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Wednesday  
October 29, 1997

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**Part XVI**

**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

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Semiannual Regulatory Agenda

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**38 CFR Ch. I**

**Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Semiannual regulatory agenda.

**SUMMARY:** This agenda announces the regulations that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will have under development or review during the 12-month period beginning October 1997. The purpose in publishing the Department's regulatory agenda is to allow all interested persons the

opportunity to participate in VA's regulatory planning.  
**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to comment on the entries listed in the agenda by contacting the individual agency contact listed for each entry or by writing to: Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christy Fick or Gloria Armstrong, (202) 273-8605.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This document is issued pursuant to Executive Order 12866 "Regulatory Planning and Review" (and implementing guidance) and the

Regulatory Flexibility Act, which require that executive agencies semiannually publish in the **Federal Register** an agenda of regulations that VA will have under development or review. For this edition of VA's regulatory agenda, the most important significant regulatory actions are included in The Regulatory Plan, which appears in Part II of this issue of the **Federal Register**. The Regulatory Plan entries are listed in the Table of Contents below and are denoted by a bracketed bold reference, which directs the reader to the appropriate Sequence Number in Part II.

**Dated:** August 4, 1997.  
**Thomas O. Gessel,**  
*Director, Office of Regulations Management.*

Proposed Rule Stage

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3129	Schedule for Rating Disabilities—The Orthopedic System .....	2900-AE91
3130	Schedule for Rating Disabilities—Neurological Conditions and Convulsive Disorders .....	2900-AF23
3131	Schedule for Rating Disabilities—Digestive System .....	2900-AF24
3132	Veterans' Education; Suspension and Discontinuance of Payments .....	2900-AF85
3133	Individual Unemployability .....	2900-AH21
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3136	Veterans Education: Effective Date for the Award of Educational Assistance .....	2900-AH76
3137	Medical Evidence That a Disability Has Improved .....	2900-AH82
3138	Election of Education Benefits .....	2900-AH88
3139	Computation of Income .....	2900-AH94
3140	Child Custody .....	2900-AI10
3141	Veterans Education: Advanced Payments & Lump Sum Payments for Educational Assistance .....	2900-AI31
3142	Ankylosis and Limitation of Motion of Digits of the Hands .....	2900-AI44
3143	Veterans Education: Reduction in Required Reports .....	2900-AI58
3144	New Eligibility Criteria for the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty, Other Miscellaneous Issues .....	2900-AI63
3145	Revision of Decision .....	2900-AI64
3146	New Criteria for Approval of Courses for Educational Assistance Programs .....	2900-AI67
3147	Reservist Education: Monthly Verification of Enrollment and Other Reports .....	2900-AI68
3148	Miscellaneous Educational Revisions .....	2900-AI69
3149	Amended Criteria for Approval of Flight Training Courses .....	2900-AI76
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3151	Veterans Training: Time Limits for Submitting Certifications Under Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Acts .....	2900-AI85
3152	Active Military Service Certified Under Section 401 of Public Law 95-202 .....	2900-AI91
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3156	Department Protests .....	2900-AI51
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3158	Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation— Simplified Acquisition Procedures for Health Care Resources .....	2900-AI71
3159	Board of Veterans Appeals—Rules of Practice—Attorney Fee Matters .....	2900-AI98
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3163	Fee to Trace Vendors' VA-Issued Checks .....	2900-AI38
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3165	Recognition of Organizations and Accreditation of Representatives .....	2900-AI93
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## Final Rule Stage

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3168	Payment for Non-VA Outpatient Office Visits and Payment for Inpatient Non-VA Physician Services .....	2900-AH66
3169	Treatment of Research-Related Injuries to Human Subjects .....	2900-AH68
3170	Informed Consent for Patient Care .....	2900-AH72
3171	Sensori-Neural Aids Eligibility .....	2900-AI60
3172	Grants to States for Construction or Acquisition of State Home Facilities .....	2900-AI84
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3174	Schedule for Rating Disabilities—The Skin .....	2900-AF00
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3179	Service Connection for Dental Conditions for Treatment Purposes .....	2900-AH41
3180	Loan Guaranty: Electronic Payment of Funding Fee .....	2900-AH73
3181	Veterans Education: Approval of Correspondence Courses .....	2900-AH91
3182	Claims Based on Exposure to Ionizing Radiation (Prostate Cancer and Any Other Cancer) .....	2900-AI00
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3185	Veterans Education: Approval of Independent Study .....	2900-AI34
3186	Claims Based on Aggravation of Nonservice-Connected Disability .....	2900-AI42
3187	Survivors and Dependents Education: Extension of Eligibility Period .....	2900-AI45
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3189	Servicemen's and Veterans' Group Life Insurance .....	2900-AI73
3190	Veterans Training: Increase in Rates Payable Under 38 USC Chapter 31 .....	2900-AI74
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3192	Veterans and Reservists Education: Additional Educational Assistance While Serving in the Selected Reserves .....	2900-AI79
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3194	Veterans Education: Effective Date for Awards of Educational Assistance to Veterans Who Were Voluntarily Discharged .....	2900-AI88
3195	Increase in Rates Payable Under the Montgomery GI Bill— Selected Reserve .....	2900-AI89
3196	Veteran Education: Rate Increase for 1997-1998 School Year in Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty .....	2900-AI90
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3198	Miscellaneous Changes to VA Acquisition Regulations .....	2900-AI28
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3201	VA Acquisition Regulations Part 801, Legal/Technical Review Requirements .....	2900-AI96
3202	Disinterments in National Cemeteries .....	2900-AI21

References in boldface appear in the Regulatory Plan in Part II of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

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VA

Long-Term Actions (Continued)

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
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3205	Acceptance of Partial Payments; Indemnification of Default .....	2900-AE60
3206	Revised Definition of Net Value and Revised Criteria for Pre-Foreclosure Debt Waivers .....	2900-AG20
3207	Delegation of Authority To Provide Relief on Account of Administrative Error .....	2900-AH19
3208	Fiduciary Activities; Miscellaneous .....	2900-AI14
3209	Loan Guaranty: Requirements for Interest Rate Reduction Refinancing Loans .....	2900-AI92
3210	Appeals Regulations; Rules of Practice .....	2900-AE78
3211	Rules of Practice; Hearings .....	2900-AG07
3212	Rules of Practice: Medical Opinions; Appeal Processing and Submission of Additional Evidence .....	2900-AG90
3213	Rules of Practice: Oral Argument in Filing Appellate Briefs .....	2900-AI18
3214	Appeals Regulations: Remand for Further Development .....	2900-AI50
3215	Rules of Practice: Death of Appellant During Pendency of Appeal .....	2900-AI86
3216	Rules of Practice: Continuation of Representation Following Death of a Claimant or Appellant .....	2900-AI87
3217	Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex Under Federally Assisted Education Programs and Activities .....	2900-AB51
3218	Operation of Child Care Centers at VA Facilities .....	2900-AD48
3219	Standards for Collection, Compromise, Suspension, or Termination of Collection Effort, in Referral of Civil Claims for Money or Property; Delegations of Authority .....	2900-AI27

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3220	Miscellaneous Changes to Part 17 .....	2900-AI37
3221	Provision of Health Care to Vietnam Veterans' Children with Spina Bifida .....	2900-AI65
3222	Schedule for Rating Disabilities—The Muscular System .....	2900-AE89
3223	Loan Guaranty Flood Insurance Requirements .....	2900-AH63
3224	Veterans Education: Submission of School Catalog to State Approving Agencies .....	2900-AH97
3225	Vocational Rehabilitation; Miscellaneous Changes .....	2900-AI29
3226	Spouse and Surviving Spouse .....	2900-AI36
3227	Dependency and Income .....	2900-AI47
3228	Capping of National Service Life Insurance "H" Term Premiums .....	2900-AI52
3229	Reservists Education: Increase in Rates Payable Under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserves .....	2900-AI54
3230	Retroactive Payments Due to a Liberalizing Law or VA Issue .....	2900-AI57
3231	Veteran's Benefits Improvement Act of 1996 .....	2900-AI66
3232	Monetary Allowance Under 38 USC 1805 for a Child Suffering from Spina Bifida Who Is a Child of a Vietnam Veteran .....	2900-AI70
3233	Provision of Vocational Training and Rehabilitation to Vietnam Veterans' Children with Spina Bifida .....	2900-AI72
3234	Rescission of 38 USC 8110(c) Provisions in the VAAR .....	2900-AI61

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)**

**Proposed Rule Stage**

**VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

**3127. AID TO STATES FOR CARE OF VETERANS IN STATE HOMES AND GRANTS TO STATES FOR CONSTRUCTION OR ACQUISITION OF STATE HOME FACILITIES**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1741; 38 USC 1742; 38 USC 1743; 38 USC 8131; 38 USC 8132; 38 USC 8133; 38 USC 8134; 38 USC 8135; 38 USC 8136; 38 USC 8137

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 17.190 to 17.222

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** Several laws have been enacted since the last revision and update of the regulations governing the State Home Per Diem Program. Among them is Public Law 100-322, which provided that the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, is to evaluate per diem rates annually and increase them as appropriate; the rates may not exceed the percentage increase in VA general hospitals. Numerous other changes and updates are needed to: (1) Assist the States in recognition of State homes; (2) provide various options for operating State homes, such as contracting or leasing and clarification of States' responsibilities for providing financial support for the operation; and (3) opening of beds, after completing construction in which VA provided up to 65 percent of the cost. Timeframes for opening beds and clarification of assurance of financial support need to be documented. Current regulations will be updated and revised to accomplish these purposes.

