

California Regulatory Notice Register

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SUMMARY OF REGULATORY ACTIONS

The California Regulatory Notice Register is an official state publication of the Office of Administrative Law containing notices of proposed regulatory actions by state regulatory agencies to adopt, amend or repeal regulations contained in the California Code of Regulations. The effective period of a notice of proposed regulatory action by a state agency in the California Regulatory Notice Register shall not exceed one year [Government Code § 11346.4(b)]. It is suggested, therefore, that issues of the California Regulatory Notice Register be retained for a minimum of 18 months.

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PROPOSED ACTION ON REGULATIONS

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TITLE 2. CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT

CONCILIATION PROCEDURES

The Civil Rights Department ("Department") proposes to revise its procedural regulations set forth in Chapter 1 of Division 4.1 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action. The proposed revisions would update references to the Department to reflect its current name; clarify all statutes over which it has jurisdiction; revise, remove, consolidate, and add definitions, including but not limited to definitions relevant to the Department's conciliation and mediation procedures as well as various department divisions; revise regulations regarding filing civil actions; and revise, remove, and add regulations regarding the Department's conciliation and mediation procedures and consolidate those procedures in proposed new Subchapter 4.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Department has not scheduled a public hearing on this matter. However, any interested person, or their authorized representative, may request, no later than 15 days prior to the close of the below comment period, a public hearing pursuant to Government Code section 11346.8.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Any interested person, or their authorized representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action to the Department. The written comment period closes on **April 28, 2025**. The Department will consider only comments received by the end of that day. Written comments can be mailed to: Civil Rights Department Attention: Alexandria Sadler 555 12th Street — Suite 2050 Oakland, CA 94607 Telephone: (800) 884–1684

Comments may also be submitted by email to Alexandria.sadler@calcivilrights.ca.gov.

Although not required, comment submission via email is strongly preferred.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Government Code section 12930(e) authorizes the Department to adopt these proposed regulations. The proposed regulations implement, interpret, and make specific Government Code sections 12930, 12948, 12963.7, 12964, 12965, 12980, 12981, 12984, and 12985.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Current law authorizes the California Civil Rights Department ("Department") to receive, investigate, conciliate, mediate, and prosecute complaints alleging practices made unlawful pursuant to Chapter 6 (Gov. Code section 12940 et seq.) of Part 2.8 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code and complaints alleging violations of sections 51, 51.5, 51.7, 51.9, 52.5, 54, 54.1, 54.2 of the Civil Code, section 11135 of the Government Code (with the exception of complaints relating to educational equity brought under Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code), and section 1197.5 of the Labor Code. (Gov. Code § 12930.) This rulemaking would update section 10000 of Chapter 1 of Division 4.1 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations to include all the statutes within the Department's authority.

The proposed regulations would also further implement SB 189 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 48, Stats. of 2022) by updating references to the Department's former name. SB 189, in pertinent part, effectuated the Department's name change from the "Department of Fair Employment and Housing" to the "Civil Rights Department."

Existing law authorizes the Department to conciliate complaints, which includes mediation. Existing regulations provide definitions for "Conciliation," "Dispute Resolution Division," and "Pre–Determination." This rulemaking would revise the definitions for "Conciliation" and "Dispute Resolution Division," add a definition for "Mediation," and add, remove, or amend other related definitions. The purpose of these changes is to reduce redundancy and clarify the meaning of terms related to conciliation and mediation.

Existing regulations set forth the department procedures for the conciliation and mediation of complaints related to unlawful employment practices, violations of the Unruh Civil Rights Act, Ralph Civil Rights Act, and Disabled Persons Act. Similar, but separate, provisions establish the procedures for the conciliation and mediation of complaints related to unlawful housing practices. This rulemaking would combine the conciliation provisions for unlawful employment practices, violations of the Unruh Civil Rights Act, Ralph Civil Rights, and Disabled Persons Act, and housing practices into a single regulation, revise these contents, and clarify that these provisions apply to the conciliation of all complaints alleging unlawful practices under the jurisdiction of the Department. This rulemaking would do the same for mediation provisions: combine the separate provisions into a single regulation, revise these contents, and clarify that these provisions apply to the mediation of all complaints alleging unlawful practices under the jurisdiction of the Department.

Existing regulations set forth the department procedures related to filing civil actions alleging employment discrimination and certain other types of violations. Separate regulations set forth the department procedures related to filing civil actions alleging housing discrimination. This rulemaking would amend these provisions to replace the term "mandatory dispute resolution" with the more specific term "mandatory post–determination mediation" and would make other clarifications regarding when the department may file a civil action.

The Department has determined that the proposed amendments are not inconsistent or incompatible with existing regulations. After conducting a review for any regulations that would relate to or affect this area, the Department has concluded that these are the only regulations that concern the Department's conciliation and mediation procedures.

These proposed regulations will benefit communities and persons by clarifying the Department's conciliation and mediation procedures.

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Department has made the following initial determinations:

Mandate on local agencies and school districts: No additional mandate beyond that imposed by existing law.

Cost or savings to any state agency: No additional costs or savings beyond those imposed by existing law.

Cost to any local agency or school district, which must be reimbursed in accordance with Government Code sections 17500 through 17630: None. Other nondiscretionary cost or savings imposed on local agencies: No additional costs or savings beyond those imposed by existing law.

Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: None.

Cost impacts on a representative private person or businesses: No additional costs or savings beyond those imposed by existing law. Therefore, the agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

Results of the economic impact assessment/ analysis: The Department anticipates that the adoption of the regulations will not impact the creation or elimination of jobs within the state, the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the state, or the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state. To the contrary, adoption of the proposed regulations is anticipated to benefit the health and welfare of California residents and businesses by clarifying the procedures for conciliating and mediating complaints without litigation. The proposed regulations would also make it easier to understand respective rights and obligations as well as reduce litigation costs. These regulations would not affect worker safety or the state's environment.

Statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses and individuals: The Department has made an initial determination that the proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

Significant effect on housing costs: None.

Small Business Determination: The proposed regulations may affect small businesses to the extent that they would provide clearer guidance to small businesses that may participate in the Department's conciliation or mediation procedures.

Business Report: The Department has determined that the proposed regulations do not require a report to be made.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.5(a)(13), the Department must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the Department's attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which this action is proposed, or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

The Department has thus far not become aware of a better alternative and invites interested persons to present statements or arguments with respect to alternatives to the proposed regulations during the written comment period.

CONTACT PERSONS

Inquiries concerning the proposed administrative action may be directed to:

Alexandria Sadler, Senior Counsel Civil Rights Department 555 12th Street — Suite 2050 Oakland, CA 94607 Telephone: (800) 884–1684 Email: <u>alexandria.sadler@calcivilrights.ca.gov</u>

The backup contact person for these inquiries is:

Rachael Langston, Assistant Chief Counsel Civil Rights Department 555 12th Street — Suite 2050 Oakland, CA 94607 Telephone: (800) 884–1684 Email: <u>rachael.langston@calcivilrights.ca.gov</u>

Please direct requests for copies of the proposed text (express terms) of the regulations, the Initial Statement of Reasons, any modified text of the proposed regulations, or other information upon which the rulemaking is based, should other sources be used in the future, to Alexandria Sadler at the above address.

AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS, TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS, AND RULEMAKING FILE

The Department will have the entire rulemaking file available for inspection and copying throughout the rulemaking process at its office at the above Oakland address. As of the date this notice is published in the Notice Register, the rulemaking file consists of this notice, the proposed text of the regulations, and the Initial Statement of Reasons. Copies may be obtained by contacting Alexandria Sadler at the address, email, or phone number listed above.

AVAILABILITY OF CHANGED OR MODIFIED TEXT

After considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Department may adopt the proposed regulations substantially as described in this notice. If the Department makes modifications that are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, it will make the modified text (with the changes clearly indicated) available to the public for at least 15 days before the Department adopts the regulations as revised. Please send requests for copies of any modified regulations to the attention of Alexandria Sadler at the address, email, or phone number listed above. The Department will accept written comments on the modified regulations for 15 days after the date on which they are made available.

AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Upon its completion, the Final Statement of Reasons will be available on the Department's website at https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/procedural-rulemaking/.

Copies also may be obtained by contacting Alexandria Sadler at the address, email, or phone number listed.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS ON THE INTERNET

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, the text of the regulations, any modified texts, and the Final Statement of Reasons can be accessed through the Department's website at https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/procedural-rulemaking/.

TITLE 2. FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fair Political Practices Commission, pursuant to the authority vested in it by Sections 82011, 87303, and 87304 of the Government Code to review proposed conflict–of–interest codes, will review the proposed/ amended conflict–of–interest codes of the following:

> CONFLICT–OF–INTEREST CODES

AMENDMENT

MULTI-COUNTY: California Montessori Project Antelope Valley Community College District Mayers Memorial Hospital District Tahoe Forest Hospital District Navigator Schools Allan Hancock Community College District

A written comment period has been established commencing on March 14, 2025, and closing on April 28, 2025. Written comments should be directed to the Fair Political Practices Commission, Attention Belen Cisneros, 1102 Q Street, Suite 3050, Sacramento, California 95811.

At the end of the 45–day comment period, the proposed conflict–of–interest codes will be submitted to the Commission's Executive Director for their review, unless any interested person or their duly authorized representative requests, no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period, a public hearing before the full Commission. If a public hearing is requested, the proposed codes will be submitted to the Commission for review.

The Executive Director of the Commission will review the above-referenced conflict-of-interest codes, proposed pursuant to Government Code Section 87300, which designate, pursuant to Government Code Section 87302, employees who must disclose certain investments, interests in real property and income.

The Executive Director of the Commission, upon their own motion or at the request of any interested person, will approve, or revise and approve, or return the proposed codes to the agency for revision and re-submission within 60 days without further notice.

Any interested person may present statements, arguments, or comments, in writing to the Executive Director of the Commission, relative to review of the proposed conflict-of-interest codes. Any written comments must be received no later than April 28, 2025. If a public hearing is to be held, oral comments may be presented to the Commission at the hearing.

COST TO LOCAL AGENCIES

There shall be no reimbursement for any new or increased costs to local government which may result from compliance with these codes because these are not new programs mandated on local agencies by the codes since the requirements described herein were mandated by the Political Reform Act of 1974. Therefore, they are not "costs mandated by the state" as defined in Government Code Section 17514.

EFFECT ON HOUSING COSTS AND BUSINESSES

Compliance with the codes has no potential effect on housing costs or on private persons, businesses, or small businesses.

AUTHORITY

Government Code Sections 82011, 87303 and 87304 provide that the Fair Political Practices Commission as the code-reviewing body for the above conflict-of-interest codes shall approve codes as submitted, revise the proposed code, and approve it as revised, or return the proposed code for revision and re–submission.

REFERENCE

Government Code Sections 87300 and 87306 provide that agencies shall adopt and promulgate conflict–of–interest codes pursuant to the Political Reform Act and amend their codes when change is necessitated by changed circumstances.

CONTACT

Any inquiries concerning the proposed conflict–of–interest codes should be made to Belen Cisneros, Fair Political Practices Commission, 1102 Q Street, Suite 3050, Sacramento, California 95811, or email bcisneros@fppc.ca.gov.

AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED CONFLICT–OF–INTEREST CODES

Copies of the proposed conflict-of-interest codes may be obtained from the Commission offices or the respective agency. Requests for copies from the Commission should be made to Belen Cisneros, Fair Political Practices Commission, 1102 Q Street, Suite 3050, Sacramento, California 95811, or email bcisneros@fppc.ca.gov.

TITLE 2. STATE LANDS COMMISSION

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CODE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California State Lands Commission, pursuant to the authority vested in it by section 87306 of the Government Code, proposes amendment to its conflict–of–interest code. A comment period has been established commencing on March 14, 2025 and closing on April 28, 2025. All inquiries should be directed to the contact listed below.

The California State Lands Commission proposes to amend its conflict-of-interest code to include employee positions that involve the making or participation in the making of decisions that may foreseeably have a material effect on any financial interest, as set forth in subdivision (a) of section 87302 of the Government Code. The amendment carries out the purposes of the law and no other alternative would do so and be less burdensome to affected persons.

Changes to the conflict-of-interest code include: revising designated position titles to accurately reflect the correct classification title; removing designated positions that have been abolished or are no longer used by the Commission; updating disclosure categories for accuracy; add a new disclosure category to help avoid overreporting; update pronouns to be gender-neutral; and also makes other technical changes.

The proposed amendment and explanation of the reasons can be obtained from the agency's contact.

Any interested person may submit written comments relating to the proposed amendment by submitting them no later than April 28, 2025, or at the conclusion of the public hearing, if requested, whichever comes later. At this time, no public hearing is scheduled. A person may request a hearing no later than April 13, 2025.

The California State Lands Commission has determined that the proposed amendments:

- 1. Impose no mandate on local agencies or school districts.
- 2. Impose no costs or savings on any state agency.
- 3. Impose no costs on any local agency or school district that are required to be reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
- 4. Will not result in any nondiscretionary costs or savings to local agencies.
- 5. Will not result in any costs or savings in federal funding to the state.
- 6. Will not have any potential cost impact on private persons, businesses or small businesses.

All inquiries concerning this proposed amendment and any communication required by this notice should be directed to:

Sarah Hutson Conflict–of–Interest Coordinator (916) 574–1910 sarah.hutson@slc.ca.gov

TITLE 4. HORSE RACING BOARD

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES, FEES, AND FORMS

The California Horse Racing Board (Board) proposes to amend the regulations described below after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action.

PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION

The Board proposes to amend Board Rule 1481, Occupational Licenses and Fees; Rule 1483, Application for License; Rule 1486, Term of License; and Rule 1487, Address of Licensees, to modify occupational license types, fees, terms, and requirements.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Board has not scheduled a public hearing on this proposed action. However, the Board will hold a hearing if it receives a written request for a public hearing from any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Any interested persons, or their authorized representative, may submit written comments about the proposed regulatory action to the Board. The written comment period closes on **April 28, 2025.** The Board must receive all comments by that time. Submit comments to:

Rick Pimentel, Regulations Analyst California Horse Racing Board 1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300 Sacramento, CA 95825 Telephone: (916) 274–6043 Email: repimentel@chrb.ca.gov

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Authority cited: Sections 19440, 19460, 19510, 19520, and 19704, Business and Professions Code (BPC). Reference: Sections 19460, 19510, 19520, 19521, and 19704, BPC.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

BPC section 19440 provides that the Board shall have all powers necessary and proper to enable it to carry out fully and effectually the purposes of Horse Racing Law, whereby the responsibilities of the Board shall include, but not be limited to, licensing of each racing association and all persons, other than the public at large, who participate in a horse racing meeting with parimutuel wagering. BPC section 19460 provides that all licenses are subject to all rules, regulations, and conditions prescribed by the Board. BPC section 19510 provides that every steward and racing official not required to be licensed under Article 4 (commencing with section 19480) shall be licensed by the Board pursuant to Article 5. BPC section 19520 provides that every person not required to be licensed under Article 4 (commencing with section 19480) who participates in, or has anything to do with, the racing of horses in any of the capacities set forth in the section shall be licensed by the Board pursuant to rules and regulations that the Board may adopt and upon the payment of a license fee fixed and determined by the Board. BPC section 19704 provides that the Board

shall issue a license for owners, trainers, jockeys, and other participants in mule racing.

Board Rule 1481 sets forth the occupational license types and the fee for each type. California Assembly Bill (AB) 179 (Chapter 997, Statutes of 2024) amended BPC section 19520 to, in part, recategorize the occupational license types that the Board may issue. Therefore, the Board seeks to amend the rule for consistency with state law. The change will ensure that the Board meets Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) requirements pertaining to access to criminal history information. Additionally, the Board seeks to update the current license fees to more accurately reflect increased operational costs and ensure the Horse and Jockey Safety and Welfare Account, which is funded in part by the license fees, is properly funded for equine safety measures.

Board Rule 1483 sets forth the application and fingerprint requirements for occupational licenses. Various application forms have been used for the multitude of license types that currently exist, resulting in a lack of uniformity in the information obtained from licensees, and the rule stipulates that each applicant shall provide fingerprints on regulation forms, in conflict with the California Department of Justice's requirement that fingerprints be submitted electronically for the Board to obtain criminal offender records information. Therefore, the Board seeks to amend the rule to incorporate by reference a single, consolidated license application form and require that licensees provide fingerprints electronically, with exceptions.

Board Rule 1486 sets forth the occupational license expiration cycles for regular and shorter-term license types. These expiration cycles are irregular and result in variability in the length of license terms. Additionally, the shorter-term license types specified within the rule conflict with the recategorization of license types in the proposed amendment to Board Rule 1481. Thus, the Board seeks to amend its Rule 1486 to provide for uniformity, with the goal of having three-year terms for all non-temporary licenses, and for consistency with Rule 1483.

Finally, Board Rule 1487 sets forth address requirements for licensees. A physical address is needed for the Board to obtain criminal history background information. However, the rule is unclear whether a physical address must be provided by each licensee, applicant, or registrant. Hence, the Board seeks to amend the rule to clarify the physical address requirement.

ANTICIPATED BENEFIT OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION

The proposed regulatory action will benefit the health and welfare of jockeys and racehorses, as it will ensure funding to the Horse and Jockey Safety and Welfare Account, which was created for equine safety measures to improve the integrity and safety of horse racing. Additionally, by recategorizing the occupational license types, the proposed regulation will provide for conformity with state law and ensure that the Board continues to meet FBI requirements pertaining to criminal history information access, which is essential to maintaining the integrity of the licensing process.

CONSISTENCY EVALUATION

Evaluation of Consistency and Compatibility with Existing State Regulations: During the process of developing the regulatory action, the Board conducted a search for any similar regulation on this topic and has concluded that its rules 1481, 1483, 1486, and 1487 are the only regulations that address occupational license types and fees, application and fingerprint requirements, terms, and address requirements. Therefore, the proposed regulation is neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations.

FORMS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Application for License, CHRB–4 (Rev. 08/24). Fingerprint Affidavit, CHRB–118 (Rev. 09/23).

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

Mandate on local agencies or school districts: none.

Cost or savings to any state agency: The Board has estimated that the proposed license fee structure would result in approximately \$200,000 in additional revenue to the Board annually. However, the Board believes that the potential increase would be significantly less than the increase in operational costs. Additionally, license fee revenue was redirected by AB 1974 (Chapter 251, Statutes of 2020) to fund the Horse and Jockey Safety and Welfare Account. As the account was created for equine safety measures to improve the integrity and safety of horse racing, the Board seeks to ensure funding thereto. AB 1974 also diverted penalties and fines imposed by stewards of a horse racing meeting to the Horse and Jockey Safety and Welfare Account. However, since the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority's (HISA) Racetrack Safety Program and its Anti-Doping and Medication Control Program were implemented on July 1, 2022, and May 22, 2023, respectively, a significant proportion of the penalty and fine revenue has been diverted to HISA. Therefore, the additional revenue would help bring license fees in line with current costs and ensure

funding to the Horse and Jockey Safety and Welfare Account but not be available for any other purpose.

Cost to local agencies or school districts that must be reimbursed in accordance with Government Code (GC) sections 17500 through 17630: none.

Other non-discretionary costs or savings imposed upon local agencies: none.

Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: none.

The Board has made an initial determination that the proposed regulatory action will not have a significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed regulatory action will recategorize the occupational license types for conformity with state law and to meet FBI requirements pertaining to criminal history information access; update license fees to reflect the increase in operational costs associated with measures to implement the Horse and Jockey Safety and Welfare Account, thereby ensuring its funding; incorporate by reference a consolidated license application for use with the new listing of license types; require that licensee fingerprints be submitted electronically; simplify the license expiration cycle for uniformity; and clarify that a physical address is required from licensees. These changes will affect only certain individuals seeking to obtain or renew a Board-issued occupational license with respect to procedures and license fees and have no effect on their employment or on businesses within the horse racing industry.

The following studies/relevant data were relied upon in making the above determination: none.

Cost impact on representative private persons or businesses: Although the Board estimates additional license fee revenue of approximately \$200,000 annually under the proposed change to the fee structure, certain license fees would remain the same, while others would actually decrease. For others, the increase would be nominal — from \$5 to \$50 (horse owners) but typically \$25 for a three-year license, which would be an increase of \$8.33 per year on average. Moreover, in developing the proposed fee structure, the Board took into consideration the economic impact on the individual for each license type and sought to alleviate any undue burden.

Significant effect on housing costs: none.

RESULTS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The adoption of the proposed regulatory action will (1) not create or eliminate jobs within the state; (2) not create new businesses or eliminate existing businesses within the state; (3) not result in the expansion of businesses currently doing business with the state; and (4) not benefit the state's environment. However, it will benefit the health and welfare of California residents and worker safety, as it will help ensure funding to the Horse and Jockey Safety and Welfare Account, which was created for equine safety measures to improve the integrity and safety of horse racing.

Effect on small business: none. The proposed regulatory action does not affect small business because small businesses are not legally required to comply with or enforce the regulations and neither derive a benefit nor incur a detriment from the enforcement of the regulations. The proposed regulatory action will recategorize the occupational license types for conformity with state law and to meet FBI requirements pertaining to criminal history information access; update license fees to reflect the increase in operational costs associated with measures to implement the Horse and Jockey Safety and Welfare Account, thereby ensuring its funding; incorporate by reference a consolidated license application for use with the new listing of license types; require that licensee fingerprints be submitted electronically; simplify the license expiration cycle for uniformity; and clarify that a physical address is required from licensees. These changes will affect only certain individuals seeking to obtain or renew a Board-issued occupational license in terms of license fees and application procedures and, therefore, not affect their jobs, businesses within the horse racing industry, or the state's environment.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with GC section 11346.5, subdivision (a)(13), the Board must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Board or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Board would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost–effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

The Board invites interested persons to present statements or arguments with respect to alternatives to the proposed regulation at the scheduled hearing or during the written comment period.

CONTACT PERSONS

Inquiries concerning the substance of the proposed action and requests for copies of the proposed text of the regulation, the initial statement of reasons, the modified text of the regulation, if any, and other information upon which the rulemaking is based should be directed to:

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Rick Pimentel, Regulations Analyst California Horse Racing Board 1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300 Sacramento, CA 95825 Telephone: (916) 274–6043 Email: repimentel@chrb.ca.gov

If the person named above is not available, interested parties may contact:

Chris Garmire, Executive Affairs Specialist California Horse Racing Board Telephone: (279) 300–7421 Email: <u>cmgarmire@chrb.ca.gov</u>

AVAILABILITY OF INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATION

The Board will have the entire rulemaking file available for inspection and copying throughout the rulemaking process at its offices at the above address. As of the date this notice is published in the Notice Register, the rulemaking file consists of this notice, the proposed text of the regulation, and the initial statement of reasons. Copies of these documents, or any of the information upon which the proposed rulemaking is based, may be obtained by contacting Rick Pimentel or the alternative contact person at the address, phone number, or email address listed above.

AVAILABILITY OF MODIFIED TEXT

After holding a hearing and considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Board may adopt the proposed regulation substantially as described in this notice. If modifications are made that are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, the modified text, with changes clearly marked, shall be made available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date on which the Board adopts the regulation. Requests for copies of any modified regulation should be sent to the attention of Rick Pimentel at the address stated above. The Board will accept written comments on the modified regulation for 15 days after the date on which it is made available.

AVAILABILITY OF FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Requests for copies of the final statement of reasons, which will be made available after the Board has adopted the proposed regulation in its current or modified form, should be sent to the attention of Rick Pimentel at the address stated above.

BOARD WEB ACCESS

The Board will have the entire rulemaking file available for inspection throughout the rulemaking process at its website. The rulemaking file consists of this notice, the proposed text of the regulation, and the initial statement of reasons. The Board's website address is www.chrb.ca.gov.

TITLE 4. DEPARTMENT OF CANNABIS CONTROL

COMMERICAL CULTIVATION UPDATES, SANITATION STANDARDS

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Cannabis Control (Department) proposes to adopt the amended regulations described below after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Department will hold a virtual public hearing on **Tuesday**, April 29, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Attendees may participate via WebEx online meeting platform or telephone conferencing. To participate via WebEx online meeting platform, please contact Randy Allen at (916) 465–9025 or <u>Randy.Allen@cannabis.ca.gov</u> by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2025, to request a link to the meeting. A link to the meeting will also be posted on the Department's website no later than 9:00 a.m. the day of the hearing.

For those who wish to attend the hearing in person, including those who require reasonable accommodations, limited seating will be available in the Department Hearing Room, 2920 Kilgore Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Attendees must comply with all COVID–19 safety protocols. Please contact Randy Allen at (916) 465–9025 or <u>Randy.Allen@cannabis.ca.gov</u> by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2025, to request to attend the hearing in person or by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, if reasonable accommodations are necessary.

Participants will be given instructions on how to provide oral comment once they have accessed the hearing. The hearing will proceed on the dates noted above until all testimony is submitted or 1:00 p.m., whichever is later. At the hearing, any person may present oral or written statements or arguments relevant to the proposed action. The Department requests, but does not require, that persons who make oral comments at the hearing also submit a written copy of their testimony via email.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Any interested person, or their authorized representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action by mail or email to:

Department of Cannabis Control Legal Affairs Division 2920 Kilgore Road Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 Email: <u>publiccomment@cannabis.ca.gov</u>

The written comment period closes on **Monday**, **April 28, 2025**. To be considered by the Department, a comment must be received by **April 28, 2025**.

AUTHORITY

Business and Professions Code sections 26013 and 26130.

REFERENCE

Business and Professions Code sections 26010, 26011.5, 26012, 26013, 26031, 26039.6, 26050, 26051.5, 26053, 26060, 26061, 26066, 26067, 26069, 26070, 26130, 26160, 26161, and 26200.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Summary of Existing Laws and Effect of the Proposed Action

The Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA) (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 26000 et seq.) generally governs commercial cannabis activity in California. The provisions of California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 4, division 19 further implement, interpret, and make specific many MAUCRSA statutes. These existing laws define commercial cannabis terms, establish initial and renewal licensing requirements for all commercial cannabis license types, establish the California Cannabis Track and Trace (CCTT) system and impose specific use requirements on all licensees, provide for temporary cannabis events, and require manufacturers of cannabis goods to follow good manufacturing practices and comply with various additional sanitation standards. Some existing laws apply only to commercial cannabis cultivation license holders (i.e., cultivators, processors, and nurseries); these include general requirements, licensing limitations, site requirements, environmental protection measures, and pesticide use requirements.

The changes proposed in this rulemaking action would revise existing, defined terms and phrases, remove a number of superfluous, redundant, or expired provisions, and relocate a handful of existing requirements. The proposed changes would remove certain renewable energy and diesel generator compliance and reporting requirements applicable to cultivators. The proposed changes would revise and clarify CCTT instructions and requirements regarding harvest batches. The proposed changes would remove requirements to create, maintain, and make certain attestations regarding a Pest Management Plan. The proposed changes would extend the length of time for which a temporary cannabis event license remains valid. Finally, the proposed changes would impose new sanitation standards on all licensees performing certain identified commercial cannabis activities.

Evaluation of Inconsistency with Federal Laws

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration under the Controlled Substances Act lists cannabis as a Schedule 1 Drug. This means that commercial cannabis activity is illegal under federal law. However, California, through the MAUCRSA and other laws, has decriminalized the cultivation, sale, and possession of cannabis goods for persons aged 21 or older and for medicinal patients.

Objectives and Anticipated Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

One objective of these proposed regulations is to mitigate confusion and uncertainty in the commercial cannabis industry and facilitate consistent interpretation of the law by, and application of the law to, all those directly affected. Another objective is to streamline existing requirements, including removal of unnecessarily duplicative or burdensome mandates, to ease the burdens of compliance and enforcement. Another objective is to prevent diversion and inversion of cannabis by ensuring that all relevant commercial cannabis activity is recorded in CCTT. Further objectives are to address increasing cases of contamination and adulteration of cannabis goods and reduce associated expenditures of resources pursuing embargoes and recalls of those goods, resulting from unsanitary growing, harvesting, processing, and manufacturing practices. Each of these objectives contributes to protection of the public, which is the Department's highest priority.

Evaluation of Inconsistency/Incompatibility with Existing State Regulations

After careful evaluation, the Department has determined that the proposed changes are not inconsistent or incompatible with existing regulations.

