

Understanding the Regulatory Sector



Disclaimer

The materials presented in this presentation represent the opinions of the presenters and do not reflect the opinions of NOWRA.



Objectives

- What is the difference between a regulation and a statute?
- How are regulations created?
- How are regulations implemented?
- How do regulators work with stakeholders?
- How can you get involved in the process?



Mission Statements

- Colorado, WQCD Mission Statement: Protect and restore Colorado's water quality for public health, the environment, and future generations
- Oklahoma, DEQ Mission Statement: To protect and improve public health and our environment
- Nebraska, NDEE Mission Statement: To protect and improve human health, the environment, and energy resources.
- Washington, DOH Mission Statement: To protect and improve the health of all people in Washington state.



Mission Statements



How are the mission statements implemented?

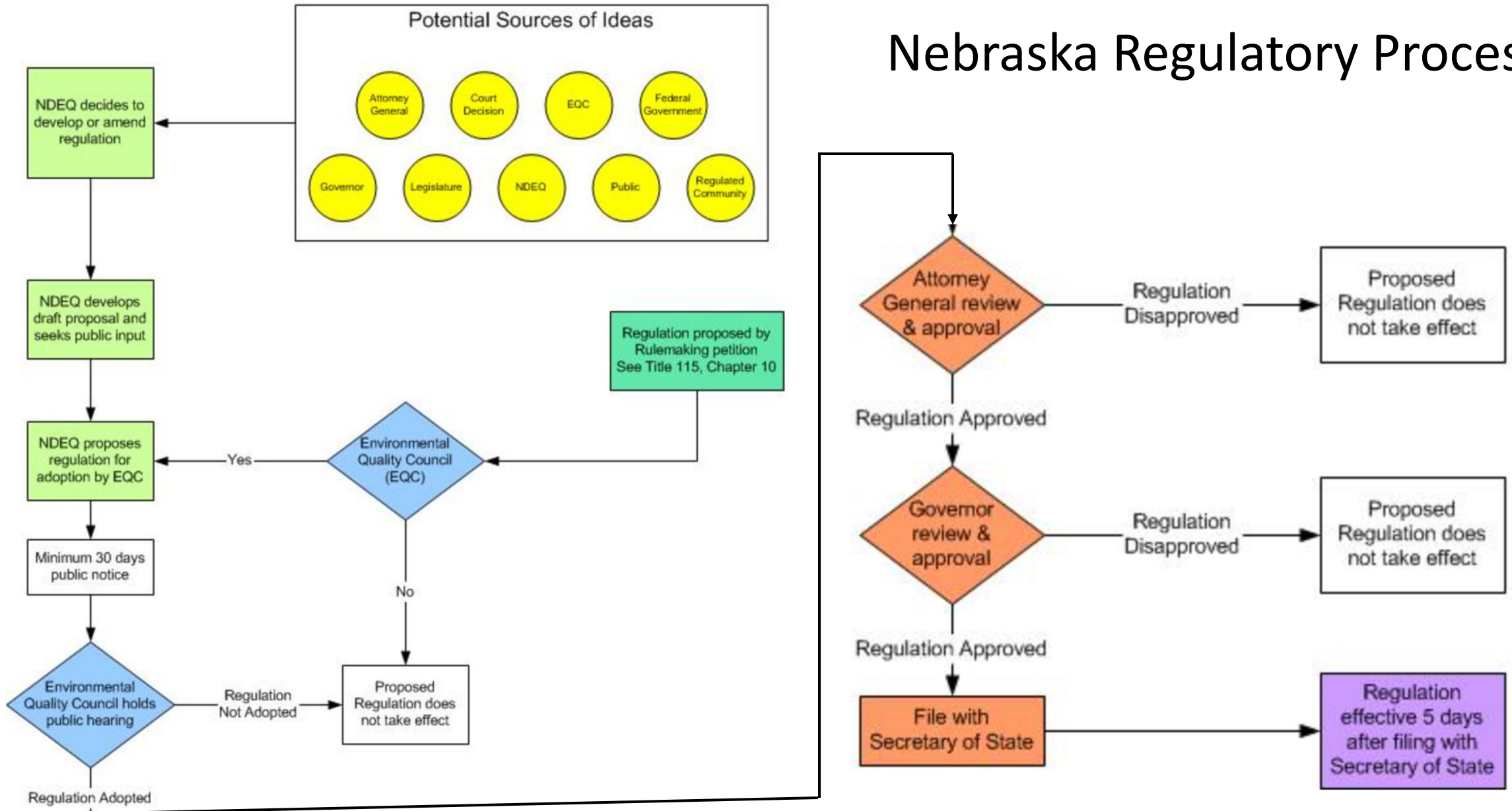
- Through rule and regulation
- Customer Service and outreach
- Together