Additionally updates are necessary for the State Home Construction Program. Public Law 102-585 amends the time for conditional grant approvals, prohibits obligation of funds for rescinded projects during the same fiscal year, defines the date the recapture period begins, and provides for retroactive per diem payment after completion of recognition inspection. Further, the Life Safety Code requires updating to the 1993 edition and

various other technical and editorial changes need to be made.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** L. Nan Stout, Chief, State Per Diem Program (114), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration (114B), 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-8538  
Fax: 202 273-9131

**RIN:** 2900-AE87

**3128. • REPORTING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO STATE LICENSING BOARDS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** PL 99-660; 38 USC 501; PL 99-166, sec 204(b); 38 USC 7401 to 7405

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 47.1; 38 CFR 47.2; 38 CFR 47.3

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** To amend VA's regulations for reporting within healthcare professionals to State licensing Boards.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Ruth-Ann Phelps, Ph.D., Health System Specialist (11B), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-8473

**RIN:** 2900-AI78

**VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION**

**3129. SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES—THE ORTHOPEDIC SYSTEM**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in

the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1155

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 4.71(a)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** These amendments will contain additions, deletions, and revisions of terminology resulting from a systematic review of the medical criteria used to evaluate disabilities of the orthopedic system. For the purposes of the Regulatory Plan, VA has identified this schedule for rating disabilities under the umbrella of RIN: 2900-AE40 in the "Additional Information" section of this document.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	12/28/90	55 FR 53315
ANPRM Comment Period End	02/26/91	
NPRM	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Carol McBrine, M.D., Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7210

**RIN:** 2900-AE91

**3130. SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES—NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND CONVULSIVE DISORDERS**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1155

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 4.120; 38 CFR 4.121; 38 CFR 4.122; 38 CFR 4.123; 38 CFR 4.124; 38 CFR 4.124a

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** These amendments will contain additions, deletions, and revisions of terminology resulting from a systematic review of the medical criteria used to evaluate disabilities of the neurological system. For the purposes of the Regulatory Plan, VA

VA

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has identified this schedule for rating disabilities under the umbrella of RIN: 2900-AE40 in the "Additional Information" section of this document.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	05/02/91	56 FR 20169
ANPRM Comment Period End	07/01/91	
NPRM	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Caroll McBrine, MD, Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-7210

RIN: 2900-AF23

**3131. SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES—DIGESTIVE SYSTEM**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1155

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 4.114

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** These amendments will contain additions, deletions, and revisions of terminology resulting from a systematic review of the medical criteria used to evaluate disabilities of the digestive system. For the purposes of the Regulatory Plan, VA has identified this schedule for rating disabilities under the umbrella of RIN: 2900-AE40 in the "Additional Information" section of this document.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	05/02/91	56 FR 20168
ANPRM Comment Period End	07/01/91	
NPRM	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Caroll McBrine, M.D., Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-7210

RIN: 2900-AF24

**3132. VETERANS' EDUCATION; SUSPENSION AND DISCONTINUANCE OF PAYMENTS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 3690

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.4133; 38 CFR 21.4134; 38 CFR 21.4135; 38 CFR 21.4146; 38 CFR 21.4152; 38 CFR 21.4202; 38 CFR 21.4207; 38 CFR 21.4208; 38 CFR 21.4210; 38 CFR 21.4211; 38 CFR 21.4212; 38 CFR 21.4213; 38 CFR 21.4214; 38 CFR 21.4215; 38 CFR 21.4216; ...

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** Under certain conditions VA can suspend or discontinue payments of educational assistance to individuals even though the course in which they are enrolled is approved for VA training. Current regulations provide for a review of the circumstances at the local VA facility and another de novo review at VA Central Office. The proposal would gather in one place the procedures which VA follows in deciding whether to suspend or discontinue payments; would make a part of the Code of Federal Regulations the rules at the hearing which may be conducted in making this decision; and would eliminate the de novo Central Office review.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/28/97	62 FR 45596
NPRM Comment Period End	10/27/97	
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** Businesses

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration (225), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-7187

Fax: 202 275-2636

Email: vaedusvc@patriot.net

RIN: 2900-AF85

**3133. INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1155

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 4.16

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This action will amend the Schedule for Rating Disabilities as it addressed the issue of individual unemployability, in order to establish a more objective standard for making unemployability determinations.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Lorna Weston, Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-7210

RIN: 2900-AH21

**3134. EVIDENCE IN FILE AT DATE OF DEATH**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501(a)

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.1000

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This action will clarify the definition of "medical evidence on file at time of death" (Hayes v. Brown).

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Lorna Weston, Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Veterans Benefits Administration,

VA

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Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-7210  
**RIN:** 2900-AH42

**3135. VISION**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1155

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 4.75

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This action will amend the vision portion of the rating schedule to provide current medical terminology, clarify ambiguous evaluation criteria, and add medical conditions not presently in the rating schedule. For the purposes of the Regulatory Plan, VA has identified this schedule for rating disabilities under the umbrella of RIN: 2900-AE40 in the "Additional Information" section of this document.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Carol McBrine, M.D., Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-7210

**RIN:** 2900-AH43

**3136. VETERANS EDUCATION: EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE AWARD OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**

**Priority:** Info./Admin./Other

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 3018B

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.7131

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** The provisions of 38 U.S.C. allow a veteran who was voluntarily separated from active military, naval, or air service under either 10 U.S.C. 1174a or 1175 before October 23, 1992, to elect to receive educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill, Active

Duty. He or she was given until October 23, 1993, to make the election. The provisions of 38 U.S.C. 3018B also require the veteran to submit \$1,200 to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a condition of receiving the educational assistance. The statute does not contain a deadline for paying the \$1,200. This document amends the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Education regulations to explain that an individual who made the election before October 23, 1993, must still submit the \$1,200 to VA as a condition of receiving educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill, Active Duty.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration (225), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-7187  
 Fax: 202 275-2636  
 Email: vaedusvc@patriot.net

**RIN:** 2900-AH76

**3137. MEDICAL EVIDENCE THAT A DISABILITY HAS IMPROVED**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501(a)

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.344

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** To remove redundancies and unnecessary material, simplify the language, and clarify basic principles of the regulation.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Larry Freiheit, Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-7252

**RIN:** 2900-AH82

**3138. ELECTION OF EDUCATION BENEFITS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 3562; 38 USC 3221; 38 USC 3033; 10 USC 16132

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.3023; 38 CFR 21.5041; 38 CFR 21.7040; 38 CFR 21.7540

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** An individual may be eligible for educational assistance under more than one of the education programs VA administers. Often the individual must elect which benefit she or he wants. Current regulations state that these elections are final once the individual negotiates a check issued under the program he or she has chosen. These regulations must be revised to allow for a different method of determining when an election is final because VA will soon begin converting from paying educational assistance with paper checks to paying these benefits electronically.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration (225), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-7187  
 Fax: 202 275-2636  
 Email: vaedusvc@patriot.net

**RIN:** 2900-AH88

**3139. COMPUTATION OF INCOME**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501(a)

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.260

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** Proposes to amend VA adjudication regulations concerning income computations to remove obsolete instructions for determining income limitations in section 306 pension cases. Eliminates proportionate

VA

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computation instructions for section 306 pension.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Paul Trowbridge, Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7218

**RIN:** 2900-AH94

**3140. CHILD CUSTODY**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501(a)

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.24(b); 38 CFR 3.24(c); 38 CFR 3.57(d)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** To clarify the status of school children between the ages of 18 and 23, and adult helpless children when there is a veteran or surviving spouse entitled to receive improved pension.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Paul Trowbridge, Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 801 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7210

**RIN:** 2900-AI10

**3141. VETERANS EDUCATION: ADVANCED PAYMENTS & LUMP SUM PAYMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 16136; 38 USC 3034; 38 USC 3680

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.4138; 38 CFR 21.7140

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** The regulations governing advance payments and lump sum payments of educational assistance have accumulated obsolete provisions over the years. This proposal will remove obsolete provisions and make other clarifying changes.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	03/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration (225), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI31

**3142. ANKYLOSIS AND LIMITATION OF MOTION OF DIGITS OF THE HANDS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1155

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 4.71a

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This document revises the evaluation criteria for ankylosis and limitation of motion of the fingers to ensure that veterans diagnosed with these conditions receive consistent evaluations.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Caroll McBrine, M.D., Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7230

**RIN:** 2900-AI44

**3143. VETERANS EDUCATION: REDUCTION IN REQUIRED REPORTS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 3034; 38 USC 3680(g); 38 USC 3684

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.7154; 38 CFR 21.7156

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** VA will propose to revise the nature of the information to be reported by veterans and servicemembers receiving educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty, and the number of reports required of educational institutions in which these veterans and servicemembers are enrolled. This should reduce the information collection burden for this program, while maintaining the program's integrity.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/18/97	62 FR 48969
NPRM Comment Period End	11/17/97	
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration (225), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
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Email: vaedusvc@patriot.net

**RIN:** 2900-AI58

**3144. NEW ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL—ACTIVE DUTY, OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 3002; 38 USC 3011; 38 USC 3012; 38 USC 3018; 38 USC 3018C; 38 USC 3452; 38 USC 3680A; PL 104-275, sec 107

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.4135; 38 CFR 21.5021; 38 CFR 21.5058; 38 CFR 21.5130; 38 CFR 21.7020; 38 CFR

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21.7042; 38 CFR 21.7045; 38 CFR 21.7050; 38 CFR 21.7520