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Department has made the following initial determinations:

- Mandate on local agencies or school districts: None.
- Cost or savings to any state agency: The Department may realize minor cost savings due to reduced administrative workload (elimination of pest management plans, electricity reporting, and carbon offset purchase verification) and reduced inspection workload (accuracy of pest management plans). These savings are anticipated to be offset by minor increases in inspection workload related to sanitation standards. Overall fiscal impact on the Department is anticipated to be neutral. The proposed regulations are not expected to have any fiscal impact on any other state agencies.
- Cost to any local agency or school district required to be reimbursed in accordance with Government Code sections 17500 through 17630: None.
- Other nondiscretionary cost or savings imposed upon local agencies: None.
- Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: None.
- Significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states: None.
- Cost impacts on a representative private person or business: Most commercial cannabis businesses will incur minor annual costs as a result of the proposed regulations. These estimated costs range from approximately \$1800 to approximately \$4200 annually, based on the license type and business size. However, some indoor cultivation licensees may realize savings of up to approximately \$800 annually.
- Effect on housing costs: None.

Results of the Economic Impact Assessment

The Department concludes that the proposal is unlikely to create any jobs, create any new businesses, eliminate any existing businesses, or result in the expansion of businesses currently doing business in the state. The Department believes approximately 17 jobs may be eliminated as a result of these proposed changes. The Department believes the proposed sanitation standards will directly improve the health and welfare of California residents by improving the quality of cannabis goods being sold at retail, and will also indirectly benefit worker safety, as handwashing, glove use, and other prudent cleaning and sanitizing practices are known to lessen disease transmission and exposure. Further, the Department believes that allowing the transfer of propagation materials from nonnursery cultivators to nurseries will help the licensed market become more competitive with the unlicensed market. To the extent that unlicensed cannabis operations cause negative environmental impacts as well as other social costs, the proposed regulations would indirectly benefit California's environment.

Determination of Effect on Small Business

The proposed regulations would affect approximately 3,200 businesses, approximately 90 percent of which are estimated by the Department to be small businesses. These businesses include cultivation licensees of all lighting types and sizes, processor licensees, nursery licensees, and microbusiness licensees conducting cultivation activities.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.5, subdivision (a) (13), the Department must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or more cost–effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policies or other provisions of law.

CONTACT PERSONS

Inquiries concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be directed to:

Nicole Niermeyer Department of Cannabis Control 2920 Kilgore Road Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 916–465–9025 Regulations@cannabis.ca.gov

The backup contact person for these inquiries is:

Kaila Fayne Department of Cannabis Control 2920 Kilgore Road Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 916–251–4544 Kaila.Fayne@cannabis.ca.gov

AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS, TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS, AND RULEMAKING FILE

The Department will make the entire rulemaking file available for inspection and copying throughout the rulemaking process at its office at the above address. As of the date this notice is published in the Notice Register, the rulemaking file consists of the Notice of Proposed Action, the proposed text of the regulations, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the STD. 399. Please direct requests to inspect or copy the rulemaking file to the contact person(s) listed above.

AVAILABILITY OF CHANGED OR MODIFIED TEXT

After considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Department may adopt the proposed regulations substantially as described in this notice. If the Department makes modifications that are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, it will make the modified text (with the changes clearly indicated) available to the public for at least 15 days before adopting the regulations as revised. Please direct requests for copies of any modified regulations to the contact person(s) listed above. The Department will accept written comments on the modified regulations for the duration of the period of public availability.

AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Upon its completion, the Department will make copies of the Final Statement of Reasons available. Please direct requests for copies to the contact person(s) listed above.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS ON THE INTERNET

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement or Reasons, and the text of the regulations with modifications highlighted, as well as the Final Statement of Reasons, when completed, and modified text and notices thereof, if any, may be accessed via the Department's website at <u>https://www.cannabis.ca.gov/cannabis-laws/</u> <u>rulemaking/</u>.

TITLE 10. DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE RATING RULES

Notice is given that a public hearing will be held in response to a filing by the Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau of California ("WCIRB"), submitted on February 28, 2025. The WCIRB proposes amendments to the Insurance Commissioner's Regulations pertaining to the Classification of Risks, Recording and Reporting of Data, Statistical Reporting and Experience Rating to be effective September 1, 2025, as follows:

- Approval of proposed amendments to the *California Workers' Compensation Uniform Statistical Reporting Plan — 1995* as proposed by the WCIRB as the Insurance Commissioner's designated statistical agent.
- Approval of proposed amendments to the *Miscellaneous Regulations for the Recording and Reporting of Data* 1995 as proposed by the WCIRB as the Insurance Commissioner's designated statistical agent.
- Approval of proposed amendments to the *California Workers' Compensation Experience Rating Plan — 1995* as proposed by the WCIRB as the Insurance Commissioner's designated statistical agent.

HEARING

Public Hearing Date and Location

A virtual public hearing will be conducted to permit all interested persons the opportunity to present statements or arguments, verbally or in writing, with respect to the matters proposed in the WCIRB's filing, at the following date, time and place:

April 29, 2025 — 1:00 p.m. California Department of Insurance

TO ATTEND VIRTUAL HEARING VIA ONLINE PLATFORM

Link to Register for the Web-based Virtual Format:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/ WN 0nRmEl2mTvC4y7ciqusY6g

Meeting Name: September 1, 2025 Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Rules Filing

TO ATTEND VIRTUAL HEARING BY TELEPHONE

To join by telephone dial: USA 215 446 3649 US Toll USA 888 557 8511 US Toll–free Conference code: 832767

Any interested person(s) may present oral testimony at the virtual web conference hearing during the public comment period. Participants will be given instructions on how to provide testimony once they have accessed the hearing.

Individuals attending the virtual hearing via the online platform must register with the virtual web conference provider using a valid email address in order to attend the hearing.

Individuals attending the virtual hearing by telephone only will not be able to view the hearing, and will be placed on mute. Telephonic attendees who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing must, either in advance or at the time of the hearing, notify the Department by email to: <u>CDIRegulations@insurance.ca.gov</u> and provide the telephone number that they will use at the hearing so that the hearing officers can identify those callers who would like to comment.

The hearing will continue on the date noted above until all testimony has been submitted or until 5:00 p.m., whichever is earlier.

Access to Virtual Public Hearing

This hearing will be open to the public. To make it possible to view and participate in the public hearing online, you must register with the web-based virtual conferencing application identified above, using a valid email address. We request that you provide your name(s), the name of the organization you represent, and your contact information, including email address. Providing personally identifiable information is not required to attend the hearing and all attendees are invited to participate regardless of whether such information has been provided. Alternatively, you may attend and participate telephonically. We request that if you wish to provide oral comments telephonically, that you email us either in advance of or at the time of the hearing and provide the telephone number you will use at the hearing.

The public hearing is accessible to persons with mobility impairment. Persons with sight or hearing impairments are requested to notify the contact person for this hearing (listed below) in order to make specific arrangements, if necessary.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Presentation of Written or Oral Comments; Contact Persons

All persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed regulations during the public comment period. The public comment period will end at **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29, 2025**. Please direct all written comments to the following contact person:

Margaret Hosel, Attorney California Department of Insurance 1901 Harrison Street, 6th Floor Oakland, CA 94612 Telephone: (415) 538–4383 <u>Margaret.Hosel@insurance.ca.gov</u>

Questions regarding procedure, comments, or the substance of the proposed action should be addressed to the above contact person. If she is unavailable, inquiries may be addressed to the following backup contact person:

Yvonne Hauscarriague, Attorney California Department of Insurance 1901 Harrison Street, 6th Floor Oakland, CA 94612 Telephone: (415) 538–4417 <u>Yvonne.Hauscarriague@insurance.ca.gov</u>

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250, et seq.), your written and oral comments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone number, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request.

Deadline for Written Comments

All written materials must be received by the Insurance Commissioner, addressed to the contact person at the address listed above, no later than **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29, 2025.** Any written materials received after that time may not be considered.

Comments Transmitted by Email or Facsimile

The Commissioner will accept written comments transmitted by email provided they are sent to the following email address: <u>Margaret.Hosel@insurance.</u> <u>ca.gov</u>. The Commissioner will also accept written comments transmitted by facsimile provided they are directed to the attention of Margaret Hosel and sent to the following facsimile number: (415) 904–5490. Comments sent to email addresses or facsimile numbers other than those designated in this notice will not be accepted. Comments sent by email or facsimile are subject to the deadline set forth above for written comments.

PROCEEDINGS NOT SUBJECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT

The regulations contained in the California Workers' Compensation Uniform Statistical Reporting Plan — 1995, the Miscellaneous Regulations for the Recording and Reporting of Data — 1995, and the California Workers' Compensation Experience Rating Plan — 1995 pertain to the establishment of workers' compensation insurance rates. Government Code Section 11340.9(g) states that the Administrative Procedure Act [Chapter 3.5 of the Government Code] shall not apply to regulations that establish or fix rates, prices, or tariffs, and the Office of Administrative Law has determined that these regulations are excluded from the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act.

This Notice and any accompanying documents are being offered by the Commissioner to obtain written public comment before the Commissioner determines whether to approve the amendments to these regulations. The Commissioner shall issue an Order regarding his determination pursuant to Insurance Code Section 11734.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Uniform Plans and Regulations

The workers' compensation classification of risks and statistical reporting rules are set forth in Title 10, California Code of Regulations, Section 2318.6. The miscellaneous regulations for the recording and reporting of data are set forth in Title 10, California Code of Regulations, Section 2354. The workers' compensation experience rating regulations are set forth in Title 10, California Code of Regulations, Section 2353.1. These regulations are promulgated by the Insurance Commissioner pursuant to the authority granted by Insurance Code Section 11734.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Pursuant to Insurance Code Sections 11734 and 11751.5, the Insurance Commissioner has designated the WCIRB as his statistical agent. As the designated statistical agent, the WCIRB collects insurer data and recommends revisions to the California Workers' Compensation Uniform Statistical Reporting Plan — 1995; the Miscellaneous Regulations for the Recording and Reporting of Data — 1995; and the California Workers' Compensation Experience Rating Plan — 1995 for approval. Adherence to the regulations contained in the California Workers' Compensation Uniform Statistical Reporting Plan — 1995, the Miscellaneous Regulations for the Recording and Reporting of Data — 1995, and the California Workers' Compensation Experience Rating Plan — 1995 is mandatory for insurers. However, Insurance Code Section 11734 provides that an insurer may develop its own classification system if it is filed with the Insurance Commissioner 30 days prior to its use and is not disapproved by the Insurance Commissioner for failure to demonstrate that the data produced by the insurer's classification system can be reported consistently with the California Workers' Compensation Uniform Statistical Reporting Plan - 1995 or the standard classification system developed by the WCIRB and approved by the Insurance Commissioner.

The amendments to the California Workers' Compensation Uniform Statistical Reporting Plan — 1995, the Miscellaneous Regulations for the Recording and Reporting of Data — 1995, and the California Workers' Compensation Experience Rating Plan — 1995 are summarized below.

Amendments to the *California Workers' Compensation Uniform Statistical Reporting Plan* — 1995, Title 10, California Code of Regulations, Section 2318.6

Effective September 1, 2025

1. Amend Part 1, *General Provisions*, Section I, *Introduction*, Rule 3, *Effective Date*, to show that

the effective date of the amended Uniform Statistical Reporting Plan is 12:01 a.m., September 1, 2025.

- 2. Amend Part 1, Section V, *Inquiries, Complaints* and *Requests for Action, Reconsideration and Appeals,* Rule 3, *Complaints and Requests for Action,* to update the WCIRB's mailing address.
- 3. Amend Part 3, *Standard Classification System*, Section III, *General Classification Procedures*, Rule 2, *Single Enterprise*, for consistency with other proposed changes.
- 4. Amend Part 3, Section III, Rule 5, *General Inclusions*, subrule d, for consistency with commonly used terminology.
- 5. Amend Part 3, Section IV, *Special Industry Classification Procedures*, Rule 5, *Stores*, subrule h, for clarity.
- 6. Amend Part 3, Section V, Payroll Remuneration, Rule 1, Payroll — Remuneration, Subrule j, Executive Officers, Subrule k, Partners, Subrule 1, Individual Employers, and Subrule m, Members of a Limited Liability Company, to adjust the minimum and maximum payroll limitations for executive officers, partners, individual employers and members of a limited liability company to reflect wage inflation since the minimum and maximum payroll limitations were last amended in 2024.
- 7. Amend Part 3, Section VI, Administration of Classification System, Rule 1, Inspection of Employer's Premises, to update the WCIRB's mailing address.
- 8. Amend Part 3, Section VII, *Standard Classifications*, Rule 2, *Standard Classifications*, as follows:
 - Amend Classification 3830(1), *Aircraft or Spacecraft Mfg.*, for consistency with previously approved changes.
 - Amend Classification 9181, *Athletic Teams* or *Athletic Facilities* — players, umpires, referees and game officials, to increase the annual payroll limitation for players from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per player per season to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
 - Amend Classification 7607(2), *Audio Post– Production*, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
 - Amend Classification 8803, *Auditing, Accounting or Management Consulting Services*, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee

to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.

- Amend Classification 8370, Automobile or Truck Radio, Alarm or Electronic Equipment Installation, Service or Repair, which is part of the Automotive Industry Group, for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 8808, *Banks*, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 4512, *Biomedical Research Laboratories*, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 5130(2), Building Automation or Energy Management Control Systems Installation, Service or Repair, for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 3383(2), *Clock Mfg.*, for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 2501(1), *Clothing Mfg.*, to clarify its intended application and provide direction as to how related operations should be classified and for clarity.
- Amend Classification 8868, Colleges or Schools—private—not automobile schools — professors, teachers or academic professional employees, to provide direction as to how related operations should be classified and for consistency with other proposed changes.
- Amend Classification 5193, *Computer or Telephone System or Equipment Installation, Service or Repair,* for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 8859(1), *Computer Programming or Software Development*, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 0401, *Cotton Gin Operation*, to include cotton dealers or merchants and cotton warehousing and clarify the intended application.
- Amend Classification 8801, *Credit Unions*, to increase the annual payroll limitation

from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.