Statute vs Regulation

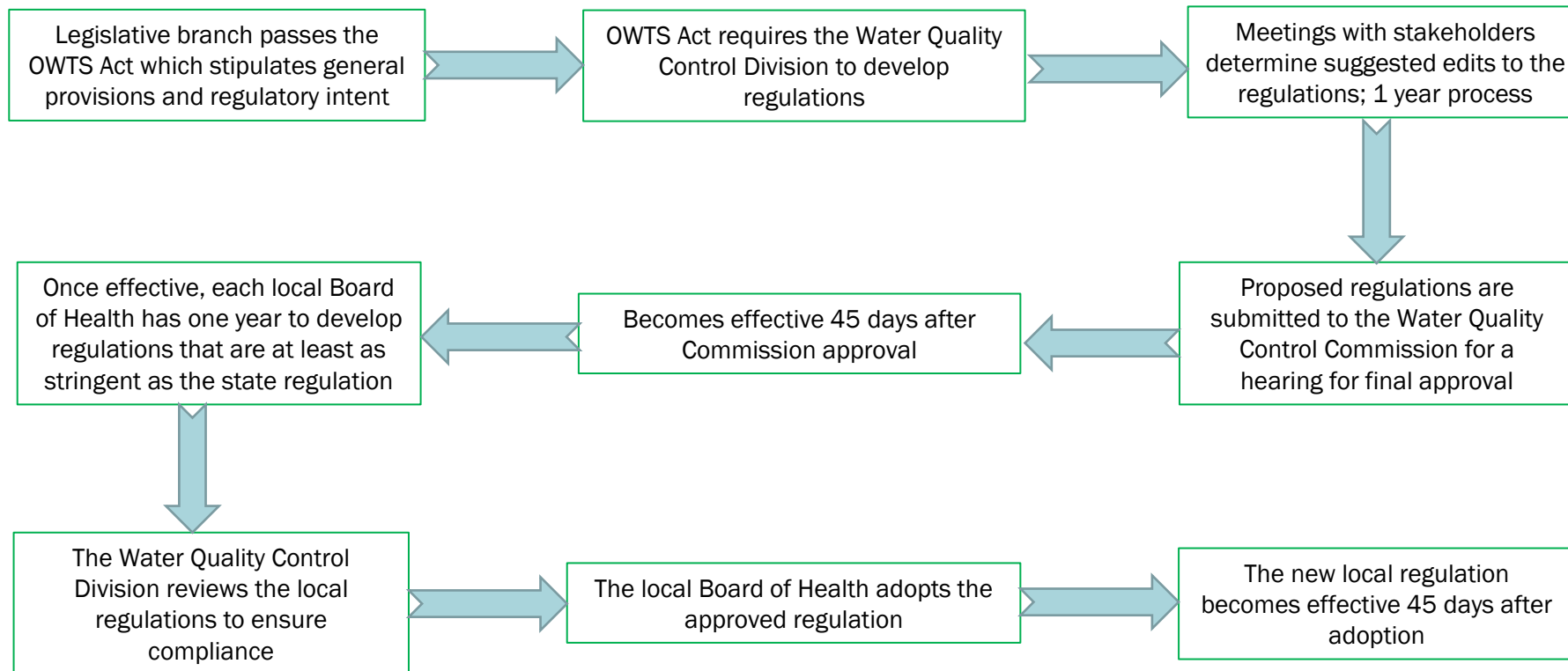
- Statute- A Law enacted by a Legislative Branch of Government (Merriam Webster)
- Regulations- A rule or order issued by an executive authority or regulatory agency of a government and having the force of law (Merriam Webster)
- Statutes typically identify the parameters of a regulation
- Regulations are typically much easier to change than statutes