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This final rule will implement various provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997, and the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1996. It will set forth new eligibility criteria that will allow additional individuals to establish eligibility for educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty; make permanent certain provisions concerning the approval of courses leading to alternative teacher certification; and make other modifications for the purpose of clarification.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** Businesses

**Government Levels Affected:** State

**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration (225), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

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**RIN:** 2900-AI63

**3145. REVISION OF DECISION**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501(a)

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.7; 38 CFR 3.103(a); 38 CFR 3.105(b); 38 CFR 3.321; 38 CFR 3.400; 38 CFR 3.401; 38 CFR 3.800

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** To amend VA regulations concerning the revision of decisions that are not clearly and unmistakably erroneous. This rulemaking authorizes designated personnel at VA regional offices, rather than VA's Central Office, to review certain adjudicated claims and, if warranted, grant a benefit sought by the claimant.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Jack Bisset, Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-7230

**RIN:** 2900-AI64

**3146. NEW CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF COURSES FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 3680A

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.4251; 38 CFR 21.4252; 38 CFR 21.4253; 38 CFR 21.7122; 38 CFR 21.7622

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This rule will bring various regulations into agreement with the Veterans Benefits Improvements Act of 1996. It will include new criteria for use in approving courses for the educational programs VA administers; it will include new criteria for VA to use in approving enrollments in courses. It will make other changes for the purposes of clarification.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** Businesses

**Government Levels Affected:** State

**Agency Contact:** June Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

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**RIN:** 2900-AI67

**3147. RESERVIST EDUCATION: MONTHLY VERIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT AND OTHER REPORTS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 10 USC 16136(b); 38 USC 3680(g); 38 USC 3684; 38 USC 5113

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.7635; 38 CFR 21.7654; 38 CFR 21.7656

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This rule will expand the current requirement that some

reservists receiving educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve verify their pursuit of a program of education monthly to include those reservists who are pursuing a standard college degree. At the same time the number of reports VA receives from educational institutions will be reduced. This will be a cost-effective way to reduce overpayments.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	03/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** Businesses

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-7187

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Email: vaedusvc@patriot.net

**RIN:** 2900-AI68

**3148. MISCELLANEOUS EDUCATIONAL REVISIONS**

**Priority:** Info./Admin./Other

**Legal Authority:** 10 USC 16136(b); 38 USC 3034; 38 USC 3036; 38 USC 3684; 38 USC 3686; 38 USC 3688; 38 USC 3690; 38 USC 3696; 38 USC 5121

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.3041; 38 CFR 21.3045; 38 CFR 21.4009; 38 CFR 21.4200; 38 CFR 21.4201; 38 CFR 21.4233; 38 CFR 21.4250; 38 CFR 21.4270; 38 CFR 21.5270; 38 CFR 21.5901; 38 CFR 21.7020; 38 CFR 21.7140; 38 CFR 21.7144; 38 CFR 21.7170

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This rule will amend the educational assistance and educational benefit regulations of VA. It will remove a number of provisions that no longer apply or otherwise have no substantive effect, and will make other changes for the purposes of clarification.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	11/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and

VA

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Program Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-7187  
 Fax: 202 275-2636  
 Email: vaedusvc@patriot.net  
**RIN:** 2900-AI69

**3149. AMENDED CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF FLIGHT TRAINING COURSES**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**Legal Authority:** 10 USC 16131(g); 38 USC 101(20); 38 USC 3032; 38 USC 3231; 38 USC 3680(g); 38 USC 3690  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.4200; 38 CFR 21.4263  
**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This proposal will amend the regulations governing the approval of flight training courses for VA training. It will bring these regulations into agreement with the current two-year operation requirement that VA is required by statute to apply to approval of enrollments. It will also permit approval of courses offered pursuant to 14 CFR part 142.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	03/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** Businesses  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
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 Fax: 202 275-2636  
 Email: vaedusvc@patriot.net  
**RIN:** 2900-AI76

**3150. ● DISEASES SUBJECT TO PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1101(3)  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.309(a)  
**Legal Deadline:** None  
**Abstract:** To amend VA regulations concerning presumptive service connection for certain chronic diseases in order to clarify the statutory term

“other organic diseases of the nervous system.” This rulemaking will establish that high frequency sensori-neural hearing loss, glaucoma meniere’s disease, narcolepsy, serve entrapment syndromes (carpal tunnel syndrome), and migraine headaches will be considered service connected if they manifest themselves to a compensable degree within one year of the date that the veteran was released from active military service.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
**Agency Contact:** Bradley Flohr, Consultant, Program Management Staff (213C), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-7241  
**RIN:** 2900-AI81

**3151. ● VETERANS TRAINING: TIME LIMITS FOR SUBMITTING CERTIFICATIONS UNDER SERVICE MEMBERS OCCUPATIONAL CONVERSION AND TRAINING ACTS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**Legal Authority:** PL 102-484, sec 4487  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.4832  
**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This proposal will place deadlines for submitting the certifications needed for both periodic payments and lump sum deferred incentive payments under the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act (SMOCTA). Since the Act has a sunset provision, all work for which payments will be due will be completed by September 30, 1997. This will allow VA to close the administration of SMOCTA.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	03/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

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 Fax: 202 275-2636  
 Email: vaedusvc@patriot.net  
**RIN:** 2900-AI85

**3152. ● ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE CERTIFIED UNDER SECTION 401 OF PUBLIC LAW 95-202**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**Legal Authority:** PL 95-202, sec 401  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.7

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** VA is amending its adjudication regulations concerning persons who are included as having served on active duty. This action is necessary because the secretary of the air force has determined that the service of two groups constitutes active military service in the armed forces of the united states. This amendment will confer eligibility for VA benefits on former members of these groups who were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
**Agency Contact:** Jack Bissett, Consultant, Regulations Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-7230  
**RIN:** 2900-AI91

**3153. ● VETERANS EDUCATION: INCREASED ALLOWANCES FOR THE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TEST PROGRAM**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**Legal Authority:** 10 USC 2143  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.5820; 38 CFR 21.5822

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** The law provides that rates of subsistence allowance and educational assistance payable under the Educational Assistance Test Program shall be adjusted annually by the Secretary of Defense based upon the average actual cost of attendance at public institutions of higher education

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in the twelve-month period since the rates were last adjusted. The Department of Defense has concluded that the rates for the 1997-98 academic year should be increased by 6 percent over the rates payable for the 1996-97 academic year. The regulations dealing with updaterrates are amended accordingly.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	03/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI94

**OFFICE OF ACQUISITION AND MATERIEL MANAGEMENT**

**3154. VAAR: COMMERCIAL ITEMS**

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501; 40 USC 486(c)

**CFR Citation:** 48 CFR 810; 48 CFR 811; 48 CFR 812; 48 CFR 836; 48 CFR 852; 48 CFR 870

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This document will amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulations (VAAR) concerning the acquisition of commercial items. It amends provisions to conform to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), reorganizes material, removes obsolete material, and sets forth internal VA procedures. These amendments are necessary for purposes of clarification and to conform VA regulations with statutory changes made by Public Law 102-355 and with FAR regulations.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/25/97	62 FR 44932

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM Comment Period End	10/24/97	
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Procurement:** This is a procurement-related action for which there is no statutory requirement. There is no paperwork burden associated with this action.

**Agency Contact:** Donald E. Kaliher, Senior Procurement Analyst (95A), Acquisition Policy Team, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-8819  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI05

**3155. PURCHASE CARD/ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE**

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501; 40 USC 486(c); 42 USC 7254

**CFR Citation:** 48 CFR 812; 48 CFR 832; 48 CFR 852

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to amend its acquisition regulations to require contractors to accept the Governmentwide commercial purchase card for payment of goods and/or services valued below the simplified acquisition threshold (SAT) and/or to use electronic data interchange (EDI) for both ordering and billing purposes. Requiring the use of purchase cards and/or EDI will be at the option of the contracting officer, if determined to be in the best interest of the Government.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Procurement:** This is a procurement-related action for which there is no statutory requirement. The agency has not yet determined whether there is a paperwork burden associated with this action.

**Agency Contact:** Donald E. Kaliher (95A), Senior Procurement Analyst, Office of Acquisition & Materiel

Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI41

**3156. DEPARTMENT PROTESTS**

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501; 40 USC 486(c)

**CFR Citation:** 48 CFR 833; 48 CFR 852

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This rulemaking action will amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulations to delete coverage which duplicates the Federal Acquisition Regulation, update references, and delete internal agency guidance to contracting officers.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/09/97	62 FR 47411
NPRM Comment Period End	11/10/97	
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Procurement:** This is a procurement-related action for which there is no statutory requirement. There is no paperwork burden associated with this action.

**Agency Contact:** Donald E. Kaliher, Senior Procurement Analyst (95A), Acquisition Policy Team, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI51

**3157. TRANSPORTATION: VAAR PART 847**

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501; 40 USC 486(c)

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**CFR Citation:** 48 CFR 847

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This change will update VA Acquisition Regulation chapters 47 and 52 and remove obsolete material.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Procurement:** This is a procurement-related action for which there is no statutory requirement. There is no paperwork burden associated with this action.

**Agency Contact:** Ramona Jones, Procurement Analyst (95A), Acquisition Policy Team, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI56

**3158. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ACQUISITION REGULATION—SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION PROCEDURES FOR HEALTH CARE RESOURCES**

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 8153

**CFR Citation:** 48 CFR 801; 48 CFR 806; 48 CFR 812; 48 CFR 837; 48 CFR 852; 48 CFR 873

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** Section 301 of Pub. L. 104-262, the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996 authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish simplified acquisition procedures for the purchase of commercial health care services, the use of medical equipment or space. These acquisition procedures will help maximize the efficiency of the acquisition process and strengthen the medical programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Procurement:** This is a procurement-related action for which there is no

statutory requirement. The agency has not yet determined whether there is a paperwork burden associated with this action.

