



Board of Behavioral Sciences

1625 North Market Blvd., Suite S-200  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
(916) 574-7830  
www.bbs.ca.gov

Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California | Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency | Department of Consumer Affairs

## MEMORANDUM

DATE	January 13, 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: To OAL for Final Review/Approval December 22, 2025

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

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

**Blank Page**

# Regulation Package Approval Process

## Concept Phase

- 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.

## Production Phase

- 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.

## Initial Filing Phase

- 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.

## Final Filing Phase

- 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

Meet to discuss regulatory concept, confirm statutory authority, walk through six standards from OAL, and determine if there is fiscal/economic impact. (B/B Staff, Reg Counsel, Board Counsel, Second Level Reviewer, Budget Staff)

Based upon discussion, draft text and incorporate reference documents for proposed regulation, if any, and provide draft text to Reg Counsel. (B/B staff)

Review proposed regulations, conduct necessary legal research, make necessary edits to language directly to the document, including any related documents, and pose any questions for consideration. (Reg Counsel)

Set meeting with B/B staff to present edits and discuss questions identified from review. (Reg Counsel)

After meeting, finalize regulation language with edits discussed, obtain approval from Executive Officer or Bureau Chief, and submit to Reg Counsel. (B/B staff)

May share proposed text with Board Counsel for review and edit document with any suggestions. (Reg Counsel)

Make any additional edits to the regulation language and submit to Second Level Reviewer. (Reg Counsel)

Review text for compliance with applicable laws and for relevant departmental uniformity and consistency. (Second Level Review)

Discuss regulation language edits with Reg Counsel. (Second Level Review)

Discuss edits with B/B [may need to meet if edits extensive]. (Reg Counsel)

Finalize regulations and submit to Reg Counsel for final review. (B/B staff)

Concur text is ready for B/B consideration. (Reg Counsel)

If necessary, prepare board meeting materials. (B/B staff)

Review agenda item and board memos or item summaries for B/B meeting at which proposed regulation text is presented. (Reg Counsel)

Attend B/B meeting at which proposed regulation text is presented to B/B for vote and approval, and answer questions or concerns. (Reg Counsel)



