section 58c(b)(1)(A)(i): Canada, Mexico, and the territories, possessions, and adjacent islands of the United States. (See section 24.22(g)(2)(i)(B) of the Customs Regulations for the U.S. territories, possessions, and adjacent islands (19 CFR 24.22(g)(2)(i)(B)).)

The effect of these provisions was to impose a fee of $6.50 on all vessel and aircraft passengers arriving in the United States through September 30, 1997 (section 58c(a)(5)(A)), then to reduce that fee to $5.00 per such passenger for the following fiscal years, except for those passengers arriving from Canada, Mexico, or the United States territories, possessions, and adjacent islands (section 58c(a)(5)(B)). Thus, beginning with fiscal year 1998, there was no fee applicable under section 58c(a)(5) for vessel and aircraft passengers arriving from Canada, Mexico, or the United States territories, possessions, and adjacent islands.

New Fees

Paragraph (b)(1) of section 2418 of the Act amends sections 58c(a)(5)(A) and 58c(a)(5)(B) to modify this fee structure. The amendment accomplishes two things: (1) It maintains the $5.00 fee for passengers arriving in the United States aboard commercial vessels or aircraft from places outside the United States other than Canada, Mexico, and the United States territories, possessions, and adjacent islands; and (2) it imposes a fee of $1.75 per passenger arriving aboard commercial vessels (not commercial aircraft) from Canada, Mexico, and the United States territories, possessions, and adjacent islands. There is no fee under section 58c(a)(5) for passengers arriving aboard commercial aircraft from Canada, Mexico, or the United States territories, possessions, or adjacent islands. (The territories and possessions of the United States include American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The adjacent islands of the United States include all of the islands in the Caribbean Sea, the Bahamas, Bermuda, St. Pierre, Miquelon, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.)

Procedures for Payment of Fees

Though not among the amendments set forth in the Act, the procedures for making payment to Customs of the fees provided for in sections 58c(a)(5)(A) and 58c(a)(5)(B) are here set forth for the benefit of affected parties. Under section 24.22(g)(3) of the Customs Regulations, it is the responsibility of the carriers, travel agents, tour wholesalers, or other parties issuing tickets or travel documents to collect the fee from all passengers who are subject to the fee (19 CFR 24.22(g)(3)). Under section 24.22(g)(4) of the Customs Regulations, these parties must make payment of the fees collected to Customs no later than 31 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which the fees are collected (19 CFR 24.22(g)(4)). Customs asks that remittances be made payable to the U.S. Customs Service and sent to: U.S. Customs Service, P.O. Box 198151, Atlanta, GA 30384.

Also under section 24.22(g)(4), the quarterly remittance must be accompanied by a statement that includes the following information: name, address, and taxpayer identification number of the party remitting the payment and the calendar quarter covered by the payment (19 CFR 24.22(g)(4)). Customs asks that the following additional information be provided in the statement: total number of tickets for which fees were collected, total amount of fees collected and remitted, and a breakdown of vessel fees collected and remitted under section 58c(a)(5)(A) (the $5.00 per passenger fee) and section 58c(a)(5)(B) (the $1.75 per passenger fee). This breakdown is requested to serve Customs need to separate and distinguish the amounts collected for these two fees. Affected parties are reminded of the record maintenance requirements of section 24.22(g)(6) (19 CFR 24.22(g)(6)).

Exemption From Fee

Enactment of the $1.75 per passenger fee provision of 19 U.S.C. 58c(a)(5)(B) (discussed in the section immediately above), applicable to commercial vessel passengers arriving in the United States from Canada, Mexico, or the United States territories, possessions or adjacent islands, necessitated an amendment to section 58c(b)(1)(A)(i). This latter section, prior to enactment of the Act (and since expiration of fiscal year 1997 (see section 58c(b)(1)(C))), has prohibited application of a fee under section 58c(a) to passengers arriving in the United States from Canada, Mexico, or the United States territories, possessions, and adjacent islands, whether such journey originated in one of the named places or originated in the United States and was limited to the named places. This provision, if left unmodified, would be in direct conflict with the $1.75 fee provision of section 58c(a)(5)(B), as amended by the Act.

In order to remove this conflict, paragraph (b)(2) of section 2418 of the Act simultaneously (with the amendment of subsection 58c(a)(5)(B) in paragraph (b)(1) of the Act) amends section 58c(b)(1)(A) to exclude from the prohibition of paragraph (i) fees imposed under section 58c(a)(5)(B). Thus, section 58c(b)(1)(A)(i) now prohibits application of a fee to passengers arriving in the United States from Canada, Mexico, or the territories, possessions, or adjacent islands of the United States unless those passengers arrive in the United States aboard commercial vessels.

Conforming Amendments to be Made to Customs Regulations

Appropriate regulatory amendments will be published in due course to reflect the changes necessitated by the above and other amendments to 19 U.S.C. 58c. As the above amendments to the statute are effective 30 days after the date of enactment of the Act, which occurred on June 25, 1999, the fees discussed in this document become effective on July 25, 1999.

Dated: July 21, 1999.

Wayne Hamilton,

Assistant Commissioner, Office of Finance.

[FR Doc. 99–19070 Filed 7–26–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0040]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an 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 extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments for information to determine a lender's and veteran's request for guaranty of a home loan to occupy incomplete property.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before September 27, 1999.

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. 2900–0040'' in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273–7079 or FAX (202) 275–5947.

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: Request for Postponement of Offsite or Exterior Onsite Improvements—Home Loan, VA Form 26–1847.

OMB Control Number: 2900–0040.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The form serves as the lender's and veteran's request for guaranty of a home loan for which offsite or exterior onsite improvements are incomplete to permit the veteran's occupancy of the property. Without this information, it would not be possible for loans to be guaranteed in such cases with adequate protection for the veterans and VA, and for veterans to occupy affected properties. The form provides basic information for VA determinations as to whether loan funds were properly disbursed as required by 38 CFR 36.4301 and 36.4303(d).

Affected Public: Individuals or households, Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Annual Burden: 2,500 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Generally one time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,000.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Dated: May 28, 1999.

Sandra McIntyre,

Management and Program Analyst, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 99–19089 Filed 7–26–99; 8:45 am]

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