as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: April 25, 2001.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 01–10872 Filed 5–1–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

[LR–77–86]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing temporary regulation, LR–77–86 (TD 8124), Certain Elections Under the Tax Reform Act of 1986(§ 5h.5).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before July 2, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the regulation should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622–3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5242, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Certain Elections Under the Tax Reform Act of 1986.

OMB Number: 1545–0982.

Regulation Project Numbers: LR–77–86.

Abstract: Section 5h.5(a) of this regulation sets forth general rules for the time and manner of making various elections under the Tax Reform Act of 1986. The regulation enables taxpayers to take advantage of various benefits provided by the Internal Revenue Code.

Current Actions: There is no change to this existing regulation.

Type of review: Extension of OMB approval.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, business or other for-profit organizations, not-for-profit institutions, farms, and state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 114,710.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 28,678.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: April 25, 2001.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 01–10873 Filed 5–1–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Claims Processing Task Force, Notice of Establishment

As required by Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, U.S.C. (App. 1) 9(c), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hereby gives notice of the establishment of the VA Claims Processing Task Force. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has determined that establishing this Task Force is in the public interest.

The Task Force will critique the Veterans Benefits Administration's (VBA) organization and management with a primary focus on the compensation and pension processes. The Task Force will evaluate the procedures and processes for deciding veterans' appeals of VBA rating decisions. The Task Force will also assess various issues and develop findings that are aimed at improving VA's ability to process veterans' claims for disability compensation and pension.

The Task Force will report to the Secretary recommendations that VA can take to increase productivity, reduce claims processing times, and shrink the disability claims backlog without compromising either the accuracy of decisions or service to the Nation's veterans.

The Task Force will consist of ten (10) to eleven (11) members and a Chairperson. Selection criteria for Task Force membership will be based on expertise in areas such as organizational assessment, functional analysis, evaluation of existing practices, and improving operational processes. VA will give attention to equitable geographic distribution and to ethnic and gender representation when appointing Task Force members.