**Agency Contact:** Don E. Kaliher (95A), Senior Procurement Analyst, Ofc of Acquisition & Materiel Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI71

**BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS**

**3159. • BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS—RULES OF PRACTICE—ATTORNEY FEE MATTERS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 5902; 38 USC 5904; 38 USC 5905

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 20.3; 38 CFR 20.609; 38 CFR 20.610

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** The Board of Veterans Appeals is proposing to amend its rules of practice to end the practice of paying attorney fees from past-due benefits, establish safeguards in case of "disinterested third-party" payees who are individuals, and simplify certain notice procedures. These changes are necessary to permit VA to focus on activities more directly benefiting veterans and their families, i.e., deciding claims and coordinating benefit payments to veterans and their families, and to clarify the situations in which third parties may pay a claimants' legal fees.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Steven L. Keller, Chief Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, Board of Veterans Appeals, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 565-5978

**RIN:** 2900-AI98

**NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM**

**3160. HEADSTONE AND MARKER INSCRIPTION POLICY**

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501; 38 USC 2306

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 1.630; 38 CFR 1.632

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** The proposed rule revises 38 CFR, section 1.630 to implement Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regulations on its inscription policy for use on Government-provided headstones or markers. The amendment formalizes and updates previous and current policies to reflect changes in VA's Simplified Inscription Policy based on inscription information authorized at Government expense, such as specific valor awards or other items paid for at private expense. The rule is published as proposed in the Federal Register to provide information to the public on specific changes to VA's inscription policy for Government-furnished headstones and markers. A 60-day public comment period is provided. This action is subject to the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act and E.O. 12866 as the rule is a statute as approved by the then-Administrator now Secretary of Veterans Affairs in 1974. The proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities and only individual VA beneficiaries could be directly affected.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Sonja McCombs, Program Analyst (402B1), NCS Communications Division, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-5183  
Fax: 202 273-6697

**RIN:** 2900-AH45

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**3161. STATE CEMETERY GRANTS: AID TO STATES FOR ESTABLISHMENT, EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF VETERANS CEMETERIES**

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 2408

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 39.1; 38 CFR 39.2; 38 CFR 39.3; 38 CFR 39.7; 38 CFR 39.8; 38 CFR 39.9 (New)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** The proposed rule revises 38 CFR, part 39, to amend Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regulations for the State Cemetery Grants Program to implement and update information on program requirements and the application process for participants. The amendment formalizes new standards and provides guidance on how States may obtain funding for grants to expand, establish, or improve State veterans cemeteries. The rule is published as proposed in the Federal Register to provide information to the public on how to apply for Federal funding for State veterans cemeteries. A 60-day public comment period is provided. It is subject to the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act and E.O. 12866 because the rule is an interpretation of statute. The proposed rule will have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities; only those States that apply for funding may be direct beneficiaries.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** State

**Agency Contact:** Ken Greenberg, Program Analyst (402B1), NCS Communications Division, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
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**RIN:** 2900-AH46

**3162. • ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 2402(5)

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 1.620(g)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes to amend regulations to specify that the eligibility of veterans' adult children for burial in a national cemetery is only for those who have become permanently incapable of self support before attaining the age of 21 years due to a physical or mental disability. Current regulations do not clearly express this requirement.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** George Vogel, Program Analyst, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI95

**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**3163. FEE TO TRACE VENDORS' VA-ISSUED CHECKS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Unfunded Mandates:** Undetermined

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 9701(b)

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 1.585

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** VA proposes to create a new regulation to charge vendors a fee to trace a VA issue check.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Charlene Bah, Office of Financial Management (047GC1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-6651

**RIN:** 2900-AI38

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL**

**3164. RELEASE OF INFORMATION FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RECORDS**

**Priority:** Info./Admin./Other

**Legal Authority:** 5 USC 552; 5 USC 552a; 38 USC 5701

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 1.500 to 1.584

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This document amends the Department of Veterans Affairs regulations governing the confidentiality and release of VA records subject to the Privacy Act, 5 USC 552a, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 USC 552, and the veterans' records confidentiality statute (section 5701), 38 USC 5701. The amendments will implement court decisions and Executive Branch guidance issued since the regulations were originally published. The amendment is part of the Administration's effort to simplify, clarify, and modernize Federal regulations.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	04/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Lorraine M. Johnson, Staff Attorney, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-6381

**RIN:** 2900-AH98

**3165. • RECOGNITION OF ORGANIZATIONS AND ACCREDITATION OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 5 USC 301; 38 USC 501(a); 38 USC 5902 to 5905

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 14.626 to 14.635

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** The Department of Veterans Affairs proposes to revise and clarify

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existing procedures and requirements regarding certification or recognition of service organizations and their representatives, and other individuals, agents and attorneys representing claimants for benefits administered by VA. The revisions are designed to improve VA's ability to assure high quality representation of claimants.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** State

**Agency Contact:** Richard J. Hipolit (022), Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-6329  
RIN: 2900-AI93

**OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**3166. • ENTITIES AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE AND DISTRIBUTE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SURPLUS FOOD**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 10 USC 2485; 38 USC 501

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 17.1000(New)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This document proposes to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regulations by setting forth procedures for VA to designate entities as authorized for receipt and

distribution of surplus food donated by the Department of Defense (DOD). This is necessary to implement a statutory mandate. This document also proposes to obtain approval of collection of information provisions concerning entities seeking designation by VA as authorized to receive and distribute the surplus food donated by DOD.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Peter Dougherty, Program Analyst (075), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-5774

RIN: 2900-AI82

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)**

Final Rule Stage

**VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

**3167. CHAMPVA REGULATIONS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1713

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 17.84

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** Title 38 CFR part 17, section 17.84, sets forth the basic policies and procedures governing the administration of the CHAMPVA program. This proposed revision to 38 CFR 17.54 would incorporate revised CHAMPVA claims-processing procedures and define benefits and services for this program. These proposed regulations will not have an effect on the economy, State or local government agencies or geographic regions, and will not increase costs, because the monetary impact would be insignificant. This regulatory action is important because current regulations describe the CHAMPVA program in terms of the initial agreement between VA and DOD (since modified) and do not address the program changes initiated by VA to centralize all CHAMPVA activities. The proposed regulations address the CHAMPVA Center's new role in program

administration, including absorption of the previously contracted-out claims-processing activities.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	11/01/96	61 FR 56486
NPRM Comment	12/31/96	
Period End		
Final Action	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** Undetermined

**Agency Contact:** Susan K. Schmetzer, Chief, Policy and Strategic Planning, CHAMPVA Center, Department of Veterans Affairs, 300 South Jackson Street, Denver, CO 80209  
Phone: 303 331-7552  
Fax: 303 331-7830  
Email: schmetzer@champva.denver.va.gov

RIN: 2900-AE64

**3168. PAYMENT FOR NON-VA OUTPATIENT OFFICE VISITS AND PAYMENT FOR INPATIENT NON-VA PHYSICIAN SERVICES**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1703

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 17.55; 38 CFR 17.56; 38 CFR 17.128

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This proposed rule will amend part 17.50f(h) to change payment for non-VA outpatient office visits and payment for inpatient non-VA physician services provided to eligible VA beneficiaries. VA basically would adopt the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) Department of Health and Human Services Medicare Program Fee Schedule for Physician Services. VA payment would be consistent with payment for similar medical services provided by other Government agencies.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/22/97	62 FR 39197
NPRM Comment	09/22/97	
Period End		
Final Action	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Abby O'Donnell, Program Specialist (161A1), Headquarters Health Administration Svc, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-8307

VA

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Fax: 202 273-9609

RIN: 2900-AH66

**3169. TREATMENT OF RESEARCH-RELATED INJURIES TO HUMAN SUBJECTS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 17

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** VA proposes to amend its regulations to provide (or pay for the provision of) necessary medical treatment to human subjects injured as a result of participation in VA research. All participants in research approved by a VA Research and Development Committee would be eligible for such treatment, even if the research was funded from sources other than the VA research appropriation. Experience suggests that the incidence of research-related injury is low, and therefore the additional costs of this policy will be minimal.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/09/96	61 FR 47469
NPRM Comment Period End	11/08/96	
Final Action	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Ted Lorei, Staff Assistant - Research and Development, Veterans Health Administration (12C), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-8285

RIN: 2900-AH68

**3170. INFORMED CONSENT FOR PATIENT CARE**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 7331; 38 USC 7332; 38 USC 7333

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 17.32

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** VA proposes to amend its regulations concerning informed consent for patient care. It is proposed to describe the requirements for obtaining and documenting informed consent. It is also proposed to describe the types of treatments or procedures

for which the patient's signature on a VA authorized form would be required and to establish a list and priority of surrogates authorized to act on behalf of patients who lack decisionmaking capacity. Further, it is proposed to establish an internal decisionmaking process for patients who lack decisionmaking capacity and have no authorized surrogate. This action is intended to protect patient rights and to ensure that the patient (or the patient's surrogate or representative) receives sufficient information to make an informed health care decision.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/07/96	61 FR 41108
NPRM Comment Period End	10/07/96	
Final Action	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Ruth-Ann Phelps, Ph.D., Health Systems Specialist (10AE), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterean Health Administration, Department of Veterans Administration, 810 Vermont Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-8473

RIN: 2900-AH72

**3171. SENSORI-NEURAL AIDS ELIGIBILITY**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** PL 104-262; 38 USC 501(a); 38 USC 1721; 38 USC 1701

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 17

**Legal Deadline:** Other, Statutory, November 8, 1996.

PL 104-262, Sec 103, Required VA to establish guidelines for the provision of a sensori-neural aids by 11/8/96, VHA Directive published 11/7/96.

