

comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title and Form Numbers: Designation of Certifying Official, VA Form 22-8794. OMB Control Number: 2900-0262.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The law requires specific certifications from an educational institution or job training establishment that provides approved training for veterans and other eligible persons. VA Form 22-8794 serves as the report from the school or job training establishment as to those persons authorized to submit these certifications. VBA uses the information to ensure that VA educational benefits are not made improperly based on a report from someone other than a designated certifying official. Without the information, VA could improperly pay benefits.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, not for-profit institutions, and State, Local or Tribal Government.

Estimated Annual Burden: 417 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per

Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,500.

Dated: October 1, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

William T. Morgan,

Program Analyst.

[FR Doc. 97-28397 Filed 10-24-97; 8:45 am]

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opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This form is used to confirm the marital status and continued DIC eligibility of a surviving spouse beneficiary.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before December 26, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0495" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-8310 or FAX (202) 275-5146.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title and Form Number: Marital Status Questionnaire.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0495.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: This form is used to confirm the marital status and continued DIC eligibility of a surviving spouse beneficiary.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 2,875 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 5 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Reporting on Occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 34,500.

Dated: September 30, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

William Morgan,

Program Analyst, Information Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0455]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C., 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before November 26, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT: Ron Taylor, Information Management Service (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8015 or FAX (202) 273-5981. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0455."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Equal Opportunity Compliance Review Report, VA Form 20-8734, and Supplement to Equal Opportunity Compliance Review Report, VA Form 20-8734a.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0455.

Type of Review: Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Abstract: Executive Order 12250, Leadership and Coordination of Nondiscrimination Laws, delegated authority to the Attorney General to

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0495]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Revision

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is announcing an

coordinate the implementation and enforcement by Executive agencies of various equal opportunity laws. Government-wide guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in 28 CFR 42.406 instructs funding agencies to "provide for the collection of data and information from applicants for and recipients of Federal assistance sufficient to permit effective enforcement of Title VI." Executive Order 12250 extended the delegation to cover Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

VA's requirements to effectuate our external civil rights requirements are contained on 38 CFR, Part 18. These regulations, in part, provide that the responsible agency official or designee shall from time to time review the practices of recipients to determine whether they are complying with the equal opportunity provisions. VA Form 20-8734 is used to gather information from post-secondary proprietary schools below college level. The information is used to assure that VA Federally-funded programs are in compliance with equal opportunity laws. VA Form 20-8734a, is used to gather information from students and instructors at post-secondary proprietary schools below college level. The information is used to assure equal access and equal treatment to participants in VA Federally-funded programs.

Education Compliance Survey Specialists in VA field stations use VA Forms 20-8734 and 20-8734a during regular scheduled educational compliance survey visits, as well as during investigations of equal opportunity complaints, to identify areas which may indicate whether there is disparate treatment of members of protected groups. The information obtained on these forms is analyzed and maintained on file at the regional office. If this information were not collected, VA would be unable to carry out its civil rights enforcement responsibilities established in the DOJ's instructions.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on July 18, 1997 at page 38607.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Annual Burden and Average Burden Per Respondent: Based on past experience, VBA estimates that 76 interviews will be conducted with

recipients using VA Form 20-8734 at an average of 1 hour and 45 minutes per interview (133 hours). This includes one hour for an interview with the principal facility official, plus 45 minute for reviewing records and reports and touring the facility. It is also estimated that 76 interviews will be conducted with students using VA Form 20-8734a at an average of 30 minutes per interview (38 hours) and with instructors at an average of 30 minutes per interview (38 hours) with a total of 76 hours. Interviews are also conducted with 76 students without instructors at an average time of 30 minutes.

VBA estimates that it will take 1 hour to conduct an interview with the recipients (76 hours) and 30 minutes with the instructors (38 hours). The total number of hours for interviewing recipients and instructors are estimated at 114.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 228.

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, Allison Eydt, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-4650. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0455" in any correspondence.

Dated: September 30, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

William Morgan,

Program Analyst, Information Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0465]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C., 3501 et seq.), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and

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DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before November 26, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT: Ron Taylor, Information Management Service (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8015 or FAX (202) 273-5981. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0465."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title and Form Numbers: Student Verification of Enrollment, VA Forms 22-8979 and 22-8979-1. (NOTE: VA Forms 22-8979 and 22-8979-1 collect the same information. VA Form 22-8979 is electronically generated for monthly mailings while VA Form 22-8979-1 is printed and distributed to VA regional offices for individual use.)

OMB Control Number: 2900-0465.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The form is used by students in certifying attendance and continued enrollment in courses leading to a standard college degree or in non-college degree programs. The information is used to determine the individual's continued entitlement to VA benefits.

VA is authorized to pay educational benefits to veterans and other eligible persons pursuing approved programs not leading to a standard college degree under Chapters 30, 32, and 35, Title 38, U.S.C.; Chapter 1606, Title 10, U.S.C.; and Section 903 of Public Law 96-342. VA Form 22-8979 serves as the form for reporting necessary certification of actual attendance and verification of the student's continued enrollment for claimant's pursuing non-college degree programs.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on March 13, 1997 at page 11948-11948.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 189,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 5 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 324,000.

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to