- Amend Classification 4611, *Drug, Medicine or Pharmaceutical Preparations Mfg.*, to include the blending of vape juice or e-liquid used in electronic cigarettes or vaporizing instruments.
- Amend Classification 8874(4), Audio/Video Electronic Products Mfg. — hardware or software design or development, which is part of the Electronics Industry Group, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024 and for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 3070, *Computer Memory Disk Mfg.*, which is part of the Electronics Industry Group, for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 8874(2), Computer or Computer Peripheral Equipment Mfg. — hardware or software design or development, which is part of the Electronics Industry Group, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024 and for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 3643(2), *Electric Control Panel or Switchgear Mfg.*, which is part of the Electronics Industry Group, for clarity and consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 3178, *Electronic Element Mfg.*, which is part of the Electronics Industry Group, for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 3681(1), *Instrument Mfg.* — *electronic* — *professional or scien tific* — *all other employees*, which is part of the Electronics Industry Group, for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 8874(1), Instrument Mfg. — electronic — professional or scientific — hardware or software design or development, which is part of the Electronics Industry Group, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024 and for consistency with previously approved changes.

- Amend Classification 8874(5), Integrated Circuit and Semiconductor Wafer Mfg.
 — hardware or software design or development, which is part of the Electronics Industry Group, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024 and for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 3572, Medical Instrument Mfg. — electronic — diagnostic or treatment — all other employees, which is part of the Electronics Industry Group, for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 8874(6), Medical Instrument Mfg. — electronic — diagnostic or treatment — hardware or software design or development, which is part of the Electronics Industry Group, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024 and for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 3681(3), *Telecommunications Equipment Mfg.* — all other *employees*, which is part of the Electronics Industry Group, for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 8874(3), *Telecommu*nications Equipment Mfg. — hardware or software design or development, which is part of the Electronics Industry Group, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024 and for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 8601(1), *Engineers*, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per person to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 0171, *Field Crops*, which is part of the Farms Industry Group, for consistency with other proposed changes and to provide direction as to how related operations should be classified.
- Amend Classification 0045, *Orchards nut crops*, which is part of the Farms Industry Group, for consistency with other proposed changes.

- Amend Classification 6400, *Fence Construction*, to provide direction as to how related operations should be classified.
- Amend Classification 8078(2), *Beverage Preparation Shops*, which is part of the Food and Beverage Service Industry Group, to clarify its intended application and provide direction as to how related operations should be classified.
- Amend Classification 8078(3), *Ice Cream or Frozen Yogurt Shops,* which is part of the Food and Beverage Service Industry Group, to provide direction as to how related operations should be classified.
- Amend Classification 9083, *Restaurants fast food or fast casual*, which is part of the Food and Beverage Service Industry Group, for consistency with other proposed changes.
- Amend Classification 9080, *Restaurants full service*, which is part of the Food and Beverage Service Industry Group, for consistency with other proposed changes.
- Amend Classification 9081(1), *Restaurants* — *N.O.C.*, which is part of the Food and Beverage Service Industry Group, to clarify its application and for consistency with other proposed changes.
- Amend Classification 8078(1), *Sandwich Shops*, which is part of the Food and Beverage Service Industry Group, to provide direction as to how related operations should be classified.
- Amend Classification 2003, *Bakeries or Cracker Mfg.*, which is part of the Food Packaging and Processing Industry Group, to reassign the manufacture of baked goods that are primarily sold to wholesale customers to newly established Classification 2004, *Baked Goods Mfg. wholesale*, clarify its intended application, provide direction as to how related operations are classified and for consistency with other proposed changes.
- Establish Classification 2004, *Baked Goods Mfg.* — *wholesale*, to be included as part of the Food Packaging and Processing Industry Group, to apply to the manufacture of baked goods that are sold primarily to wholesale customers.
- Amend Classification 2163, *Bottling*, which is part of the Food Packaging and Processing Industry Group, for consistency with other proposed changes.
- Eliminate Classification 4717, *Butter Sub*stitutes Mfg., which is part of the Food

Packaging and Processing Industry Group, due to its low statistical credibility and reassign the operations described by this classification to Classification 2063, *Dairy Products or Ice Mfg*.

- Eliminate Classification 4683(2), Cottonseed Oil Mfg. or Refining, which is part of the Food Packaging and Processing Industry Group, due to its low statistical credibility and reassign the operations described by this classification to Classification 4683(1), Vegetable Oil Mfg. or Refining.
- Amend Classification 2063, *Dairy Products or Ice Mfg.*, which is part of the Food Packaging and Processing Industry Group, to include the manufacture of butter substitutes and nondairy gelato and for clarity and consistency with other proposed changes.
- Amend Classification 6504, *Food Products Mfg. or Processing,* which is part of the Food Packaging and Processing Industry Group, to remove coffee bean cleaning, roasting or grinding as these operations are being reassigned to Classification 0096, *Nut Hulling, Shelling or Processing,* clarify its intended application, provide direction as to how related operations should be classified and for consistency with other proposed changes.
- Amend Classification 2002, *Macaroni Mfg.*, which is part of the Food Packaging and Processing Industry Group, for consistency with other proposed changes.
- Amend Classification 0096, *Nut Hulling, Shelling or Processing*, which is part of the Food Packaging and Processing Industry Group, to include coffee bean cleaning, roasting or grinding and provide direction as to how related operations should be classified.
- Eliminate Classification 2030, *Sugar Mfg. or Refining*, which is part of the Food Packaging and Processing Industry Group, due to its low statistical credibility and reassign the operations described by this classification to Classification 4683(3), *Sugar Mfg. or Refining*.
- Establish Classification 4683(3), Sugar Mfg. or Refining — N.O.C., to be included as part of the Food Packaging and Processing Industry Group, to apply to manufacturing or refining of sugar cane or beet sugar operations previously described by Classification 2030, Sugar Mfg. or Refining.
- Amend Classification 4683(1), *Vegetable Oil Mfg. or Refining,* which is part of the Food

Packaging and Processing Industry Group, to include the extraction and refining of oil from cottonseed and for consistency with other proposed changes.

- Amend Classification 8601(4), *Forest Engineers*, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 8839, *Dental or Orthodontia Practices*, which is part of the Health and Human Services Industry Group, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 8827(1), *Home Care Services* — *all employees*, which is part of the Health and Human Services Industry Group, to provide direction as to how related operations should be classified and for consistency with other proposed changes.
- Amend Classification 9043, *Hospitals*, which is part of the Health and Human Services Industry Group, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 8834, *Physician's Practices and Outpatient Clinics,* which is part of the Health and Human Services Industry Group, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 9085, *Residential Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled — including supervisors and receptionists,* which is part of the Health and Human Services Industry Group, for consistency with other proposed changes.
- Amend Classification 8806, Sheltered Workshops or Work Activity Centers — all employees — including supervisors, educational instructors, counselors, production managers and vocational evaluators, which is part of the Health and Human Services Industry Group, to remove the requirement that employers be certified as exempt from the minimum wage law, clarify its intended application and provide direction as to how related operations should be classified.
- Amend Classification 9521(1), *House Furnishings*, to clarify its intended application

and provide direction as to how related operations should be classified.

- Amend Classification 5128, *Instrument Installation, Service or Repair,* for clarity and consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 3682, *Instrument Mfg.* — *non-electronic* — *scientific or medical* — *all other employees,* for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 8874(7), Instrument Mfg. — non-electronic — scientific or medical — hardware or software design or development, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024 and for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 8822, *Insurance Companies*, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 5129, Integrated Circuit or Semiconductor Processing Equipment Installation, Service or Repair, for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 8859(2), *Internet or Web–Based Application Development or Operation*, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 8820, *Law Firms*, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 3724(1), *Millwright Work*, to clarify its intended application.
- Amend Classification 8749, *Mortgage Bankers*, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 8743, *Mortgage Brokers*, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 9610, *Motion Pictures* — *production*, to increase the annual payroll limitation for actors, musicians,

producers and the motion picture director from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per person to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.

- Amend Classification 2923, *Musical Instrument Mfg.*, for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 7198(1), *Parcel Delivery and Messenger Service Companies*, to include employers that deliver newspapers on a fee basis to customers for their personal use and for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 8601(2), *Oil or Gas Geologists or Scouts*, which is part of the Petroleum Industry Group, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 4740(1), *Oil Refining*, which is part of the Petroleum Industry Group, for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 4297(1), *Electronic Pre–Press*, which is part of the Printing, Publishing and Duplicating Industry Group, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 4297(2), *Graphic Design*, which is part of the Printing, Publishing and Duplicating Industry Group, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 8745, News Agents or Distributors of Magazines or Other Periodicals, which is part of the Printing, Publishing and Duplicating Industry Group, to provide direction as to how related operations should be classified and for consistency with other proposed changes.
- Consistent with the recommendations of the WCIRB's 2022 Newspaper Delivery Study, eliminate Classification 4312, *Newspaper Delivery*, which is part of the Printing, Publishing and Duplicating Industry Group, as its advisory pure premium rate has reached alignment with that of the destination classifications after combining for ratemaking purposes due to low statistical credibility and reassign (1) the employers that deliver

newspapers on a fee basis to customers for their personal use to Classification 7198(1), *Parcel Delivery and Messenger Service Companies*, and (2) the operations comprising the sale or delivery of newspapers by newspaper publishers or printers to customers for their personal use to Classification 4304, *Newspaper Publishing or Printing*.

- Amend Classification 4304, *Newspaper Publishing or Printing*, which is part of the Printing, Publishing and Duplicating Industry Group, to include operations comprising the sale or delivery operations by newspaper publishers or printers to customers for their personal use and for consistency with other proposed changes.
- Amend Classification 8746, *Newspaper Publishing or Printing*, which is part of the Printing, Publishing and Duplicating Industry Group, to provide direction as to how related operations should be classified and for consistency with other proposed changes.
- Amend Classification 8807, *Newspaper, Magazine or Book Publishing,* which is part of the Printing, Publishing and Duplicating Industry Group, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 5130(1), *Programmable Industrial Controls Installation, Service or Repair,* for clarity and consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 8741, *Real Estate Agencies*, which is part of the Property Management/Operation Industry Group, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 7610, *Radio, Television or Commercial Broadcasting Stations*, to increase the annual payroll limitation for on-air personalities, entertainers and musicians from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per person to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 3165(3), *Solar Panel Mfg.*, for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 3683, *Speaker Mfg.*, for clarity and consistency with previously approved changes.

- Amend Classification 8032, *Stores clothing, shoes, linens or fabric products,* which is part of the Stores Industry Group, to clarify its intended application and provide direction as to how related operations should be classified.
- Amend Classification 8062, *Stores computer*, for consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 8015, *Stores furniture*, which is part of the Stores Industry Group, to clarify its intended application and provide direction as to how related operations should be classified.
- Amend Classification 8006(1), *Stores groceries,* which is part of the Stores Industry Group, to clarify its intended application.
- Amend Classification 7365, *Taxicab Operations*, to increase the minimum annual payroll from \$43,800 to \$45,200 per taxicab to reflect wage inflation since the threshold was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 9156, *Theaters dance, opera or theater companies*, to increase the annual payroll limitation for performers and directors of performers from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 9151, *Theaters musical entertainment*, to increase the annual payroll limitation for performers and directors of performers from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Amend Classification 3830(2), *Unmanned Aircraft System Mfg.*, for clarity and consistency with previously approved changes.
- Amend Classification 7607(1), *Video Post– Production*, to increase the annual payroll limitation from \$159,900 to \$165,100 per employee to reflect wage inflation since the payroll limitation was last amended in 2024.
- Consistent with the recommendations of the WCIRB's 2019 Cotton Merchants and Warehouses Study, eliminate Classification 0400, *Warehouses cotton*, as its advisory pure premium rate has reached alignment with that of the destination classification after combining for ratemaking purposes due to low statistical credibility, and reassign the operations described by this classification to Classification 0401, *Cotton Gin Operation*.

9. Amend Part 3, Section VIII, *Abbreviated Classifications* — *Numeric Listing*, for consistency with other proposed changes.

Amendments to the *Miscellaneous Regulations for the Recording and Reporting of Data* — 1995, Title 10, California Code of Regulations, Section 2354

Effective September 1, 2025

- 1. Amend Part 1, *General Provisions*, Section I, *In-troduction*, Rule 2, *Effective Date*, to show that the effective date of the amended Miscellaneous Regulations is 12:01 a.m., September 1, 2025.
- 2. Amend Part 4, *Excess Insurance*, Section I, *Specific Excess (Straight Excess)*, and Section II, *Aggregate Excess (Stop Loss)*, for consistency with current procedures.

Amendments to the *California Workers' Compensation Experience Rating Plan — 1995*, Title 10, California Code of Regulations, Section 2353.1

Effective September 1, 2025

- 1. Amend Section I, *General Provisions*, Rule 2, *Ef-fective Date*, to show that the effective date of the amended Experience Rating Plan is 12:01 a.m., September 1, 2025.
- 2. Amend Section III, *Eligibility and Experience Period*, Rule 1, *Eligibility Requirements for California Workers' Compensation Insurance*, to adjust the eligibility threshold from \$10,400 to \$10,800 to reflect wage inflation and the proposed September 1, 2025 expected loss rates.
- 3. Amend Section VII, *Inquiries, Complaints and Requests for Action, Reconsideration and Appeals,* Rule 3, *Complaints and Requests for Action,* to update the WCIRB's mailing address.
- 4. Amend Table I, *Expected Loss Rates and D*-*Ratios*, to reflect the most current data available.
- 5. Amend Table II, *Primary Thresholds*, to reflect the most current data available.

CONTACT PERSON

The name and telephone number of the agency representative and designated contact person are listed above under "WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD."

AVAILABILITY STATEMENTS

The Commissioner has prepared an Informative Digest included in this Notice that sets forth a summary and the reasons for the proposed regulations. Upon request to the contact persons above, the text of the proposed regulations shall be made available for inspection and copying. The file for this action, which includes a copy of the proposed regulations, the WCIRB's filing, and any supplemental information, is contained in the Rulemaking File: REG–2025–00004 and is available for inspection and copying by prior appointment at 1901 Harrison Street, 6th Floor, Oakland, California 94612, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

INTERNET ACCESS

Documents concerning these proposed regulations are available on the Department's website at the following link: <u>www.insurance.ca.gov/</u> <u>0250-insurers/0500-legal-info/0200-regulations/</u> proposed-regulations.cfm.

The express terms of the proposed regulations as contained in the WCIRB's filing may also be viewed or downloaded from the Regulatory Filings section of the WCIRB website: <u>www.wcirb.com</u>.

APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS

Following the time period to receive written comment, the Insurance Commissioner may approve regulations substantially as described in this Notice and Informative Digest, or he may approve modified regulations or refuse to approve the regulations. Notice of the Insurance Commissioner's action will be sent to all persons who have requested notice of the Commissioner's action.