**Abstract:** This Interim Final Rule provides that VA will furnish needed sensori-neural aids to the following veterans: (1) Those with a compensable service-connected disability; (2) those who are former prisoners of war; (3) those in receipt of benefits under 38 USC 1151; (4) those in receipt of increased pension based on the need for regular aid and attendance or by reason of being permanently housebound; (5) those who have a visual or hearing impairment that resulted from the existence of another

medical condition for which the veteran is receiving VA care, or which resulted from treatment of that medical condition; (6) those with a significant functional or cognitive impairment evidenced by deficiencies in the ability to perform activities of daily living, but not including routinely occurring visual or hearing impairments; and (7) those visually or hearing impaired so severely that the provision of sensori-neural aids is necessary to permit active participation in their own medical treatment.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	06/03/97	62 FR 30240
Final Action	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Additional Information:** VA will furnish needed hearing aids to those veterans who have service-connected hearing disabilities rated zero percent if there is organic, conductive, mixed or sensory hearing impairment and loss of pure tone hearing sensitivity in the low, mid, or high frequency range or a combination of frequency ranges which contribute to a loss of communication ability; however, hearing aids are to be provided only as needed for the service-connected hearing disability.

**Agency Contact:** Frederick Downs, Jr., Chief Consultant, Prosthetic and Sensory AIDS Service Strategic Healthcare Group, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-8515

Fax: 202 273-9110

RIN: 2900-AI60

**3172. • GRANTS TO STATES FOR CONSTRUCTION OR ACQUISITION OF STATE HOME FACILITIES**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 8135(b)(2)(D)

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 17.212

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This document proposes to amend the "Medical" regulations in 38 CFR part 17 regarding applications for grants to States for the construction or acquisition of State home facilities. VA awards grants based on a priority ranking system. Usually, the higher priority applications deplete the

available funding to the extent that the lowest ranking application to be offered funding is offered only a partial grant. It is proposed that if the lowest ranking grant application receives only a partial grant in a fiscal year and if such grant award is partial solely because VA has insufficient funds for a full grant, the application would be placed at the top of the list within its priority group for the next fiscal year. Often applicants are hesitant to accept a partial grant because of the uncertainty of receiving an additional grant the next fiscal year. It appears that the adoption of the proposal would encourage States to accept a partial grant by creating the likelihood that the State would receive an additional grant in the subsequent fiscal year. Accordingly, this would help ensure that VA would be able to award grants to higher priority applicants that might otherwise reject partial funding.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/29/97	62 FR 40492
NPRM Comment Period End	09/29/97	
Final Action	04/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Kathleen Greve, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-8534

**RIN:** 2900-AI84

**VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION**

**3173. SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES—THE CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM**

**Regulatory Plan:** This entry is Seq. No. 106 in Part II of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

**RIN:** 2900-AE40

**3174. SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES—THE SKIN**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or

duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1155

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 4.118

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** These amendments will contain additions, deletions, and revisions of terminology resulting from a systematic review of the medical criteria used to evaluate skin conditions. For the purposes of the Regulatory Plan, VA has identified this schedule for rating disabilities under the umbrella RIN: 2900-AE40 in the "Additional Information" section of this document.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	05/02/91	56 FR 20171
ANPRM Comment Period End	07/01/91	
NPRM	01/19/93	58 FR 4969
NPRM Comment Period End	03/22/93	
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Carol McBrine, M.D., Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7210

**RIN:** 2900-AF00

**3175. SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES—DISEASES OF THE EAR AND OTHER SENSE ORGANS**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1155

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 4.75; 38 CFR 4.76; 38 CFR 4.77; 38 CFR 4.78; 38 CFR 4.79; 38 CFR 4.80; 38 CFR 4.83; 38 CFR 4.84; 38 CFR 4.85; 38 CFR 4.86; 38 CFR 4.87

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** These amendments will contain additions, deletions, and revisions of terminology resulting from a systematic review of the medical

criteria used to evaluate impairments of the eye, ear, and other sense organs. For the purposes of the Regulatory Plan, VA has identified this schedule for rating disabilities under the umbrella of RIN: 2900-AE40 in the "Additional Information" section of this document.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
ANPRM	05/02/91	56 FR 20170
ANPRM Comment Period End	07/01/91	
NPRM	04/12/94	59 FR 17295
NPRM Comment Period End	06/13/94	
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Carol McBrine, M.D., Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7210

**RIN:** 2900-AF22

**3176. AMENDMENTS TO TRAINING AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** PL 102-568

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.40; 38 CFR 21.260; 38 CFR 21.6005; 38 CFR 21.6042; 38 CFR 21.6050; 38 CFR 21.6052; 38 CFR 21.6054; 38 CFR 21.6056; 38 CFR 21.6058; 38 CFR 21.6420; 38 CFR 21.6501; 38 CFR 21.6503; 38 CFR 21.6505; 38 CFR 21.6507; 38 CFR 21.6523; ...

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** The Veterans' Benefits Act of 1992 extends the termination date for the program of vocational training for certain pensioners through December 31, 1995; makes permanent the programs protecting health care benefits for pensioners who lose their benefits due to income from work or training and the special counseling and employment services program for veterans with total disability ratings because of individual unemployability. In addition the law authorizes a 10

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percent increase in subsistence allowance for participants in the vocational rehabilitation program, and extends eligibility for vocational rehabilitation to veterans with service-connected disability of 10 percent under certain conditions. The change also includes revisions to implement regulatory reform.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	04/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Charles Graffam, Veterans Claims Examiner (281), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7410

**RIN:** 2900-AG00

**3177. FIBROMYALGIA**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1155

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 4.71(a)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This action will add a diagnostic code and criteria for a rheumatologic condition characterized by pain and tender points. For the purposes of the Regulatory Plan, VA has identified this schedule for rating disabilities under the umbrella of RIN: 2900-AE40 in the "Additional Information" section of this document.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	05/07/96	61 FR 20438
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Caroll McBryne, Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 272-7210

**RIN:** 2900-AH05

**3178. LOAN GUARANTY: AUTHORITY TO CLOSE VA-GUARANTEED LOANS ON AN AUTOMATIC BASIS, WITHDRAWAL OF AUTOMATIC PROCESSING AUTHORITY AND ELIMINATION OF LATE REPORTING WAIVERS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501; 38 USC 3702(d)(3); 38 USC 3702(e)

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 36.4348; 38 CFR 36.4349; 38 CFR 36.4303(a); 38 CFR 36.4303(d); 38 CFR 36.4335(a)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** VA is proposing to amend its loan guaranty regulations regarding criteria used to approve nonsupervised lenders to process VA-guaranteed loans on the automatic basis. The Department is considering changes in the following requirements for lender participation in the automatic authority program: lender experience, working capital, lines of credit, and VA-approved underwriter eligibility and training. The Department is also considering changes in the regulation regarding annual recertification of lenders and standards for withdrawal of automatic authority. VA is also proposing to amend the requirements pertaining to lenders' reporting of VA-guaranteed loans to the Secretary within 60 days following full disbursement. The revised regulation will provide that if the lender does not report the loan within 60 days, the late report must be accompanied by a statement signed by a corporate officer of the lending institution, certifying that the loan is current and offering an explanation for the late reporting. This change will eliminate the current requirement for VA regional office to go through the formality of making a decision on whether or not to waive the requirement and instead either issue the guaranty or not, as appropriate under the circumstances.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/15/97	62 FR 37824
NPRM Comment Period End	09/15/97	
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Judith Caden, Assistant Director, Loan Policy (264), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810

Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-7368

**RIN:** 2900-AH23

**3179. SERVICE CONNECTION FOR DENTAL CONDITIONS FOR TREATMENT PURPOSES**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501(a)

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.381

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This action will clarify the term "reasonable period of service" (Manio v. Brown).

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/24/97	62 FR 8201
NPRM Comment Period End	04/25/97	
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Lorna Weston, Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-7210

**RIN:** 2900-AH41

**3180. LOAN GUARANTY: ELECTRONIC PAYMENT OF FUNDING FEE**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501(a)

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 36.4312

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** VA is proposing to require that all funding fee collections be made electronically through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) program. The ACH program provides VA-approved lenders the opportunity to pay the funding fee electronically instead of sending checks and the Loan Guaranty Funding Fee Transmittal by mail.

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**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/07/97	62 FR 24872
NPRM Comment Period End	07/07/97	
Final Action	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Judith Caden, Assistant Director for Loan Policy (264), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7368

**RIN:** 2900-AH73

**3181. VETERANS EDUCATION: APPROVAL OF CORRESPONDENCE COURSES**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** PL 102-568

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.4256; 38 CFR 21.4279

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** Current regulations provide that in order for a correspondence course to be approved for VA training it must take not less than six hours of preparation a week over any 26-week period and no more than 20 percent of the students should be able to complete the course in less than six months. These substantive rules were based upon authority formerly contained in statute that allowed the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to set correspondence course completion standards by regulation. This discretionary authority has been eliminated, and different standards have been incorporated in the statute. The implementing regulations must be amended to reflect statutory provisions.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/01/97	62 FR 35484
NPRM Comment Period End	09/02/97	
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** Businesses

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration (225), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810

Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-7187

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Email: vaedusvc@patriot.net

**RIN:** 2900-AH91

**3182. CLAIMS BASED ON EXPOSURE TO IONIZING RADIATION (PROSTATE CANCER AND ANY OTHER CANCER)**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Legal Authority:** PL 98-542

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.311(b)(2)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** To implement a decision by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that, based on all evidence currently available to him, prostate cancer and any other cancers are "radiogenic diseases".

