed.

Final Filing Phase

Blue: Agency
Yellow: DCA Director
Green: Regulations Coordinator
Red: Budget Analyst
Orange: B/B Staff
Gray: Reg Counsel
Purple: Second Level Reviewer
Pink: OAL

Note:
Regulations Counsel review will be completed within a 30-day timeframe.

Draft final regulatory package and submit completed package to Regulations Coordinator. (B/B Staff)

Receive final package submission from Staff and forward to Regulations Counsel and the Budget Analyst. (Regulations Coordinator)

Review complete package, edit directly to the documents, and place any questions regarding the regulations for the Staff in the comments fields. (Reg Counsel)

At the discretion of the Board/Bureau, set meeting with Staff to present edits to documents and discuss the questions identified from the review. (Reg Counsel)

Make necessary edits and submit to Regulations Counsel. (B/B Staff)

Review final package edits and forward package to the Second Level Reviewer (if necessary) and Budget Analyst. (Reg Counsel)

Second Level Review Required?

Review package for completeness and compliance with applicable laws. (Second Level Reviewer)

Confirm the Std. Form 399 is complete and consistent with the FSOR and works with Regulations Counsel and Staff to update analyses if there are changes from the Initial Filing phase. (Budget Analyst)

Forward to Regulations Coordinator to prepare and provide for Director review. (Reg Counsel)

Prepare final package and provide it to the Director for approval. (Regulations Coordinator)

Review and approve regulations package. (DCA Director)

After Director approval, send package to Agency. (Regulations Coordinator)

Notify Regulations Coordinator of approval. (Agency)

Notify Staff and offer to electronically submit package to OAL for publication. (Regulations Coordinator)

Note:
As needed, return package to Regulations Counsel and Staff to address any legal issues or edits.

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