TITLE 13. DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

BUSINESS PARTNER AUTOMATION PROGRAM

The Department of Motor Vehicles (department) proposes to adopt Section 225.41 and amend Sections 225.00, 225.03, 225.09, 225.12, 225.15, 225.18, 225.35, 225.36, 225.39, 225.42, 225.45, 225.48, 225.60, 225.63, 225.69, 225.72, and 225.73 in Article 3.6, Chapter 1, Division 1, Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations, related to the Business Partner Automation Program.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing regarding this proposed regulatory action is not scheduled. However, a public hearing will be held if any interested person or his or her duly authorized representative requests a public hearing to be held relevant to the proposed action by submitting a written request to the contact person identified in this notice no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the close of the written comment period.

DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS

Any interested party or his or her duly authorized representative may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulations to the contact person identified in this notice. All written comments must be received at the department no later than **April 28,2025**, the final day of the written comment period, for them to be considered by the department before it adopts the proposed regulation.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

The department proposes to adopt/amend/repeal these regulations under the authority granted by Vehicle Code sections 1651 and 1685, to implement, interpret, or make specific Vehicle Code sections 1652, 1653, and 1685.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Senate Bill 46 (Chapter 127, Statutes 2001 — Polanco) established the Business Partner Automation (BPA) Program and authorized the department to establish business partner relationships with private sector businesses for completing vehicle registration and titling transactions.

Vehicle Code section 1685 establishes the BPA Program and authorizes the department to issue permits for three types of private industry partners who may electronically transmit registration and titling information to and from the department to serve the public efficiently, particularly vehicle purchasers. Under established departmental regulations, first-line service providers enter into a contract with the department and are also required to obtain a business partner permit to operate. The second-line business partner relies on the first-line service provider to submit registration information to the department electronically and operates with a permit issued by the department, The department issues a permit for approved primary business locations and for each approved site location that a partner may establish. Vehicle Code section 1685(f) authorizes the department to adopt regulations and procedures for adequate oversight and monitoring of qualified private industry partners.

Regulations for this program have been in place since 2002 and are periodically amended due to legislative or policy changes. The statute and the regulations contain provisions to protect the department's assets and to ensure information security standards are maintained for registration transactions. The BPA program benefits customers by providing an alternative method by which their registration transactions can be processed and alleviates overcrowding often experienced in field offices. The BPA program eliminates delays and potential travel expenses incurred by customers who need to complete vehicle registration or titling transactions, as a business partner can often be found in a location more convenient to the customer.

The department is proposing to amend the following sections:

§ 225.00. Definitions.

The proposed amendments to Section 225.00 include amending current definitions and adopt new definitions to ensure terms used in the BPA program are being used consistently.

§ 225.03. Application Requirements for all Business Partners.

The proposed amendments to Section 225.03 make clarifying amendments to existing regulations and allow for application documents to be submitted online. § 225.09. Financial Security Requirements.

The proposed amendment to Section 225.09 updates the BPA Surety Bond, form REG 866.

§ 225.12. First–Line Business Partner or First–Line Service Provider Business Partner Contract.

The proposed amendments to Section 225.12 will require a renewal application to be submitted to the department no more than 90 days before the current permit expires and requires the contract renewal process to begin one year before the current contract expires.

§ 225.15. BPA Permit Authority.

The proposed amendments to Section 225.12 prohibits a person from acting as a second–line business partner without a valid permit and removes the requirement that a second–line business partner have a contract with the department.

§ 225.18. Cause for Refusal to Enter into a Contract and/or Issue a Permit.

The proposed amendments to Section 225.18 allow the department to refuse to enter into a BPA contract if the applicant fails to meet specified security provisions at the time of original application or upon renewal and establishes due process procedures when an applicant wants to contest the refusal.

§ 225.35. Renewal.

The proposed amendments to Section 225.35 prohibit a renewal application from being submitted more than 90 days before the current permit expires.

§ 225.36. Change of First–Line Service Provider.

The proposed amendments to Section 225.36 require a notice of change of service provider to be provided to the department no less than 30 days prior to the change of service provider and requires a second– line business partner to provide the BPA administrator with a list of employees who will be using the new service provider.

§ 225.39. Business Partner Responsibilities.

The proposed amendments to Section 225.39 removes the requirement that a second-line business partner have a contract with the department, prohibits a second-line business partner from having more than three months of inventory on hand at any one time, and requires first-line service providers to submit documents from their second-lien business partners. § 225.41. Security Stop.

The proposed adoption of Section 225.41 requires a business partner to notify the BPA administrator within 24 hours of a break-in, robbery, trespass, loss of inventory, computer hack or other breach of department records so the department can establish a security stop. The adoption also establishes a process by which the business partner can ensure security measures are implemented by the department providing the partner with a list of actions that must be met to re-establish access to the department's records. Lastly, Section 225.41 adopts due process procedures when a disagreement arises between the department and the business partner on whether the list of actions has been met.

§ 225.42. Business Partner Changes.

The proposed amendments to Section 225.42 allow reports of changes to be submitted to the department through email.

§ 225.45. Customer Fees.

The proposed amendments to Section 225.45 require a business partner to disclose fees charged to the customer in writing and requires second–line business partners, who are also registration services, to disclose fees and comply with specified Vehicle Code provisions.

§ 225.54. Transaction Procedures and Inventory Requirements.

The proposed amendments to Section 225.54 expand the transaction procedure requirements for second–line business partners.

§ 225.60. Retention of Business Records.

The proposed amendments to Section 225.60 clarify the retention responsibilities of first–line business partners and first–line service providers and establishes retention requirements for second–line business partners.

§ 225.63. Audit Requirements.

The proposed amendment to Section 225.63 allows a business partner to report a change to their independent auditor through email.

§ 225.69. Cancellation or Termination of a BPA Contract and Permit.

The proposed amendments to Section 225.69 allow business partners to report contract and/or permit can-

cellations or terminations to the department through email.

§ 225.72. Site Closure.

The proposed amendment to Section 225.72 allows a second–line business partner to report site location closures to the department by email.

§ 225.73. Issuance, Refusal, Suspension, Revocation, Compromise Settlement Agreements, and Automatic Cancellation of a BPA Permit.

The proposed amendments to Section 225.73 provide clarification to the department's due process procedures.

BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION

This action will benefit business partners by establishing due process procedures for instances where a business partner permit is at risk of suspension or revocation. This action will also benefit business partners by clearly identifying the requirements of firstline service providers and second-line business partners. Lastly, this action will benefit all business partners by allowing for more transactions to be completed through email which will allow for quicker processing times on behalf of the department. Other amendments include updating a program form, adjusting time periods related to application submissions, and to ensure overall clarity of the regulations.

CONSISTENCY AND COMPATIBILITY WITH STATE REGULATIONS

The department has determined this action is neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. The department has made this determination by reviewing other state regulations and has concluded that these are the only regulations that establish a business partner relationship with the department whereby the business partners are authorized to process registration and titling transactions on behalf of the department.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The following documents are incorporated by reference:

- Live Scan Service Applicant Submission, form DMV 8016 (Rev. 1/2019)
- Business Partner Automation Surety Bond, form REG 866 (Rev. 12/2011)

These forms are not published in the California Code of Regulations because it would be impractical and cumbersome to do so; however, the documents are readily available to interested parties by contacting the department representative identified below.

ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT DETERMINATIONS

The department has made the following initial determinations concerning the proposed regulatory action:

Cost Or Savings To Any State Agency: None.

Other Non–Discretionary Cost or Savings to Local Agencies: None.

Costs or Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.

Cost to any local agency or school district which must be reimbursed in accordance with Government Code sections 17500 through 17630: None.

Cost Impact on Representative Private Persons or Businesses: The department is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. This proposed action makes changes to the administration portion of business partner operations and includes due process rights for business partners who are at risk of having their permit suspended or revoked. While there are fees associated with participating in the BPA program, this action does not amend any fees. The cost impact to businesses will not be impacted.

Effect on Housing Costs: None.

Local Agency/School District Mandates: The proposed regulatory action will not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts, or a mandate that requires reimbursement pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of the Government Code.

Small Business Impact: This proposed action may impact small businesses.

Potential significant statewide adverse economic impact: The proposed regulatory action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

RESULTS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

The department has made the following determinations when assessing the economic impact associated with this proposed regulation:

The department has made the initial determination that this action will not impact,) the creation or elimination of jobs within the State of California, 2) the creation or elimination of existing businesses within the State of California, 3) the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California, or 4) worker safety or the state's environment.

This proposed regulatory action is designed with the well-being of California residents in mind. By clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of each business partner and establishing transparent due process procedures, the proposed changes aim to create a more supportive and efficient system for everyone involved. Navigating vehicle registration and titling transactions can be a time-consuming and costly process, and this initiative seeks to ease those burdens.

The BPA program's goal is to reduce the delays and expenses associated with visiting field offices, making it more convenient. Moreover, by alleviating overcrowding in these offices, this will create a more efficient experience for all who need assistance. As a result, the proposed action will indirectly impact the health and welfare of California.

PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

A pre-notice workshop, pursuant to Government Code section 11346.45, is not required because the issues addressed in the proposal are not so complex or large in number that they cannot easily be reviewed during the comment period.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The department must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the department or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the department would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, or would be effective as and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost–effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provisions of law.

CONTACT PERSON

Any inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be addressed to:

Randi Calkins, Regulations Specialist Department of Motor Vehicles Legal Affairs Division P.O. Box 932382, MS C–244 Sacramento, CA 94232–3820

Any inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action requiring more immediate response may use:

Telephone: (916) 657–6469 Facsimile: (916) 657–6243

Email: <u>LADRegulations@dmv.ca.gov</u>

In the event the contact person is unavailable, inquiries should be directed to the following back–up person:

Peggy Gibson, Attorney IV

Department of Motor Vehicles

Telephone: (916) 657–6469

AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS AND TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

The department has prepared an Initial Statement of Reasons for the proposed regulatory action and has available all the information upon which the proposal is based. The contact person identified in this notice shall make available to the public upon request the Express Terms of the proposed regulatory action using underline or italics to indicate additions to, and strikeout to indicate deletions from the California Code of Regulations.

The contact person identified in this notice shall also make available to the public, upon request, the Final Statement of Reasons and the location of public records, including reports, documentation and other materials related to the proposed action. In addition, the above–cited materials (the Notice of Proposed Regulatory Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and Express Terms) may be accessed at <u>https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/about–</u> <u>the–california–department–of–motor–vehicles/</u> <u>california–dmv–rulemaking–actions/</u>.

AVAILABILITY OF MODIFIED TEXT

Following the written comment period, and the hearing if one is held, the department may adopt the proposed regulations substantially as described in this notice. If modifications are made which are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, the fully modified text, with changes clearly indicated, shall be made available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date on which the department adopts the resulting regulations. Requests for copies of any modified regulations should be addressed to the department will accept written comments on the modified regulations for 15 days after the date on which they are first made available to the public.

TITLE 16. BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

ADVERTISING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (Board) is proposing to take the action described in the Informative Digest below, after considering all comments, objections and recommendations regarding the proposed action.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Board has not scheduled a public hearing on this proposed action. However, the Board will hold a hearing if it receives a written request for a public hearing from any interested person, or their authorized representative, no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period. A hearing may be requested by making such request in writing addressed to the individuals listed under **Contact Person** in this Notice.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Written comments relevant to the action proposed, including those sent by mail, facsimile, or email to the addresses listed under **Contact Person** in this Notice, must be *received* by the Board at its office by Monday, April 28, 2025, or must be received by the Board at the hearing, should one be scheduled.

AVAILABILITY OF CHANGED OR MODIFIED TEXT

After considering all timely and relevant comments, the Board, upon its own motion or at the request of any interested party, may thereafter adopt the proposals substantially as described below or may modify such proposals if such modifications are sufficiently related to the original text. With the exception of technical or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposal will be available for 15 days prior to its adoption from the person designated in this Notice as Contact Person and will be mailed to those persons who submit written or oral testimony related to this proposal or who have requested notification of any changes to the proposal.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Pursuant to the authority vested by sections 137, 4980.60 and 4990.20 of the Business and Professions Code (BPC), and to implement, interpret, or make specific BPC Sections 125.9, 137, 651, 4980.03, 4980.09, 4980.44, 4982, 4989.49, 4989.54, 4992.2, 4992.3, 4999.12, 4999.12.5 and 4999.90, the Board is consider-

ing changes to Division 18 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (16 CCR) as follows:

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

The Board of Behavioral Sciences (Board) licenses and regulates Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs) (Business and Professions Code (BPC) sections 4980 et seq.), Licensed Educational Psychologists (LEPs) (BPC sections 4989.10 et seq.), Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs) (BPC sections 4991 et seq.), and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCCs) (BPC sections 4999.10 et seq.).

The Board also registers and regulates individuals gaining supervised experience toward meeting the requirements for licensure. This includes registered Associate Marriage and Family Therapists (AMFTs), Associate Professional Clinical Counselors (APCCs) and Associate Clinical Social Workers (ASWs) (aka "registrant").

The Board is responsible for licensing and discipline of the above professionals and enforcement of Chapters 13, 13.5, 13.7, 14 and 16 of Division 2 of the BPC which regulates the above professions as set forth in BPC sections 4990.2, 4990.12, and 4990.18. BPC section 4990.16 mandates that the protection of the public shall be the highest priority of the Board in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions.

A statutory definition of "advertise" for each profession regulated by the Board is specified in BPC section 4980.03(e) (marriage and family therapists), BPC section 4989.49 (licensed educational psychologists), BPC section 4992.2 (licensed clinical social workers), and BPC section 4999.12(j) (licensed professional clinical counselors). These sections define "advertise" as including but not limited to any public communication as defined in BPC section 651, the issuance of any card, sign, or device to any person, or the causing, permitting, or allowing of any sign or marking on, or in, any building or structure, or in any newspaper or magazine or in any directory, or any printed matter whatsoever, with or without any limiting qualification. (Note that BPC § 4999.12(j) additionally includes "business solicitations communicated by radio or television broadcasting".) BPC section 651 prohibits false or misleading advertising and contains a definition of a false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive statement or claim.