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/25/96	61 FR 50264
NPRM Comment Period End	11/25/96	
Final Action	04/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Jack Bissett, Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-7230

**RIN:** 2900-AI00

**3183. LOAN GUARANTY: CREDIT STANDARDS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 101; 38 USC 501; 38 USC 3710

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 36.4337

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** VA proposes to amend its loan guaranty regulations regarding credit standards used by lenders to evaluate the creditworthiness of veteran-borrowers for home loans. VA is committed to regular review and revision of the standards used to determine the creditworthiness of veteran-applicants as issues arise and as the mortgage industry changes. VA recognizes that it is important to keep in step with the rest of the home

mortgage industry at least to an extent appropriate for Government benefit-related mortgage program.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	05/07/97	62 FR 24874
NPRM Comment Period End	07/07/97	
Final Action	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Judith Caden, Assistant Director for Loan Policy (264), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-7368

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**RIN:** 2900-AI16

**3184. INTERVERTEBRAL DISC SYNDROME**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1155

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 4.71(a)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** To ensure that veterans diagnosed with intervertebral disc syndrome meet uniform criteria and receive consistent evaluations.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/24/97	62 FR 8204
NPRM Comment Period End	04/25/97	
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Carol McBrine, M.D., Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

Phone: 202 273-7210

**RIN:** 2900-AI22

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**3185. VETERANS EDUCATION: APPROVAL OF INDEPENDENT STUDY**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 3675; 38 USC 3680A  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.4267  
**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This proposal will modernize the definition of independent study to include the modern technologies used to provide interaction between student and faculty. Furthermore, the proposal will explicitly state State Approving Agency responsibilities in approving independent study courses.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	11/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** Undetermined  
**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration (225), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
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 Email: vaedusvc@patriot.net  
**RIN:** 2900-AI34

**3186. CLAIMS BASED ON AGGRAVATION OF NONSERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY**

**Priority:** Other Significant  
**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501(a)  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.310  
**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This document amends VA regulations concerning secondary service connection for certain disabilities. This amendment is necessary because of a recent decision by the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals, and will establish a new means by which veterans may be compensated for disabilities related to other service-connected conditions.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/04/97	62 FR 30547
NPRM Comment Period End	08/04/97	
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Judy Veres, Consultant, Judicial Review Staff (213C), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-7240

**RIN:** 2900-AI42

**3187. SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATION: EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY PERIOD**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 3512  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.3021; 38 CFR 21.3046; 38 CFR 21.3047

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** Eligible spouses and surviving spouses have 10 years to use their educational assistance under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program. However, if the spouse or surviving spouse was prevented from initiating or completing a program of education within the 10-year period due to a physical or mental disability that is not the result of willful misconduct, the statute permits the extension of that period. This proposed rule will implement this statutory provision.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	01/09/97	62 FR 1303
NPRM Comment Period End	03/10/97	
Final Action	11/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration (225), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-7187  
 Fax: 202 275-2636

**RIN:** 2900-AI45

**3188. COLD INJURIES**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1155  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 4.104  
**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This document is amended to provide evaluation criteria based on current medical knowledge about the long-term effects of cold injury that can be applied to any part of the body affected by cold injury.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	03/28/97	62 FR 14832
NPRM Comment Period End	05/27/97	
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
**Agency Contact:** Caroll McBryne, M.D., Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-7230  
**RIN:** 2900-AI46

**3189. SERVICEMEN'S AND VETERANS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE**

**Priority:** Info./Admin./Other  
**Legal Authority:** PL 104-275, sec 402; PL 104-275, sec 403; PL 104-274, sec 405  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 1.506; 38 CFR 3.261; 38 CFR 9.1; 38 CFR 9.4; 38 CFR 9.6; 38 CFR 9.7; 38 CFR 9.11; 38 CFR 9.12

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** Section 402 merged retired reservist Servicemen's Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance and extends Veterans Group Life Insurance to members of the Ready Reserves at the time of separation from the Reserves. Section 403 allows for the conversion of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance to commercial insurance at any time. Section 405 changes the name of the "Servicemen's Group Life Insurance" program to the "Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance" program.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
**Agency Contact:** Jeanne Derrick (290B), Attorney/Advisor, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits

VA

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RIN: 2900-AI73

**3190. VETERANS TRAINING:  
INCREASE IN RATES PAYABLE  
UNDER 38 USC CHAPTER 31**

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent  
**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 3108; 38 USC 3462(e); PL 101-237  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.260(b)  
**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** By statute, the monthly rates of basic subsistence allowance payable under 38 U.S.C. chapter 31 must be adjusted each fiscal year. In accordance with the statutory formula, the regulations governing rates of basic subsistence allowance payable under 38 U.S.C. chapter 31 for fiscal year 1996 are changed to show a 2.9 increase in these rates.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Richard Layton, Veterans Claims Examiner (28), Vocational Rehabilitation & Counseling Svc, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7413  
Fax: 202 275-5122  
RIN: 2900-AI74

**3191. • COMPENSATION FOR  
CERTAIN UNDIAGNOSED ILLNESSES**

**Priority:** Other Significant  
**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1117  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.317  
**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** VA is amending its adjudication regulations regarding compensation for disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses suffered by Persian Gulf veterans. This amendment will expand the period within which such disabilities must become manifest to a compensable degree in order for entitlement for compensation to be established.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	04/29/97	62 FR 23138
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Jack Bisset, Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7230

RIN: 2900-AI77

**3192. • VETERANS AND RESERVISTS  
EDUCATION: ADDITIONAL  
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE WHILE  
SERVING IN THE SELECTED  
RESERVES**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**Legal Authority:** 10 USC 16131

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.7131; 38 CFR 21.7135; 38 CFR 21.7136; 38 CFR 21.7137; 38 CFR 21.7139; 38 CFR 21.7631; 38 CFR 21.7635; 38 CFR 21.7636; 38 CFR 21.7639

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 provides that the monthly rate of educational assistance may be increased by an amount that exceeding \$350 per month for certain persons. To be eligible a person must qualify for educational assistance payable under the Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty through at least three years active duty service and must also agree to serve at least six years in the Selected Reserve, or the person must qualify for educational assistance payable under the Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve. Also, to be eligible the person must have a skill or specialty designated by the Secretary of the appropriate Department of the military as a skill or specialty in which there is a critical shortage of personnel, or for which it is difficult to recruit or, in the case of critical units, to retain personnel. The Act further provides that the actual amounts of the increase shall be determined by the Secretary of Defense. The appropriate regulations will be amended to reflect the statutory revisions.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	01/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7187  
Fax: 202 275-2636  
Email: vaedusvc@patriot.net  
RIN: 2900-AI79

**3193. • SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN  
MINIMUM INCOME ANNUITY**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**Legal Authority:** PL 92-425; PL 104-201  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.811  
**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** VA is amending its adjudication regulations to provide for payment of the minimum income annuity, authorized by Pub. L. 92-425 as amended to certain surviving spouses. This amendment is necessary to reflect statutory revisions contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 that transfers the responsibility for paying this benefit from DoD to VA.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Jack Bissett, Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7230  
RIN: 2900-AI83

**3194. • VETERANS EDUCATION:  
EFFECTIVE DATE FOR AWARDS OF  
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO  
VETERANS WHO WERE  
VOLUNTARILY DISCHARGED**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 3018B  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.7131

VA

Final Rule Stage

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** A provision of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 allowed certain voluntarily discharged individuals to withdraw their election not to participate in the Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty. Those individuals who were discharged before October 23, 1992, were required to submit \$1,200 to VA. While the statute contains a deadline of October 23, 1993, for withdrawing the election not to participate, there is no deadline for submitting the \$1,200. This rule will make clear that the submission of \$1,200 is a necessary condition for these veterans to establish entitlement to the Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty. The effective Date of an award of educational assistance will depend on receipt of that \$1,200.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	03/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7187  
Fax: 202 273-2636  
Email: vaedusvc@patriot.net

**RIN:** 2900-AI88

**3195. • INCREASE IN RATES PAYABLE UNDER THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL—SELECTED RESERVE**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 10 USC 16136

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.7636

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** By statute, the monthly rates of educational assistance payable to reservists under the Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve must be adjusted each fiscal year for inflation. In accordance with the statutory formula, the regulations governing rates of educational assistance payable under the Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve for fiscal year 1998 will be changed to show the required increase.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	03/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7187  
Fax: 202 273-2636  
Email: vaedusvc@patriot.net

**RIN:** 2900-AI89

**3196. • VETERAN EDUCATION: RATE INCREASE FOR 1997-1998 SCHOOL YEAR IN MONTGOMERY GI BILL—ACTIVE DUTY**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 3015

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.7136; 38 CFR 21.7137

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** By statute, the monthly rates of basic educational assistance payable to veterans and servicemembers under the Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty must be adjusted each fiscal year. In accordance with the statutory formula, the regulations governing rates of basic educational assistance payable under the Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty for fiscal year 1998 (October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998) will be changed to show the required increase.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	03/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** June C. Schaeffer, Assistant Director for Policy and Program Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7187  
Fax: 202 273-2636  
Email: vaedusvc@patriot.net