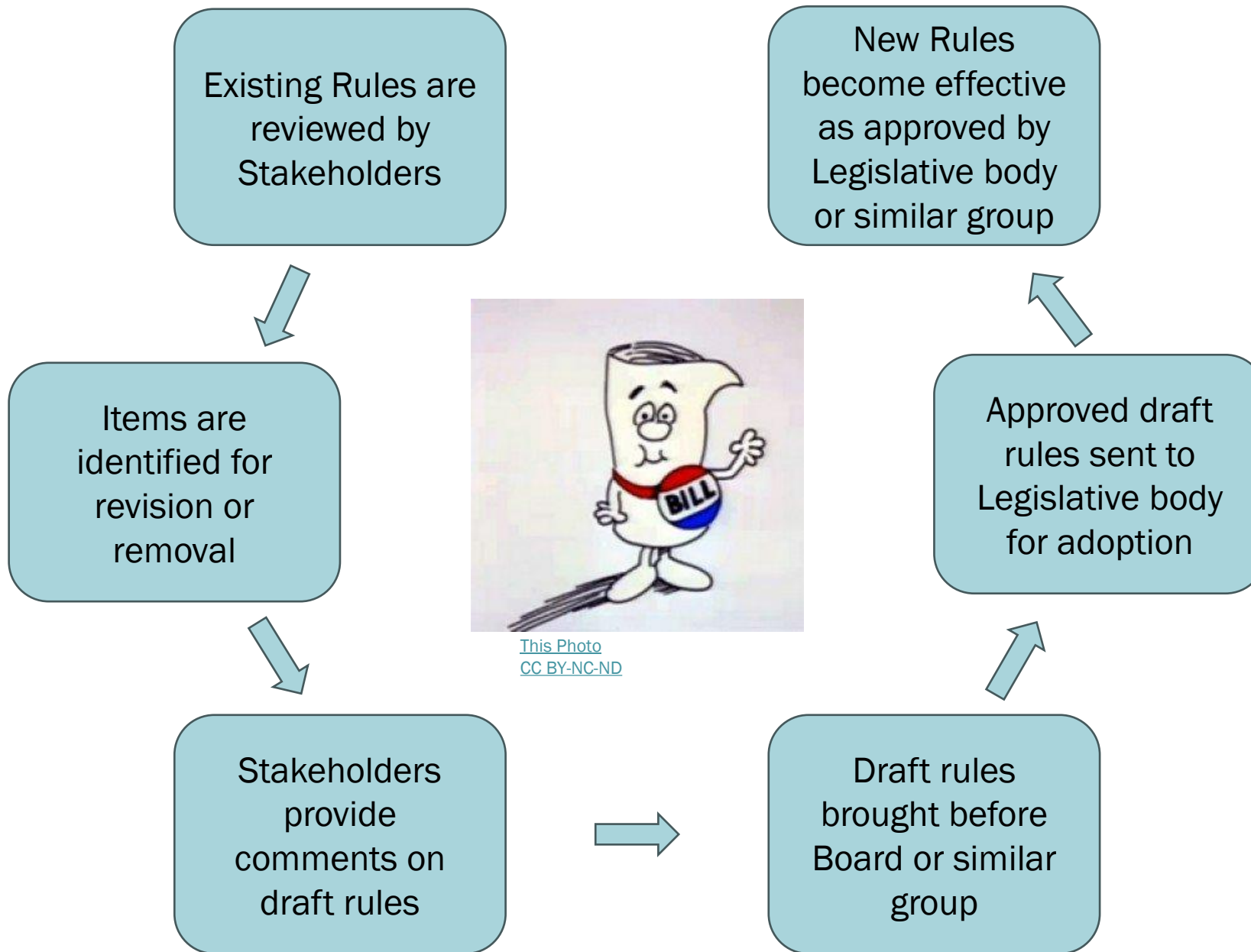
Nebraska Regulatory Process



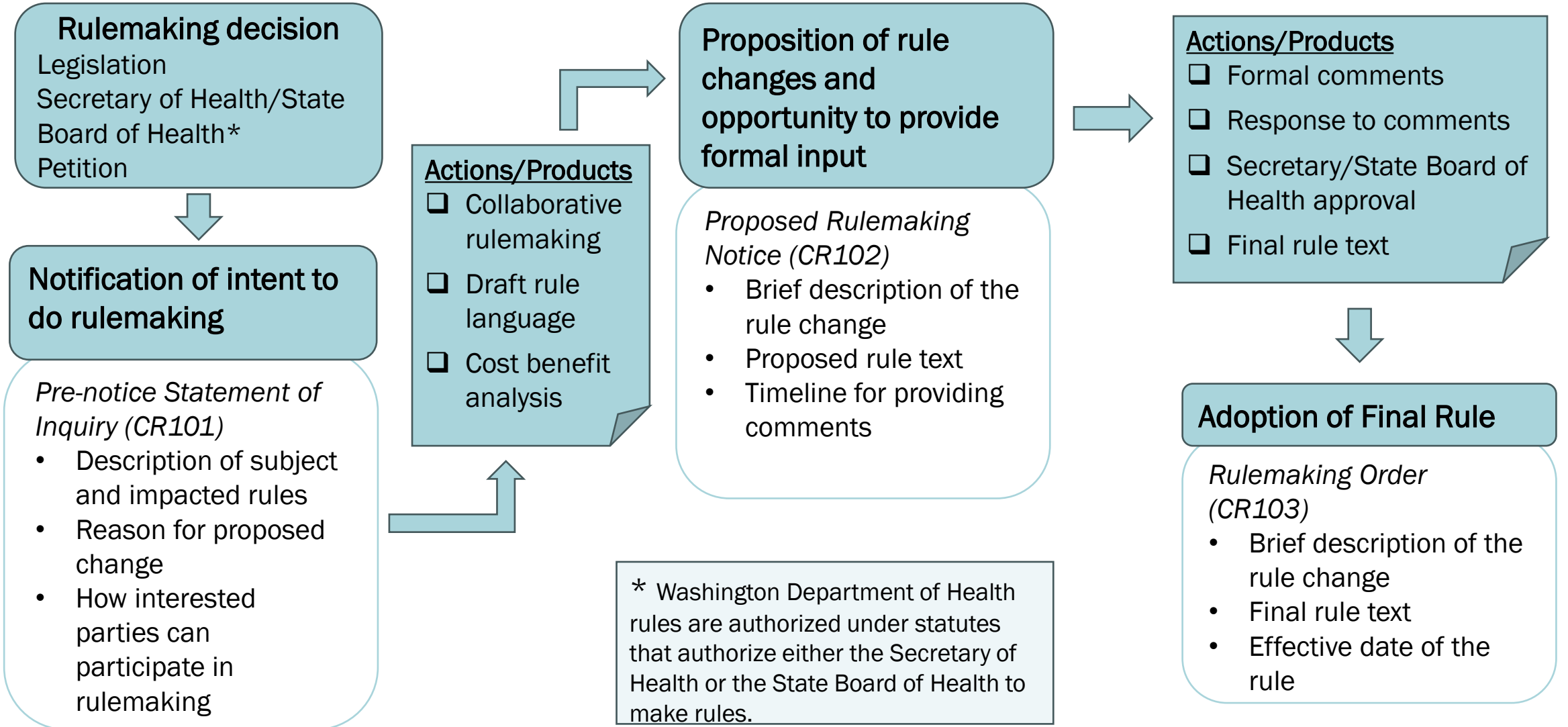
Colorado Regulatory Process



Oklahoma Regulatory Process



Washington Regulatory Process



Regulation Implementation



Varies from state to state

- Nebraska
- Colorado
- Oklahoma
- Washington

Developing Trust and Collaboration



- We all try to approach conversations and meetings with “we” mindset, not “us and them” mindset.
- We’re on the same side, we all want installations that will provide system longevity while protecting health and the environment
- We have to treat everyone the same: We look for consistent application of the regulation, what allowances does the regulation provide
- Regulations may not include specific language for new technologies, doesn’t mean innovative technologies can’t be used. Approval process varies from state to state.

Adapting to meet needs



- Often regulations must be developed to meet a variety of site conditions, and must be applicable on a state-wide or regional basis
- Colorado's regulations include "opt-in" provisions for larger local agencies to implement programs that smaller agencies may choose not to adopt
- What have we done to try to make things easier for our stakeholders/regulated community?

Getting Involved

- Advantages for both regulators and practitioners to be involved in state and national organizations
- Education can flow both ways
- Relationship development
- Understanding the issues that each sector is dealing with
- Outreach is vital to the overall development of regulatory programs
- SORA, NOWRA, and other organizations.



Conclusions

- Statutes and regulations work together to provide scope and authority, as well as requirements for the regulated community.
- Each state has its own processes, but there are many similarities in how regulations are created.
- Implementation of regulation varies by state.
- Education and outreach are key for all sides.
- Your involvement helps create better regulations and a more effective regulatory environment.



Questions?

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