Existing 16 CCR section 1811 sets forth requirements for information that must be specifically included in any advertising of services by the Board's licensees and registrants in compliance with the Board's statutory requirements, including their full name as filed with the Board, the complete title of the license or registration held or an acceptable abbreviation as specified, and the license or registration number. It also requires registrants to include their name of their employer or, if not employed, the entity for which they volunteer.

Aside from non–substantive changes for capitalization, spelling, grammar, renumbering of paragraphs within this section, replacing gendered pronouns with gender–neutral language, and amending legal citations in the Reference sections of the regulations, the proposed amendments to 16 CCR section 1811 would update the Board's advertising regulations and would include the following specific changes:

Subsections (a), (a) (1) and (a) (2) (F): The amendments would repeal references to marriage and family therapist (MFT) referral services as the Board no longer regulates MFT referral services due to the repeal of the Board's authorizing statute per Senate Bill 1491 (Chapter 703, Statutes of 2018).

Subsection (b): The amendments would require all registrants to include that they are supervised by a licensed person in any advertisement and would retain the existing requirement for disclosing the name of their employer or the entity for which they volunteer.

Subsection (g): The proposed amendment allows a licensee or registrant to use a former legal name or nickname if the licensee or registrant also includes in the advertisement their full name as filed with the Board. If a nickname is used, it also shall not be false, fraudulent, misleading or deceptive as specified in BPC section 651.

ANTICIPATED BENEFITS OF PROPOSAL

The objectives of the amendments and anticipated benefits in this regulatory proposal are to provide for clarity and currency in the advertising regulations, increase public protection by requiring all registrants to include that they are supervised by a licensed professional in advertising, and resolve questions about the use of a former legal name or nickname in advertising while still maintaining public protection.

EVALUATION OF CONSISTENCY AND COMPATIBILITY WITH EXISTING STATE REGULATIONS

During the process of developing this regulatory proposal, the Board has conducted a search of any similar regulations on these topics and has concluded that these regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations.

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THIS PROPOSED ACTION

FISCAL IMPACT ESTIMATES

Fiscal Impact on Public Agencies Including Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: The proposed regulations do not result in a fiscal impact to the state. Adopting this regulation updates the requirements for information included in an advertisement for licensees or registrants regulated by the Board who advertise their services.

The Board does not anticipate additional workload or costs from the proposed regulations. Any workload or costs of implementation are a result of current law. The regulations do not result in costs or savings in federal funding to the state.

Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.

Cost to Any Local Agency or School District for Which Government Code Sections 17500–17630 Require Reimbursement: None.

Mandate Imposed on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.

Significant Effect on Housing Costs: None.

BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATES

The Board has made the initial determination that the proposed regulatory action would have no significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. This initial determination is based upon the following facts:

The Board does not believe this regulation will have a significant adverse economic impact on businesses. Adopting this regulation simply updates the requirements for information included in an advertisement for licensees or registrants regulated by the Board who advertise their services and individuals in compliance with advertising statutes and regulations will not be affected by the proposed regulations. Permitting the use of a former legal name or nickname in advertising will not affect businesses because licensees or registrants will still be required to provide the full name of the licensee or registrant as filed with the Board along with the alias (nickname or former name) and not make any false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive statements, all of which are requirements of existing law and regulations. The rulemaking file includes the facts, documents, and other evidence which supports this determination.

Cost Impact on Representative Private Person or Business

The Board is not aware of any cost impacts that are representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action for the reasons set forth above in the "Business Impact Estimates" section.

RESULTS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT/ANALYSIS

Impact on Jobs/Businesses

The Board has determined that the proposed regulatory action would not have a significant statewide adverse economic on the following:

- 1) The creation or elimination of jobs within the state,
- 2) The creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the state, or,
- 3) The expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state.

This proposal would not have any of the above– referenced impacts as explained in the "Business Impact Estimates" section of this notice.

Benefits of the Regulation

This regulatory proposal affects the health and welfare of California residents because the proposed regulation ensures that all registrants state that they are supervised by a licensed person in any advertisements, thereby avoiding the impression that they are an independent practitioner and providing the ability for a current or potential client to contact the current supervisor with any concerns. The objectives of the amendments and anticipated benefits in this regulatory proposal are also to provide for clarity and currency in the advertising regulations and resolve questions about the use of a former legal name or nickname in advertising while still maintaining public protection.

This regulatory proposal will have no impact on worker safety because the proposal does not address worker safety. This regulatory proposal will have no impact on the California environment as the proposal is not related to the environment.

Business Reporting Requirements

This proposed regulation does not require businesses to file a report with the Board.

Effect on Small Business

While the Board does not have, nor does it maintain, data to determine if any of its licensees are a "small business," as defined in Government Code section 11342.610, the Board has made an initial determination that the proposed regulatory action will have no significant impact on small businesses as it simply updates the requirements for information included in an advertisement for licensees or registrants regulated by the Board who advertise their services and individuals in compliance with advertising statutes and regulations will not be affected by the proposed regulations. Permitting the use of a former legal name or nickname in advertising will not affect businesses because licensees or registrants will still be required to provide the full name of the licensee or registrant as filed with the Board along with the alias (nickname or former name) and not make any false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive statements, all of which are requirements of existing law and regulations.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.5, subdivision (a)(13), the Board must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered to the regulation or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed; would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposal described in this Notice, or would be more cost–effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

Any interested person may submit comments to the Board in writing relevant to the above determinations at 1625 North Market Boulevard, Suite S200, Sacramento CA 95834 during the written comment period, or at the hearing if one is scheduled or requested.

AVAILABILITY OF INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND RULEMAKING FILE

The Board has compiled a record of for this regulatory action, which includes the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR), proposed regulatory text, and all the information on which this proposal is based. This material is contained in the rulemaking file and is available for public inspection upon request to the Contact Persons named in this notice.

TEXT OF PROPOSAL

Copies of the exact language of the proposed regulations and of the initial statement of reasons, and all of the information upon which the proposal is based, may be obtained at the hearing or prior to the hearing upon request from the person designated in this Notice under Contact Person listed below, or by accessing the Board's website at https://www.bbs.ca.gov/about/law reg.html.

AVAILABILITY AND LOCATION OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND RULEMAKING FILE

All of the information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file, which is available for public inspection by contacting the Contact Person named below.

You may obtain a copy of the Final Statement of Reasons once it has been prepared, by making a written request to the Contact Persons named below or by accessing the website listed below.

CONTACT PERSON

Inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be addressed to:

Name: Christy Berger Address: Board of Behavioral Sciences 1625 North Market Boulevard, Suite S200 Sacramento CA 95834 Telephone: 916–574–7995 Fax: 916–574–8625 Email: <u>BBS.Rulemaking@dca.ca.gov</u>

The backup contact person is:

Name: Rosanne Helms Address: Board of Behavioral Sciences 1625 North Market Boulevard, Suite S200 Sacramento CA 95834 Telephone: 916–574–7939 Fax: 916–574–8625 Email: <u>Rosanne.Helms@dca.ca.gov</u>

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS ON THE INTERNET

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulations with modifications noted, as well as the Final Statement of Reasons when completed, and modified text, if any, can be accessed through the Board's website at: https://www.bbs.ca.gov/about/law_reg.html.

TITLE 16. BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING

NURSE PRACTITIONER EDUCATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Registered Nursing (Board) proposes to take the action described in the Informative Digest below, after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Board has not scheduled a public hearing on this proposed action. However, the Board will hold a hearing if it receives a written request for a public hearing from any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, no later than 15 calendar days prior to the close of the written comment period. A hearing may be requested by making such request in writing addressed to the individuals listed under "Contact Person" in this notice.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Written comments relevant to the action proposed, including those sent by mail, facsimile, or email to the addresses listed under "Contact Person" in this Notice, must be *received* by the Board at its office no later than by Monday, April 28, 2025, or must be received by the Board at the hearing, should one be scheduled.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE:

Pursuant to the authority vested by sections 2715, 2835.7 and 2836 of the Business and Professions Code (BPC), and to implement, interpret, or make specific BPC sections 2835, 2835.5, 2835.7, 2836, 2836.1, 2836.2, 2836.3 and 2837, the Board is considering amending section 1484 of Article 8, Division 14 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Existing regulations at section 1484 of Title 16 of the CCR establish the criteria that nurse practitioner education programs must meet to receive board approval. This includes sections 16 CCR 1484(a) and 1484 (h)(7) which incorporate by reference the "Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies Content" (2017) established by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF).

In 2022, NONPF updated the now "Nurse Practitioner Role Core Competencies." Consequently, Senate Bill (SB) 887 (Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development, Chapter 510, Statutes of 2024) amended BPC 2836 to reference the 2022 version rather than the 2017 version. This regulatory proposal will make a conforming change to 16 CCR 1484(a) and 1484(h)(7).

Existing regulations at 16 CCR section 1484 also set forth the Board's minimum requirements for nurse practitioner curriculum, including the number of clinical hours a student must complete. These clinical hours are performed under supervision of an experienced healthcare professional, commonly referred to as a clinical preceptor.

Depending on where the student is located, clinical preceptorship can occur in state or out of state. The regulations currently require both the clinical preceptor and nurse practitioner (NP) student to have an active California registered nurse (RN) license, even if they both live and perform the clinical preceptorship in another state. The Board has found that requiring a California license when neither the student nor the preceptor are conducting the clinical preceptorship in California is overly burdensome for NP programs and unnecessary from a public protection standpoint.

This regulatory proposal will align regulations with statutory requirements, and also remove the requirement for a clinical preceptor or NP student to hold an active RN license in California when the clinical preceptorship is occurring in another state, which helps achieve the Board's mission of consumer protection through overseeing nurse practitioner programs. The proposed text was approved by the Full Board at their August 2024 Board meeting.

The Board proposes the following changes:

Amend Title 16, CCR Section 1484 Nurse Practitioner Education

- The Board proposes to amend 16 CCR 1484(a) and 1484(h)(7) to update "Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies Content (2017)" to "Nurse Practitioner Role Core Competencies Content (2022)."
- The Board proposes to amend 16 CCR 1484 subsection (f)(1)(A) to clarify that if a clinical preceptorship is being provided in California, the clinical preceptor must hold an active and valid license to practice in California.
- The Board proposes to amend 16 CCR 1484 subsection (f)(1)(B) to clarify that if a clinical preceptorship is being provided outside of California, the clinical preceptor must hold an active and valid license to practice in the state where the clinical preceptorship is being performed.
- The Board proposes to amend 16 CCR 1484 subsection (g) to clarify that an NP student needs to have a valid RN license in the state they are receiving their clinical preceptorship.

ANTICIPATED BENEFITS OF PROPOSAL

The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will have the following benefits to the health and welfare of California residents:

This proposal will make it easier for NP programs to obtain and maintain Board approval thereby creating more educational opportunities for prospective NPs. The change will also make it easier to secure clinical preceptors, who play a critical role in ensuring the students receive a safe and quality education.

This regulatory proposal does not impact worker safety or the state's environment because it is unrelated to those issues.

EVALUATION OF CONSISTENCY AND COMPATIBILITY WITH EXISTING STATE REGULATIONS

During the process of developing this regulatory proposal, the Board conducted a search of any similar regulations on these topics and has concluded that these regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The proposed regulations incorporate by reference NONPF's *Nurse Practitioner Role Core Competencies Content (2022)*.

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THIS PROPOSED ACTION

FISCAL IMPACT ESTIMATES

Fiscal Impact on Public Agencies Including Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

The regulations do not result in a fiscal impact to the state. This proposal simplifies licensing requirements for NP programs that have clinical preceptors and NP students located out of state. The Board does not anticipate additional workload or costs resulting from the proposed regulations.

The Board notes, it does not anticipate a reduction in workload costs or revenues related to licensing out-of-state individuals subject to the proposed regulations because out-of-state NPs are not (actually) registering with Board as currently required. Instead, these individuals are opting to complete their education and training elsewhere.

The regulations do not result in costs or savings in federal funding to the state.

Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.

Cost to any Local Agency or School District for which Government Code Sections 17500–17630 Require Reimbursement: None.

Mandate Imposed on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.

Significant Effect on Housing Costs (and, if applicable, including any estimated costs of compliance or potential benefits of a building standard): None.

BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATES

The Board has made the initial determination that the proposed regulatory action would have no significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

This initial determination is based on the following facts: The regulatory changes do not impose any additional requirements on California's licensees or businesses. Rather, the change would remove certain licensing requirements for NP programs seeking Board approval. Removing the requirement for clinical preceptors and NP students that are practicing out of state to maintain an active California RN license will make preceptor recruitment easier and NP student compliance less burdensome.

The Board does not anticipate a significant increase in NPs enrolling in California educational programs because student enrollment is capped. However, the Board indicates in the event an out–of–state NP opts to enroll in a California–based institution, the same tuition fees for all who enroll range from approximately \$21,000 (public) to \$121,000 (private) per program.

Cost Impact on Representative Private Person or Business:

The Board is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

The Board does not anticipate a significant increase in NPs enrolling in California educational programs because student enrollment is capped. However, the Board indicates in the event an out–of–state NP opts to enroll in a California–based institution, tuition fees range from approximately \$21,000 (public) to \$121,000 (private) per program.

RESULTS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT/ANALYSIS

Impact on Jobs/Businesses

The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will not have a significant impact on the following:

- 1) the creation or elimination of jobs within the state,
- 2) the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the state, or,
- 3) the expansion of existing businesses.

This proposal would not have any of the above–referenced impacts as explained in the "Business Impact Estimates" section of this notice.

Benefits of Regulation:

This regulatory proposal will benefit the health and welfare of California residents by making it easier for NP programs to comply with California laws and train students for the state's healthcare pipeline.

This regulatory proposal does not affect worker safety or the state's environment as this proposal is not related to those issues.

Business Reporting Requirements

The regulatory action does not require businesses to file a report with the Board of Registered Nursing.

Effect on Small Business

The Board has determined that the proposed regulations will not affect small businesses because the NP educational programs registered with the Board do not qualify as a "small business" as defined in Government Code section 11346.3.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.5, subdivision (a)(13), the Board must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered to the regulation or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed; would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposal described in this Notice; or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

Any interested person may submit comments to the Board in writing relevant to the above determinations at 1747 North Market Boulevard, Suite 150 Sacramento, CA 95834 during the written comment period, or at the hearing if one is scheduled or requested.

AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS AND RULEMAKING FILE

The Board has compiled a record for this regulatory action, which includes the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR), proposed regulatory text, and all the information on which this proposal is based. This material is contained in the rulemaking file and is available for public inspection upon request to the contact persons named in this notice.

TEXT OF PROPOSAL

Copies of the exact language of the proposed regulations, and any document incorporated by reference, and of the initial statement of reasons, and all of the information upon which the proposal is based, may be obtained upon request from the Board, at **1747**

North Market Boulevard, Suite 150 Sacramento, CA 95834.

AVAILABILITY OF CHANGED OR MODIFIED TEXT

After considering all timely and relevant comments, the Board, upon its own motion or at the request of any interested party, may thereafter adopt the proposals substantially as described below or may modify such proposals if such modifications are sufficiently related to the original text. With the exception of technical or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposal, with the modifications clearly indicated, will be available for review and written comment for 15 days prior to its adoption from the persons designated in this Notice as the Contact Persons and will be mailed to those persons who submit written comments or oral testimony related to this proposal or who have requested notification of any changes to the proposal.

AVAILABILITY AND LOCATION OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND RULEMAKING FILE

All the information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file which is available for public inspection by contacting the person named below.

You may obtain a copy of the Final Statement of Reasons once it has been prepared by making a written request to the Contact Persons named below or by accessing the website listed below.

CONTACT PERSONS

Inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be addressed to:

Name: Marissa Clark Address: Board of Registered Nursing 1747 North Market Boulevard, Suite 150 Sacramento, CA 95834 Telephone Number: 916–574–7438 Fax Number: 916–574–7700 Email Address: brn.regulations@dca.ca.gov

The backup contact person is:

Name: Ras Siddiqui Address: Board of Registered Nursing 1747 North Market Boulevard, Suite 150 Sacramento, CA 95834 Telephone Number: 916–574–7922 Fax Number: 916–574–7700 Email Address: <u>brn.regulations@dca.ca.gov</u>

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS ON THE INTERNET

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulations with modifications noted, as well as the Final Statement of Reasons when completed, and modified text, if any, can be accessed through the Board website at https://www.rn.ca.gov/regulations/proposed.shtml.

TITLE 16. SPEECH–LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY AND HEARING AID DISPENSERS BOARD

PROCESSING TIMES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Speech– Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board (hereafter Board) is proposing to take the action described in the Informative Digest below, after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Board has not scheduled a public hearing on this proposed action. However, the Board will hold a hearing if it receives a written request for a public hearing from any interested person, or their authorized representative, no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period. A hearing may be requested by making such request in writing addressed to the individuals listed under "Contact Person" in this notice.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Written comments relevant to the action proposed, including those sent by mail or email to the addresses listed under "Contact Person" in this Notice must be received by the Board at its office no later than by **Tuesday, April 29, 2025**, or must be received by the Board at the hearing, should one be scheduled.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Pursuant to the authority vested by sections 2531.06 and 2531.95 of the Business and Professions Code (BPC), and to implement, interpret, or make specific the provisions of Assembly Bill (AB) 1757 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 229, Statutes of 2003), the Board is considering repealing sections 1399.113 and 1399.151.1 and amending sections 1399.141, 1399.153.2, 1399.160.6, 1399.170.4, and 1399.170.13 of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations $(CCR)^{\perp}$.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Summary of Existing Laws and Effect of the Proposed Action

Existing law under BPC sections 2531.06 and 2531.95 authorizes the Board to adopt or repeal regulations for the enforcement of the Speech–Language Pathologists and Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dispensers Licensure Act (Act) and the laws subject to its jurisdiction. The Board intends to use its authority to remove processing times related to hearing aid dispensers in CCR section 1399.113 and related to speech–language pathology and audiology in section 1399.151.1, delete any reference to CCR sections 1399.113 or 1399.151.1, and remove any other processing times specified in regulations.

The Board adopted and amended various regulations related to processing times in accordance with the Permit Reform Act of 1981 (Government Code sections 15374–15378). The Permit Reform Act of 1981 required state agencies, including the Board, to adopt regulations regarding their procedures for considering and issuing permits. The Permit Reform Act of 1981 was repealed by the legislature per Assembly Bill (AB) 1757 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 229, Statutes of 2003). As a result, specifying processing times in regulation is no longer statutorily required and, for the reasons detailed herein, no longer functionally necessary.

In October 2021, the Board adopted proposed regulatory text to repeal CCR sections 1399.113 and 1399.151.1 through the Section 100 rulemaking process. However, those sections did not qualify for the Section 100 rulemaking process due to the authority relied upon to adopt the Board's processing times in those regulations.

The reality is that processing times are dynamic and not always consistent throughout the year. The timeframe for processing applications varies due to factors outside the Board's control. For example, the Board generally processes applications in the date order received, but the Board is statutorily required to expedite the processing of applications for applicants who qualify under BPC sections 115.4, 115.5, 115.6, and 135.4. This can result in expedited applications being processed much faster than the processing times identified in regulation and in delays for the non–expedited applications. Further, processing times increase with influxes in application submissions, generally occurring at the end of the academic year around the months

¹ All CCR references are to Title 16 unless otherwise noted.

of May and June, and this can result in a backlog lasting several months due to the volume of those applications. Conversely, processing times are reduced when there are lulls in application submissions. Applicants also experience an increase in processing time when submitting an incomplete application, which requires Board staff to contact the applicant for the missing information.

Although the uniformity of processing times throughout the year may be affected by factors outside the Board's control, the Board utilizes technology to track processing times and provide application information. In accordance with BPC section 139.5, the Board provides timeframes for processing license and registration applications on its internet website, which are more accurate and more current than what is found in regulation because they are based on actual workloads rather than ideal or theoretical workloads, as the regulations are. Moreover, despite the requirements of BPC section 139.5 to provide information on at least a quarterly basis, the Board's internal policy is to update application processing timeframes more frequently than a quarterly basis, subject to actual workloads.

The Board believes it does not serve the public to provide outdated and inaccurate processing times in regulation, and, instead, consistent with BPC section 139.5, provides processing times on the Board's website, which is a more appropriate location for current information about processing times. From the Board's website, interested parties can find the Board's processing times by clicking the Applicant/Registrant tab or the Contact Us link at the top of the Board's website. The webpages will contain a table detailing the date through which applications are reviewed/ processed, current processing times, and average processing times over the past month. In addition, the table provides dates for different stages of the review process and dates for forms and approvals that do not require a background check from fingerprints. In addition, applicants can quickly and conveniently check the details and status of their application by visiting the Board's website and entering the requested identifying information. The screen will then display useful information related to the applicant's application, including the license type applied, the requirements for licensure, the applicant's status in fulfilling each of those requirements, and whether any deficiencies were identified in the applicant's application.

Because the processing times reflected in regulation fail to adequately account for actual workloads that have changed since they were adopted and because it would be unduly burdensome to update the regulations every time workloads change, the Board proposes to remove processing times related to hearing aid dispensers in section 1399.113 and related to speech–language pathology and audiology in section 1399.151.1, delete any references to sections 1399.113 or 1399.151.1, and remove any other processing times specified in regulations.

The following is a summary of the proposed changes the Board seeks to make:

1. Repeal Section 1399.113 of Article 2 of Division 13.3 of the CCR

This section is being deleted to remove the processing time for hearing aid dispenser applications because it is no longer statutorily required or functionally necessary to specify processing times in regulation following the repeal of the Permit Reform Act of 1981 by AB 1757 and given the requirements of BPC section 139.5. Pursuant to BPC section 139.5, the Board provides timeframes for processing applications on its website. The website is more accurate and more current than the regulations because the website is updated on a more frequent basis than the regulations, which must go through the rulemaking process for amendment.

2. Amend Section 1399.141 of Article 7 of Division 13.3 of the CCR

This section is being amended to remove the processing time for reviewing and notifying the approval of continuing education provider applications and any reference to it because it is no longer statutorily required or functionally necessary to specify the processing time in regulation following the repeal of the Permit Reform Act of 1981 by AB 1757 and given the requirements of BPC section 139.5. Pursuant to BPC section 139.5, the Board provides timeframes for processing applications on its website. The website is more accurate and more current than the regulations because the website is updated on a more frequent than the regulations, which must go through the rulemaking process for amendment.

The timeframe the applicant has to correct any issues that arises during the review process is also being removed because it is outdated and no longer aligns with the Board's current or average processing time.

Grammatical corrections are made to maintain consistency with writing and formatting style found in other parts of these regulations.

3. Repeal Section 1399.151.1 of Article 2 of Division 13.4 of the CCR

This section is being deleted to remove the processing time for speech language pathology and audiology applications because it is no longer statutorily required or functionally necessary to specify processing times in regulation following the repeal of the Permit Reform Act of 1981 by AB 1757 and given the requirements of BPC section 139.5. Pursuant to BPC section 139.5, the Board provides timeframes for processing applications on its website. The website is more accurate and more current than the regulations because the website is updated on a more frequent basis than the regulations, which must go through the rulemaking process for amendment.

4. Amend Section 1399.153.2 of Article 4 of Division 13.4 of the CCR

This section is being amended to remove the processing time for reviewing and notifying the approval of required professional experience (RPE) applications, as well as the reviewing and notifying the approval of the applicant's credentials because it is no longer statutorily required or functionally necessary to specify the processing time in regulation following the repeal of the Permit Reform Act of 1981 by AB 1757 and given the requirements of BPC section 139.5. Pursuant to BPC section 139.5, the Board provides timeframes for processing applications on its website. The website is more accurate and more current than the regulations because the website is updated on a more frequent basis than the regulations, which must go through the rulemaking process for amendment.

This section is also being amended to remove gendered language in accordance with Assembly Concurrent Resolution Number 260 of 2018.

5. Amend Section 1399.160.6 of Article 11 of Division 13.4 of the CCR

This section is being amended to delete any reference to section 1399.151.1 processing times because section 1399.151.1 is being deleted by this proposed regulatory action.

Grammatical corrections and authority and reference citation changes in the note are made to maintain consistency with the writing, citation, and formatting style found in other parts of these regulations.

6. Amend Section 1399.170.4 of Article 12 of Division 13.4 of the CCR

This section is being amended to remove the processing time for notifying an educational institution of the Board's decision regarding a request for approval of a speech–language pathology assistant training program because it is no longer statutorily required or functionally necessary to specify the processing time in regulation following the repeal of the Permit Reform Act of 1981 by AB 1757 and given the requirements of BPC section 139.5. Pursuant to BPC section 139.5, the Board provides timeframes for processing applications on its website. The website is more accurate and more current than the regulations because the website is updated on a more frequent basis than the regulations, which must go through the rulemaking process for amendment.

Authority and reference citation changes in the note are made to maintain consistency with the writing and citation style found in other parts of these regulations. 7. Amend Section 1399.170.13 of Article 12 of Division 13.4 of the CCR

This section is being amended to delete any reference to section 1399.151.1 because section 1399.151.1 is being deleted by this proposed regulatory action.

Authority and reference citation changes in the note are made to maintain consistency with writing and citation style found in other parts of these regulations.

ANTICIPATED BENEFITS OF PROPOSAL

The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will have the following benefits:

This regulatory proposal does affect the health and welfare of California residents. The Board anticipates businesses and individuals who seek licensure or registration with the Board will benefit from this regulatory proposal because removing outdated information related to processing time will increase clarity. However, any benefits are unquantifiable at this time.

This regulatory proposal does not affect worker safety or the state's environment.

EVALUATION OF CONSISTENCY AND COMPATIBILITY WITH EXISTING STATE REGULATIONS

During the process of developing this regulatory proposal, the Board has conducted a search of any similar regulations on these topics and has concluded that these regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

None.

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THIS PROPOSED ACTION

FISCAL IMPACT ESTIMATES

Fiscal Impact on Public Agencies Including Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

The regulations do not result in fiscal impact to the state. This proposal deletes obsolete provisions related to application processing timelines and makes non–substantive edits.

The regulations do not result in costs of savings in federal funding to the state.

Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.

Cost to any Local Agency or School District for which Government Code Sections 17500–17630 Require Reimbursement: None.

Mandate Imposed on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.

Significant Effect on Housing Costs (and, if applicable, including any estimated costs of compliance or potential benefits of a building standard): None.

BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATES

The Board has made the initial determination that the proposed regulatory action would have no significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

This initial determination is based on the facts that the proposed regulatory action is related to application processing times and does not enhance or inhibit industry growth within the industries the Board regulates.

Cost Impact on Representative Private Person or Business

The Board is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

RESULTS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT/ANALYSIS:

Impact on Jobs/Businesses

The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will not have any impact on the following:

- 1) the creation or elimination of jobs within the state,
- 2) the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the state, or,
- 3) the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state.

This proposal would not have any of the above– referenced impacts as explained in the "Business Impact Estimates" section of this notice.

Benefits of Regulation

The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will have the following benefits:

This regulatory proposal does affect the health and welfare of California residents. The Board anticipates businesses and individuals who seek licensure or registration with the Board will benefit from this regulatory proposal because removing outdated processing time information from the CCR will increase clarity. However, any benefits are unquantifiable at this time.

This regulatory proposal does not affect worker safety or the state's environment.

Business Reporting Requirements

The regulatory action does not require businesses to file a report with the Board.

Effect on Small Business

The Board has determined that the proposed regulations will not affect small businesses because they delete obsolete provisions related to application processing timelines and makes non–substantive edits.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.5, subdivision (a)(13), the Board must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered to the regulation or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed; would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposal described in this Notice; or would be more cost–effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

Any interested person may submit comments to the Board in writing relevant to the above determinations at 1601 Response Road, Suite 260 Sacramento, CA 95815 during the written comment period, or at the hearing if one is scheduled or requested.

AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS AND RULEMAKING FILE

The Board has compiled a record for this regulatory action, which includes the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR), proposed regulatory text, and all the information on which this proposal is based. This material is contained in the rulemaking file and is available for public inspection upon request to the Contact Person named in this Notice.

TEXT OF PROPOSAL

Copies of the exact language of the proposed regulations, and any document incorporated by reference, and of the initial statement of reasons, and all of the information upon which the proposal is based, may be obtained upon request from the Board, at 1601 Response Road, Suite 260 Sacramento, CA 95815.