**RIN:** 2900-AI90

**3197. • DIRECT SERVICE CONNECTION (POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER)**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 1154(b)

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.304(f)

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** VA is amending its regulations concerning the extent of evidence required to establish service connection for post-traumatic stress disorder. The intended effect of this amendment is to implement a decision by the United States Court of Veterans Appeals that current regulations do not adequately reflect the governing statute.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	12/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Jack Bisset, Consultant, Regulations Staff (213A), Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-7230

**RIN:** 2900-AI97

**OFFICE OF ACQUISITION AND MATERIEL MANAGEMENT**

**3198. MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES TO VA ACQUISITION REGULATIONS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501; 40 USC 486(c)

**CFR Citation:** 48 CFR ch 8

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This change will provide title updates and eliminates restatements and provisions that are duplicative of FAR or obsolete.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Ramona Jones, Procurement Analyst (95A), Acquisition Policy Team, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420

VA

Final Rule Stage

Phone: 202 273-8818  
 Fax: 202 273-9302  
 Email: jones@mail.va.gov  
 RIN: 2900-AI28

**3199. DEFINITIONS AND TERMS FOR PART 802**

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent  
**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501; 38 USC 486(c)  
**CFR Citation:** 48 CFR ch 8  
**Legal Deadline:** None  
**Abstract:** This document will update the definition of a Head of the Contracting Activity in 48 CFR part 802.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
**Procurement:** This is a procurement-related action for which there is no statutory requirement. There is no paperwork burden associated with this action.

**Agency Contact:** John A. Corso (95A), Senior Procurement Analyst, Ofc of Acquisition & Materiel Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-8754  
 Fax: 202 273-9302  
 RIN: 2900-AI49

**3200. VA ACQUISITION REGULATIONS: TITLE UPDATE**

**Priority:** Info./Admin./Other  
**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501; 40 USC 486(c)  
**CFR Citation:** 48 CFR ch 8  
**Legal Deadline:** None  
**Abstract:** This change will update titles and mail routing symbols.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None  
**Procurement:** This is a procurement-related action for which there is no statutory requirement. There is no paperwork burden associated with this action.

**Agency Contact:** Ramona Jones, Procurement Analyst (95A), Acquisition Policy Team, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-8818  
 Fax: 202 273-9302  
 Email: jones@mail.va.gov  
 RIN: 2900-AI62

**3201. • VA ACQUISITION REGULATIONS PART 801, LEGAL/TECHNICAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS**

**Priority:** Info./Admin./Other  
**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501; 40 USC 486(c)  
**CFR Citation:** 48 CFR 801.602-70; 48 CFR 801.602-71; 48 CFR 801.602-72; 48 CFR 801.602-73; 48 CFR 801.602-74; 48 CFR 801.602-75; 48 CFR 815.805-4; 48 CFR 816.102(a); 48 CFR 817.102-1; 48 CFR 817.402; 48 CFR 819.801; 48 CFR 842.000; 48 CFR 842.102; 48 CFR 842.202; 48 CFR 842.1203; ...

**Legal Deadline:** None  
**Abstract:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending the Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulations (VAAR) to remove requirements from the Code of Federal Regulations that have been determined to be VA internal procedures that do not affect the public.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
**Agency Contact:** Don Kaliher, Acquisition Policy Team (95A), Ofc of Acquisition & Materiel Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-8819  
 RIN: 2900-AI96

**NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM**

**3202. DISINTERMENTS IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES**

**Priority:** Other Significant  
**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 1.621

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is issuing a final rule concerning disinterments from national cemeteries. A proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on June 20, 1996 (61 FR 31479). No comments from the public were received. Current regulations permit disinterment of persons buried in a national cemetery with the consent of immediate family members. The definition of immediate family members includes a surviving spouse only if unmarried. The regulation change defines immediate family members for purposes of disinterments to include a surviving spouse regardless of whether remarried or not. This is necessary since we believe the emotional ties of the surviving spouse are sufficient to justify his or her consent as a condition of disinterment. This document also makes nonsubstantive changes for purpose of clarification.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/20/96	61 FR 31479
NPRM Comment Period End	08/19/96	
Final Action	10/00/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
**Agency Contact:** Ken Greenberg, Program Analyst (402B1), NCS Communications Division, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
 Phone: 202 273-5179  
 Fax: 202 273-6697  
 RIN: 2900-AI21

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)**

**Long-Term Actions**

**VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

**3203. • MEDICAL**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501; 38 USC 1721

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 17.30; 38 CFR 17.35; 38 CFR 17.43; 38 CFR 17.46; 38 CFR 17.47; 38 CFR 17.49; 38 CFR 17.50; 38 CFR 17.52; 38 CFR 17.53; 38 CFR 17.56; 38 CFR 17.65; 38 CFR 17.66; 38 CFR 17.90; 38 CFR 17.91

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** To amend 38 CFR part 17 to assure rules governing the provisions of medical services, domiciliary and nursing home care in department and non-department facilities are provided consistent with current law.

**Timetable:** Next Action Undetermined

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Roscoe G. Butler, Program Specialist, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420  
Phone: 202 273-8302

**RIN:** 2900-AI80

**VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION**

**3204. LOAN GUARANTY: TITLE EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS AND OCCUPANCY REQUIREMENTS FOR CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTIES TO VA**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 36.4320

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	08/06/90	55 FR 31847
NPRM Comment Period Extended	10/05/90	55 FR 35325
Final Action	00/00/00	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Leonard A. Levy

Phone: 202 273-7344

**RIN:** 2900-AE20

**3205. ACCEPTANCE OF PARTIAL PAYMENTS; INDEMNIFICATION OF DEFAULT**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 4202; 38 CFR 4275; 38 CFR 4301; 38 CFR 4315; 38 CFR 4323

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	03/02/94	59 FR 9944
NPRM Comment Period End	05/02/94	
Final Action	00/00/00	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Leonard A. Levy  
Phone: 202 273-7344

**RIN:** 2900-AE60

**3206. REVISED DEFINITION OF NET VALUE AND REVISED CRITERIA FOR PRE-FORECLOSURE DEBT WAIVERS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 36.4301; 38 CFR 36.4323

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	09/22/93	58 FR 49251
NPRM Comment Period End	10/22/93	
Final Action	00/00/00	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Len Levy  
Phone: 202 273-7344

**RIN:** 2900-AG20

**3207. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE RELIEF ON ACCOUNT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 2.7

**Timetable:** Next Action Undetermined

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Paul Trowbridge  
Phone: 202 273-7210

**RIN:** 2900-AH19

**3208. FIDUCIARY ACTIVITIES; MISCELLANEOUS**

**Priority:** Info./Admin./Other

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 13.2; 38 CFR 13.3; 38 CFR 13.55; 38 CFR 13.56; 38 CFR 13.58; 38 CFR 13.59; 38 CFR 13.61; 38 CFR 13.64; 38 CFR 13.69; 38 CFR 13.74; 38 CFR 13.75; 38 CFR 13.76; 38 CFR 13.100; 38 CFR 13.108; 38 CFR 13.109; ...

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	10/00/98	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Douglas L. Bragg  
Phone: 202 273-6616  
Fax: 202 275-5924

**RIN:** 2900-AI14

**3209. • LOAN GUARANTY: REQUIREMENTS FOR INTEREST RATE REDUCTION REFINANCING LOANS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 501(a)

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 36.4306a

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** Interest rate reduction refinancing loans assist veterans by allowing them to refinance an outstanding VA guaranteed loan that bears interest at a high rate with a new loan at a loan rate. The law allows the veteran to do so without having to pay any expenses out-of-pocket. The revised regulations will limit these loans in most cases to instances where the veteran's monthly mortgage payment will decrease. They will also limit the maximum loan amount, and generally require that the loans being refinanced by current in their payments.

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	00/00/00	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Judith Caden,  
Assistant Director for Loan Policy,

VA

Long-Term Actions

Department of Veterans Affairs,  
Veterans Benefits Administration, 810  
Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC  
20420  
Phone: 202 273-7368

RIN: 2900-AI92

**BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS**

**3210. APPEALS REGULATIONS;  
RULES OF PRACTICE**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 19.3 (Revision);  
38 CFR 19.10; 38 CFR 19.15 (Revision);  
38 CFR 19.39; 38 CFR 20.3; 38 CFR  
20.101 (Revision); 38 CFR 20.102  
(Revision); 38 CFR 20.201 (Revision);  
38 CFR 20.605 (Revision); 38 CFR  
20.609 (Revision); 38 CFR 20.903  
(Revision); 38 CFR 20.1000; 38 CFR  
20.1001; 38 CFR 20.1002; 38 CFR  
20.1100 (Revision); ...