End Point

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

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

**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:**  
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

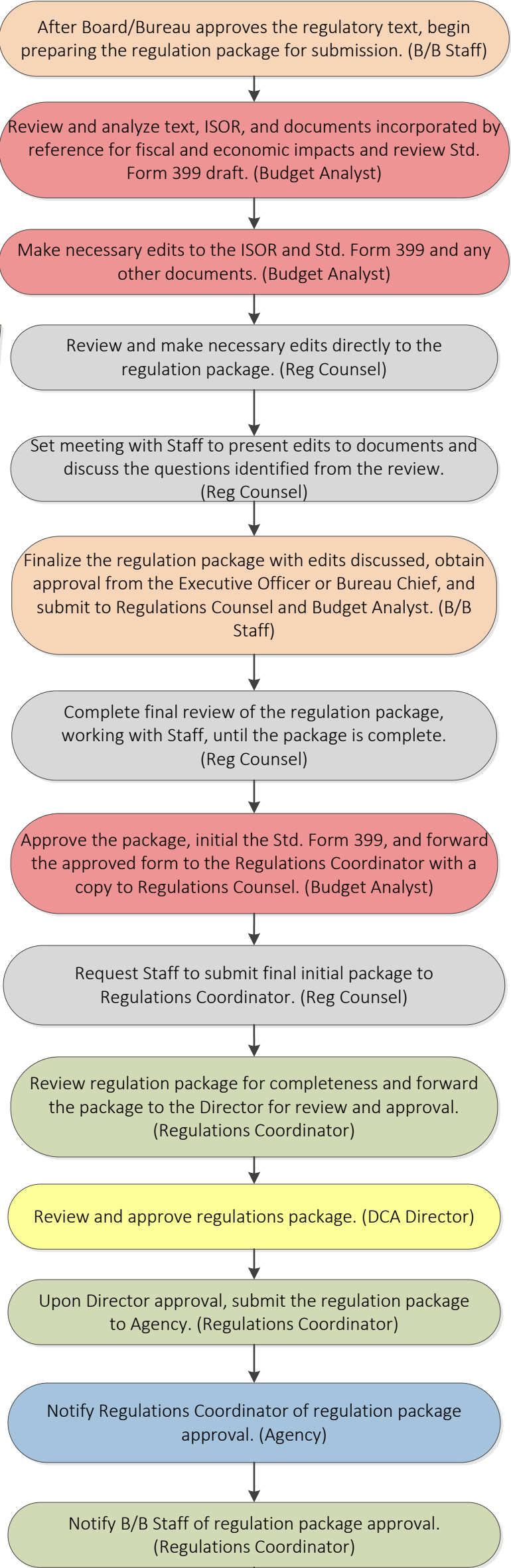
Green: Regulations Coordinator

Red: Budget Analyst

Orange: B/B Staff

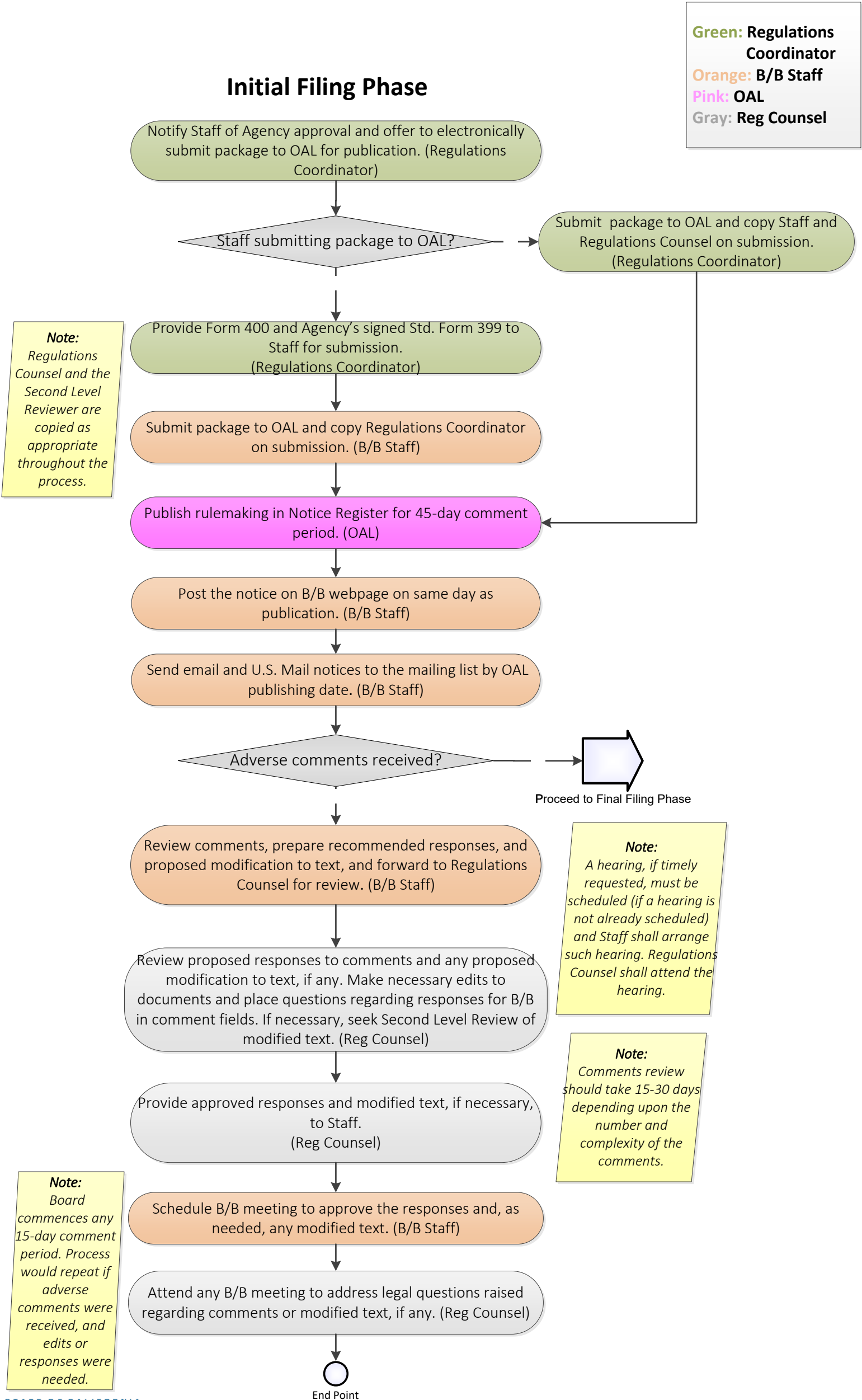
Gray: Reg Counsel

**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

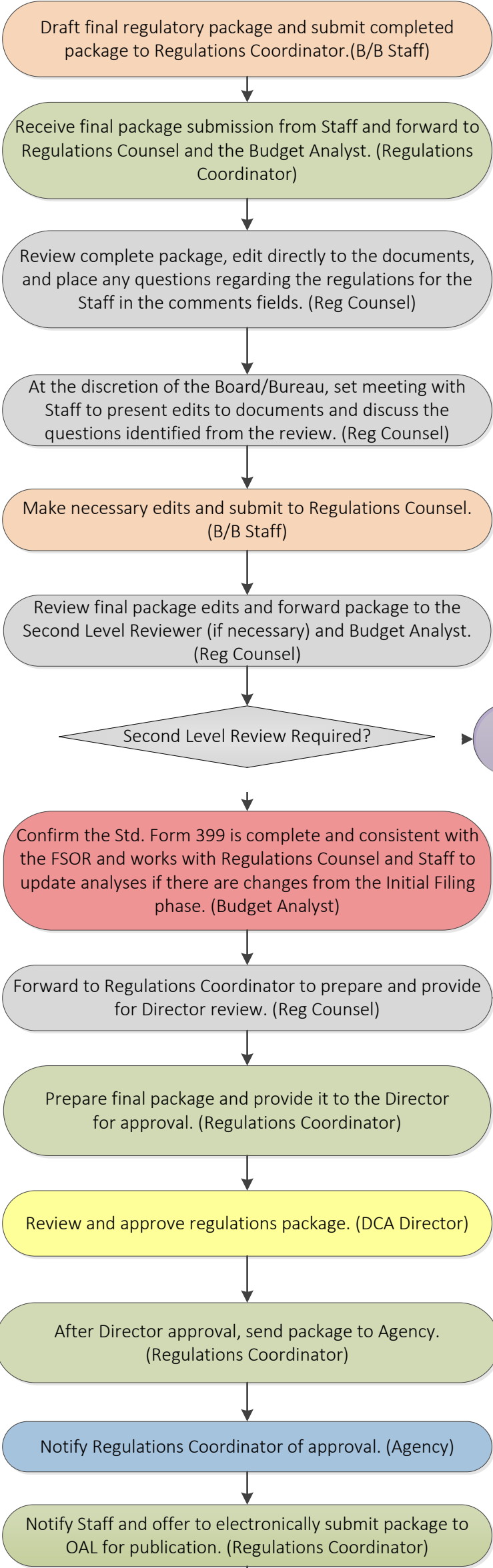




Final Filing Phase

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.



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