AVAILABILITY OF CHANGED OR MODIFIED TEXT

After considering all timely and relevant comments, the Board, upon its own motion or at the request of any interested party, may thereafter adopt the proposals substantially as described below or may modify such proposals if such modifications are sufficiently relat-

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ed to the original text. With the exception of technical or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposal, with the modifications clearly indicated, will be available for review and written comment for 15 days prior to its adoption from the person designated in this Notice as the Contact Person and will be mailed to those persons who submit written comments or oral testimony related to this proposal or who have requested notification of any changes to the proposal.

AVAILABILITY AND LOCATION OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND RULEMAKING FILE

All the information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file which is available for public inspection by contacting the person named below.

You may obtain a copy of the Final Statement of Reasons once it has been prepared by making a written request to the Contact Person named below or by accessing the website listed below.

CONTACT PERSONS

Inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be addressed to:

Name: Maria Liranzo; Legislation, Regulations, and Budget Analyst

Address: Speech–Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board

1601 Response Road, Suite 260 Sacramento, CA 95815

Telephone Number: (916) 287–7915 Email Address:

SpeechandHearingRegulations@dca.ca.gov

The backup contact person is:

Name: Cherise Burns, Interim Executive Officer Address: Speech–Language Pathology and

Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board 1601 Response Road, Suite 260 Sacramento, CA

95815 Telephone Number: (916) 287–7915

Email Address:

SpeechandHearingRegulations@dca.ca.gov

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS ON THE INTERNET

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulations with modifications noted, as well as the Final Statement of Reasons when completed, and modified text, if any, can be accessed through the Board's website at <u>https://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/</u> board_activity/lawsregs/proposed_regulations.shtml.

GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

NOTICE OF LOCATION OF HEARING RELATING TO AMERICAN COOT AND COMMON MOORHEN; BIG GAME HUNTING FOR 2025–2026 SEASONS; CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TESTING; RECREATIONAL TAKE OF BARRED SAND BASS; COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF KELP; AND COMMERCIAL TAKE OF RED AND OTHER SEA URCHINS AND SEA CUCUMBER

On January 10, 2025, the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) provided notice of its intent to amend Section 502, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), relating to waterfowl, migratory; American coot and common moorhen (common gallinule).

On January 17, 2025, the Commission provided notice of its intent to amend sections 360, 362, 363, 364, 364.1, and 708.5 Title 14, CCR, relating to big game hunting for 2025–2026 seasons and chronic wasting disease testing, and to amend Section 28.30, Title 14, CCR, relating to recreational take of barred sand bass.

On February 28, 2025, the Commission provided notice of its intent to amend sections 165 and 705.1, Title 14, CCR, relating to commercial harvest of kelp, including sea palm, and other aquatic plants, and to add Section 120.8 and amend sections 120.7 and 128, Title 14, CCR, relating to commercial take of red and other sea urchins and sea cucumber.

At the time the notices were published, the location for the April 16–17, 2025 Commission meeting had not yet been determined.

At a meeting which will commence at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, and may continue at 8:30 a.m., on Thursday, April 17, 2025, the Commission will consider adopting regulations related to the following:

- waterfowl, migratory; American coot and common moorhen (common gallinule)
- big game hunting for 2025–2026 seasons and chronic wasting disease testing
- recreational take of barred sand bass
- commercial harvest of kelp, including sea palm, and other aquatic plants

• commercial take of red and other sea urchins and sea cucumber

Any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to these actions at the April 16–17, 2025 hearing from the following location:

The Capitol Event Center 1020 11th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

The original notices, initial statement of reasons, and proposed regulatory language are posted on the Commission's website at <u>https://fgc.ca.gov/</u>. Instructions for participating in the meeting via webinar and telephone will be posted on the Commission's website by April 7, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

FISH AND GAME CODE SECTION 1653 CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION REQUEST FOR DEEP CUT CREEK BEAVER DAM ANALOGUES (TRACKING NUMBER: 1653–2025–152–001–R1) LASSEN COUNTY

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received a Request to Approve on February 26, 2025, that the Hole in One Ranch proposes to carry out a habitat restoration or enhancement project pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1653. The proposed project involves the installation of 15 beaver dam analogues. The proposed project will be carried out on Deep Creek, located at 464–950 Old Cutoff Road, Janesville, Lassen County, California.

On August 28, 2024, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the terms of, and obtain coverage under, the General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (General 401 Order) for the Deep Cut Creek Beaver Dam Analogues Project. The Regional Water Board determined that the Project, as described in the NOI, was categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review (section 15333 - Small Habitat Restoration Projects) and met the eligibility requirements for coverage under the General 401 Order. The Regional Water Board issued a Notice of Applicability (WDID Number 6A182409003) for coverage under the General 401 Order on 10/22/2024.

Hole in One Ranch is requesting a determination that the project and associated documents are complete pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1653 subdivision (d). If CDFW determines the project is complete, Hole in One Ranch will not be required to obtain an incidental take permit under Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b) or a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement under Fish and Game Code section 1605 for the proposed project.

In accordance with Fish and Game Code section 1653 subdivision (e), if CDFW determines during the review, based on substantial evidence, that the request is not complete, Hole in One Ranch will have the opportunity to submit under Fish and Game Code section 1652.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

FISH AND GAME CODE SECTION 1653 CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION REQUEST FOR ELKS LODGE FLOODPLAIN PROJECT (TRACKING NUMBER: 1653– 2025–153–001–R1) TEHAMA COUNTY

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received a Request to Approve on February 24, 2025, that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation proposes to carry out a habitat restoration or enhancement project pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1653. The proposed project involves reconnecting the mainstem of the Sacramento River to the floodplain by altering the topography to allow for increased river inundation frequencies to create more salmonid rearing habitat. The proposed project will be carried out on the Sacramento River, located at Latitude: 40.169914° and Longitude: -122.223126°, Red Bluff, Tehama County, California.

On July 11, 2024, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received a Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the terms of, and obtain coverage under, the General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (General 401 Order) for the Elks Lodge Floodplain Project. The Regional Water Board determined that the Project, as described in the NOI, was categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review (section 15333 -Small Habitat Restoration Projects) and met the eligibility requirements for coverage under the General 401 Order. The Regional Water Board issued a Notice of Applicability (WDID Number 5A52CR00241) for coverage under the General 401 Order on September 6, 2024.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is requesting a determination that the project and associated documents are complete pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1653 subdivision (d). If CDFW determines the project is complete, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will not

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be required to obtain an incidental take permit under Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b) or a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement under Fish and Game Code section 1605 for the proposed project.

In accordance with Fish and Game Code section 1653 subdivision (e), if CDFW determines during the review, based on substantial evidence, that the request is not complete, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will have the opportunity to submit under Fish and Game Code section 1652.

SUMMARY OF REGULATORY ACTIONS

REGULATIONS FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE

This Summary of Regulatory Actions lists regulations filed with the Secretary of State on the dates indicated. Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the agency or from the Secretary of State, Archives, 1020 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 653–7715. Please have the agency name and the date filed (see below) when making a request.

California Pollution Control Financing Authority File # 2025–0115–04

California Capital Access Program for Small Businesses

In this certificate of compliance rulemaking action, the California Pollution Control Financing Authority (CPCFA) makes permanent its emergency regulations regarding the process for California Capital Access Program (CalCAP) lenders to sell CalCAP loans to lenders within and outside the Capital Access Program for small businesses.

Title 04 Amend: 8073, 8074 Filed 02/26/2025 Effective 02/26/2025 Agency Contact: Kamika McGill (916) 653–0289

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation File # 2025–0211–06 Compassionate Release

This emergency of operational necessity rulemaking action, pursuant to Penal Code section 5058.3, by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation adopts, amends, and repeals regulations concerning the recommendation to recall of incarcerated persons commitments and resentencing of incarcerated persons by the Secretary pursuant to Penal Code, section 1172.2. Title 15 Adopt: 3999.209 Amend: 3076, 3076.1, 3076.2, 3076.5, 3999.98, 3999.99 Repeal: 3076.3, 3076.4 Filed 03/03/2025 Effective 03/03/2025 Agency Contact: Robin Hart (916) 896–6780

California Housing Finance Agency

File # 2025-0115-01

Conflict-of-Interest Code

This conflict-of-interest code filing by the California Housing Finance Authority was approved by the Fair Political Practices Commission on December 20, 2024, and is being submitted to OAL for filing with the Secretary of State and printing in the California Code of Regulations.

Title 25	
Amend: 10001	
Filed 02/28/2025	
Effective 03/30/2025	
Agency Contact: Torin Heenan	(916) 322-3991

Department of Housing and Community Development

File # 2025-0115-05

Park Manager Training Program

This request from the California Department of Housing and Community Development ("HCD") that the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") file with the Secretary of State and print in the California Code of Regulations ("CCR") adopts regulations that establish mobilehome and recreational vehicle park manager training requirements; qualification and disqualification of third–party providers of the training, including oversight of a third party provider's performance; fees to cover HCD's cost in administering and overseeing the training; and penalties for failing to come into compliance with the training requirements. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 18876.1(f), these regulations are exempt from the rulemaking requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA").

Title 25 Adopt: 2800, 2800.1, 2800.2, 2800.3, 2800.4, 2800.5, 2800.6, 2800.7, 2800.8, 2800.9, 2800.10, 2800.11, 2800.12, 2800.13, 2800.14, 2800.15, 2800.16 Filed 02/28/2025 Effective 02/28/2025 Agency Contact: Jenna Kline (916) 841–5286 Department of Insurance File # 2025–0124–06 CARP Rules and Rates Manual

In this request for filing and printing pursuant to Government Code section 11343.8, the Department of Insurance is amending the California Automobile Assigned Risk Plan. This action is exempt from the APA pursuant to Insurance Code section 11620, subdivision (c).

Title 10 Amend: 2498.5 Filed 03/05/2025 Effective 03/05/2025 Agency Contact: Michael Riordan (415) 538–4226

Department of Rehabilitation File # 2025–0123–02 Conflict–of–Interest Code

OAL filed this regulation with the Secretary of State and will publish the regulation in the California Code of Regulations.

Title 09 Amend: 7400 Filed 02/27/2025 Effective 03/29/2025 Agency Contact: Michele M. Welz (916) 558–5833

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment File # 2025–0123–04

Chemicals Known to the State to Cause Cancer or Reproductive Toxicity

This action by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment amends the list of "Chemicals Known to the State to Cause Cancer or Reproductive Toxicity" by adding vinyl acetate and bisphenol. This action is exempt from the APA pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 25249.8.

Title 27 Amend: 27001 Filed 03/05/2025 Effective 01/31/2025 Agency Contact: Kiana Vaghefi (279) 216–0002

Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training File # 2025–0124–01 Basic Course Certification

In this filing for a change without regulatory effect pursuant to section 100 of Title 1 of the California Code of Regulations, the CA Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) seeks to amend section 1059 of Title 11 to conform the format of a generic expanded course outline example to that of other POST expanded course outlines. Title 11 Amend: 1059 Filed 03/04/2025 Agency Contact: Beverly Lewis (916) 227–3906

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

File # 2025–0115–02

Non–Substantive Changes — Incarcerated Person's Mail

This action without regulatory effect makes technical changes to inmate mail regulations regarding punctuation, grammar, and syntax.

Title 15 Amend: 3006, 3132, 3133, 3134, 3134.1, 3136, 3137, 3139, 3140, 3145, 3146, 3147, 3190 Filed 02/28/2025 Agency Contact: Renee Rodriguez (916) 445–2220

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

File # 2025–0123–03

California Model Terminology

Through this action without regulatory effect, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation seeks to amend various sections between 3000 and 3769.3 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 15 to reflect current terminology and also to update revision dates for forms incorporated by reference within those sections.

Title 15 Amend: 3000, 3025, 3040.3, 3040.4, 3043.3, 3043.5, 3044, 3054.3, 3075.2, 3077, 3077.1, 3078.4, 3079, 3079.1, 3139, 3141, 3172, 3172.1, 176, 3178, 3230, 3269, 3290, 3294.5, 3375, 375.2, 3375.3, 3375.4, 3375.5, 3378.7, 3504, 3762, 3763, 3766, 3768.3, 3769.3 Filed 03/05/2025 Agency Contact: Adam Burrell (279) 800–9810

Commission on Teacher Credentialing

File # 2025–0115–03

Cost Recovery Fees

This action amends the Commission on Teacher Credentialing's cost recovery fees to include the PK–3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential. This action also deletes the unintended listing of Adapted Physical Education Added Authorization in (a)(1)(C) where a fee of \$1,500 is set, making clear that the correct cost recovery fee is 1,000 as set in (a)(1)(D).

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Title 05 Amend: 80692 Filed 02/28/2025 Effective 04/01/2025 Agency Contact: Lynette Roby (916) 324–3228

Department of Financial Protection and Innovation File # 2025–0117–03 Debt Collection Licensing Act

In this regular rulemaking, the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation ("DFPI") is adopting regulations implementing, interpreting, and making specific the Debt Collection Licensing Act (Financial Code, § 100000 et seq.). Specifically, DFPI is adopting (1) a definition for the term "net proceeds generated by California debtor accounts" for the purposes of subdivision (a) of Financial Code section 100020 and (2) further implementing, interpreting, and making specific requirements pertaining to the annual report required by Financial Code section 100021.

Title 10 Adopt: 1850.70 Amend: 1850 Filed 03/04/2025 Effective 07/01/2025 Agency Contact: Diana Pha (916) 809–5310

Delta Stewardship Council File # 2025–0114–02 Delta Ecosystem Restoration

In this rulemaking action, the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) adopts and amends regulations regarding Delta Ecosystem Restoration. These regulations will require state and local agencies to disclose contributions for ecosystem function restoration and the social benefits provided in the Delta; require disclosure of cultural, recreational, agricultural, and natural resources benefits anticipated form the completion of the covered action; require state and local agencies to explain how certain projects will accommodate for issues associated with sea level rise; require agencies to explain how projects will safeguard against levee failure; redefine the range of levees on certain rivers; define new terms; and amend DSC's existing mitigation and reporting requirements.

Title 23 Adopt: 5005.1, Appendix 3A, Appendix 4A, Appendix 8A Filed 02/27/2025 Effective 04/01/2025 Agency Contact: Eva Bush (916) 284–1619

PRIOR REGULATORY DECISIONS AND CCR CHANGES FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE

A quarterly index of regulatory decisions by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) is provided in the California Regulatory Notice Register in the volume published by the second Friday in January, April, July, and October following the end of the preceding quarter. For additional information on actions taken by OAL, please visit <u>oal.ca.gov</u>.