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	02/03/92	57 FR 4131
NPRM Comment Period End	03/04/92	
Final Action	00/00/00	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Steven L. Keller  
Phone: 202 565-5978

RIN: 2900-AE78

**3211. RULES OF PRACTICE;  
HEARINGS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 20.702; 38 CFR  
20.703; 38 CFR 20.704; 38 CFR 20.707;  
38 CFR 20.711; 38 CFR 20.714; 38 CFR  
20.716; 38 CFR 20.717; 38 CFR 20.1003;  
38 CFR 2.1; 38 CFR 19.75

**Timetable:** Next Action Undetermined

**Small Entities Affected:** Undetermined

**Government Levels Affected:**  
Undetermined

**Agency Contact:** Steven L. Keller  
Phone: 202 565-5978

RIN: 2900-AG07

**3212. RULES OF PRACTICE: MEDICAL  
OPINIONS; APPEAL PROCESSING  
AND SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL  
EVIDENCE**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 19.36; 38 CFR  
20.800; 38 CFR 20.801; 38 CFR 20.802;  
38 CFR 20.901; 38 CFR 20.1304

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Steven L. Keller  
Phone: 202 565-5978

RIN: 2900-AG90

**3213. RULES OF PRACTICE: ORAL  
ARGUMENT IN FILING APPELLATE  
BRIEFS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 20.700; 38 CFR  
20.718

**Timetable:** Next Action Undetermined

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Steven L. Keller  
Phone: 202 565-5978

RIN: 2900-AI18

**3214. APPEALS REGULATIONS:  
REMAND FOR FURTHER  
DEVELOPMENT**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 19.9

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	07/03/97	62 FR 36038
NPRM Comment Period End	08/04/97	
Next Action Undetermined		

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Steven L. Keller  
Phone: 202 565-5978

RIN: 2900-AI50

**3215. RULES OF PRACTICE: DEATH  
OF APPELLANT DURING PENDENCY  
OF APPEAL**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 5902 to 5904

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 20.611; 38 CFR  
20.1302

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This regulation amends the  
Rules of Practice of the Board of  
Veterans' Appeals relating to  
circumstances which arise when an  
appellant dies while an appeal is  
pending before the Board. These  
amendments (1) provide that when an  
appellant dies while an appeal is  
pending, the appeal will be dismissed,  
and (2) eliminate a provision which  
permitted a deceased appellant's  
representative to continue to act with  
respect to any appeal pending upon the  
death of the appellant. These changes  
are necessary because of a ruling made  
by the United States Court of Veterans  
Appeals.

**Timetable:** Next Action Undetermined

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Steven L. Keller,  
Chief Counsel, Department of Veterans  
Affairs, Board of Veterans' Appeals, 810  
Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC  
20420

Phone: 202 565-5978

RIN: 2900-AI86

**3216. RULES OF PRACTICE:  
CONTINUATION OF  
REPRESENTATION FOLLOWING  
DEATH OF A CLAIMANT OR  
APPELLANT**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Legal Authority:** 38 USC 5902 to 5904

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 20.611

**Legal Deadline:** None

**Abstract:** This change proposes to  
amend to eliminate a rule which  
automatically assigns a deceased  
appellant's representative to the  
appellant's survivor. This change is  
necessary because of a court ruling  
which eliminates most of the need for  
such a provision.

**Timetable:** Next Action Undetermined

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Steven L. Keller,  
Chief Counsel, Department of Veterans  
Affairs, Board of Veterans' Appeals, 810  
Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC  
20420

Phone: 202 565-5978

RIN: 2900-AI87

**VA** **Long-Term Actions**

**OFFICE OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**3217. NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX UNDER FEDERALLY ASSISTED EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 18

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	00/00/00	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Ellis Jones Hodges  
Phone: 202 482-6711

**RIN:** 2900-AB51

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ACQUISITION AND FACILITIES**

**3218. OPERATION OF CHILD CARE CENTERS AT VA FACILITIES**

**Priority:** Info./Admin./Other

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 17

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	12/27/89	54 FR 53078
NPRM Comment Period End	01/26/90	
Next Action Undetermined		

**Small Entities Affected:** Undetermined

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Renee Bruce  
Phone: 410 605-7388  
Fax: 410 605-7900

**RIN:** 2900-AD48

**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**3219. STANDARDS FOR COLLECTION, COMPROMISE, SUSPENSION, OR TERMINATION OF COLLECTION EFFORT, IN REFERRAL OF CIVIL CLAIMS FOR MONEY OR PROPERTY; DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will eliminate existing text in the CFR.

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 1.900 to 1.955; 38 CFR 2.6(c); 4 CFR 101 to 105

**Timetable:**

Action	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	00/00/00	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Peter Mulhern  
Phone: 202 273-5570

**RIN:** 2900-AI27

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)** **Completed Actions**

**3220. MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES TO PART 17**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 17

**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	04/09/97	62 FR 17072
Final Action Effective	04/09/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Leroy E. Cossette  
Phone: 202 273-8300

**RIN:** 2900-AI37

**3221. PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE TO VIETNAM VETERANS' CHILDREN WITH SPINA BIFIDA**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 17.900

**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	09/30/97	62 FR 51281
Final Action Effective	10/01/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Agency Contact:** Neil Otchin  
Phone: 202 273-8578  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI65

**3222. SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES—THE MUSCULAR SYSTEM**

**Priority:** Other Significant

**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 4.73

**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	06/03/97	62 FR 30235
Final Action Effective	07/03/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

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**RIN:** 2900-AE89

**3223. LOAN GUARANTY FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 36.4222; 38 CFR 36.4326; 38 CFR 36.4402; 38 CFR 36.4500; 38 CFR 36.4512; 38 CFR 36.4600

**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	02/06/97	62 FR 5530
Final Action Effective	02/06/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

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**RIN:** 2900-AH63

VA

Completed Actions

**3224. VETERANS EDUCATION: SUBMISSION OF SCHOOL CATALOG TO STATE APPROVING AGENCIES**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.4253  
**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	07/01/97	62 FR 35423
Final Action Effective	07/01/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** Businesses  
**Government Levels Affected:** State  
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**RIN:** 2900-AH97

**3225. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION; MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**Reinventing Government:** This rulemaking is part of the Reinventing Government effort. It will revise text in the CFR to reduce burden or duplication, or streamline requirements.  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.74; 38 CFR 21.254; 38 CFR 21.256; 38 CFR 21.260; 38 CFR 21.292; 38 CFR 21.430  
**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	04/11/97	62 FR 17706
Final Action Effective	04/11/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI29

**3226. SPOUSE AND SURVIVING SPOUSE**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.50; 38 CFR 3.106(e); 38 CFR 3.205(a); 38 CFR 3.214; 38 CFR 3.252(b); 38 CFR 3.252(e); 38 CFR 3.257; 38 CFR 3.262(k); 38 CFR 3.400(e); 38 CFR 3.401(c); 38 CFR 3.450(c); 38 CFR 3.452(c); 38 CFR 3.666(b); 38 CFR 3.702(e); 38 CFR 3.805; ...  
**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	02/06/97	62 FR 5528
Final Action Effective	02/06/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
**Agency Contact:** Paul Trowbridge  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI36

**3227. DEPENDENCY AND INCOME**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.272(c)  
**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	02/06/97	62 FR 5528
Final Action Effective	11/29/94	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI47

**3228. CAPPING OF NATIONAL SERVICE LIFE INSURANCE "H" TERM PREMIUMS**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 8.30  
**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Withdrawn	08/26/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI52

**3229. RESERVISTS EDUCATION: INCREASE IN RATES PAYABLE UNDER THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL—SELECTED RESERVES**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.7636  
**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	05/22/97	62 FR 27963
Final Action Effective	05/22/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI54

**3230. RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS DUE TO A LIBERALIZING LAW OR VA ISSUE**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.114(a)  
**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	04/11/97	62 FR 17706
Final Action Effective	06/12/96	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
**Agency Contact:** Larry Freiheit  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI57

**3231. VETERAN'S BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1996**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.2(f); 38 CFR 3.20(c); 38 CFR 3.307(a); 38 CFR 3.810(a); 38 CFR 3.810(d); 38 CFR 3.1000(a); 38 CFR 3.1600(c)  
**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	07/01/97	62 FR 35421
Final Action Effective	10/09/96	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
**Agency Contact:** Jack Bisset  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI66

**3232. MONETARY ALLOWANCE UNDER 38 USC 1805 FOR A CHILD SUFFERING FROM SPINA BIFIDA WHO IS A CHILD OF A VIETNAM VETERAN**

**Priority:** Other Significant  
**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 3.27; 38 CFR 3.105; 38 CFR 3.158; 38 CFR 3.261; 38 CFR 3.262; 38 CFR 3.263; 38 CFR 3.272; 38 CFR 3.275; 38 CFR 3.403; 38 CFR 3.503; 38 CFR 3.814  
**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	09/30/97	62 FR 51274
Final Action Effective	10/01/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None  
**Government Levels Affected:** None  
**Agency Contact:** Jack Bisset  
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**RIN:** 2900-AI70

VA

Completed Actions

**3233. PROVISION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND REHABILITATION TO VIETNAM VETERANS' CHILDREN WITH SPINA BIFIDA**

**Priority:** Substantive, Nonsignificant

**CFR Citation:** 38 CFR 21.8001; 38 CFR 21.8005; 38 CFR 21.8010; 38 CFR 21.8015; 38 CFR 21.8021; 38 CFR 21.8040; 38 CFR 21.8042; 38 CFR 21.8050; 38 CFR 21.8052; 38 CFR 21.8060; 38 CFR 21.8070; 38 CFR 21.8072; 38 CFR 21.8074; 38 CFR 21.8080; 38 CFR 21.8082; ...

**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	09/30/97	62 FR 51286
Final Action Effective	10/01/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

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**RIN:** 2900-AI72

**3234. RESCISSION OF 38 USC 8110(C) PROVISIONS IN THE VAAR**

**Priority:** Routine and Frequent

**CFR Citation:** 48 CFR 807; 48 CFR 852

**Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
Final Action	04/15/97	62 FR 18300
Final Action Effective	04/15/97	

**Small Entities Affected:** None

**Government Levels Affected:** None

**Procurement:** This is a procurement-related action for which there is no statutory requirement. There is no paperwork burden associated with this action.

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**RIN:** 2900-AI61

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