DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–NEW]

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 new collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information needed to determine eligibility for aid and attendance for claimants who are patients in nursing homes.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before July 6, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M35), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail *irmnkess@vba.va.gov.* Please refer to ''OMB Control No. 2900–NEW'' 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. 3501–3521), 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 Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid and Attendance, VA Form 21–0779.

OMB Control Number: 2900–NEW.

Type of Review: New collection.

Abstract: VA Form 21–0779 is used to gather the necessary information to determine eligibility and proper payment for improved pension and/or aid and attendance for veterans who are patients in nursing homes. Parents and surviving spouses entitled to service—connected death benefits and spouses of living veterans receiving service connected compensation at 30 percent or higher are also entitled to aid and attendance based on status as nursing home patients.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Annual Burden: 8,333 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50,000.

Dated: April 22, 2004.

By direction of the Secretary.

Loise Russell,

Director, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. 04–10133 Filed 5–4–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0092]

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. 3501–21), 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 and includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before June 4, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005E3), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., or e-mail *denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov.* Please refer to ''OMB Control No. 2900–0092.'' Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395–7316. Please refer to ''OMB Control No. 2900–0092'' in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Counseling Record—Personal Information, VA Form 28–1902.

OMB Control Number: 2900–0092.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Veterans and other beneficiaries complete VA Form 28–1902 to assist in an individualized counseling session or series of sessions. VA counselors (either a counseling psychologist or vocational rehabilitation counselor) use the information provided on form to evaluate veteran claimants and assist eligible veterans to plan a suitable program of vocational rehabilitation. If needed, VA must develop a program of assistance and services to improve the veteran's potential to participate in vocational rehabilitation and provide counseling services to help a veteran or other beneficiary eligible under another educational benefit chapter to select an educational, training, or employment objective.

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 November 5, 2003, at page 62664.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 30,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 60,000.

Dated: April 21, 2004.

By direction of the Secretary:

Loise Russell,

Director, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. 04–10134 Filed 5–4–04; 8:45 am]

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