

Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information needed to determine the veteran's eligibility to obtain disability insurance benefits.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before June 22, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0129" in any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5146.

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

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

**Title and Form Number:** Insurance, Life Insurance, VA Form Letter 29-30a.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900-0129.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Abstract:** The form letter is used by VA to determine the insurer's eligibility to obtain disability insurance benefits. The information on the form is required by 38 U.S.C., Section 1912, 1915, 1942 and 1948.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 548 hours.  
**Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:** 5 minutes.  
**Frequency of Response:** On occasion.  
**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 6,570.

Dated: April 2, 1998.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Donald L. Neilson,**

*Director, Information Management Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice that a meeting of the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation (Committee), authorized by 38 U.S.C., Section 3121, will be held on May 12th, 13th, 14th, 1998. The Committee will meet from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on May 12th and 13th and from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon on May 14th. The purpose of the meeting will be to visit Chicago area public and private rehabilitation facilities, review the administration of these programs as they relate to the veteran population and to provide recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Committee will convene at the Tremont Hotel, 100 East Chestnut, Chicago, Illinois. Because the Committee's agenda includes touring several facilities, they will be meeting at several locations as listed below.

On the morning of May 12th, the Committee will tour the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, located at 345 East Superior Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611. In the afternoon, the Committee will meet at the Great Lakes Naval Center, Great Lakes, Illinois 60088-5252, where they will receive a presentation on the Transitional Assistance Program and Disabled Transitional Assistance Program. On May 13th, the Committee will tour the Hines VA Medical Center's Blind Unit, Rehabilitation Engineering Unit, Spinal Cord Injury Unit and Information Fair, located at Roosevelt Road and 5th Avenue, Hines, IL 60141. On May 14th, the Committee will meet at the VA Regional Office, 536 S. Clark Street, Director's Conference Room #508 Chicago, IL 60605. They will discuss the facilities toured and review the minutes from the January meeting. The Committee will also discuss any unfinished business and potential topics for their future meeting.

The meeting will be open to the public. Interested persons may attend, appear before, or file statements with

the Committee. Statements, if in written form, may be filed before the meeting. For those wishing to attend, please contact Frank Donlan at Department of Veterans Affairs, Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Service (28), 1800 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006, phone (202) 273-7436.

Dated April 14, 1998.

By Direction of the Acting Secretary.

**Heyward Bannister,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-10545 Filed 4-20-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Research and Development Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) as amended, by section 5(c) of Public Law 94-409, that a meeting of the Research and Development Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee will be held at the Marriott Residence Inn, 500 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202, on May 4-5, 1998. The session on May 4 is scheduled to begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. and on May 5 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. The meeting will be for the purpose of reviewing the following seven new proposals: therapy for hepatitis C related cirrhosis, prophylaxis of medical patients for thromboembolism, telemedicine on diabetic retinopathy, iron and atherosclerosis, influenza vaccine for COPD patients, therapy for heart failure patients, and hernia repair. The Committee will also review the progress of one ongoing study of treatment for liver fibrosis.

The Committee advises the Chief Research and Development Officer through the Chief of the Cooperative Studies Program on the relevance and feasibility of the studies, the adequacy of the protocols, and the scientific validity and propriety of technical details, including protection of human subjects.

The meeting will be open to the public from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. on both days to discuss the general status of the program. Those who plan to attend should contact Dr. Ping Huang, Coordinator, Research and Development Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, (202-273-8295), prior to April 30, 1998.

The meeting will be closed from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on May 4, 1998, and from 8:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., on May 5, 1998. These portions of the meeting involve consideration of specific proposals in accordance with provisions set forth in section 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended by section 5(c) of Public Law 92-409, and 5 U.S.C.

552b(c)(6). During the closed sessions of the meeting, discussions and recommendations will deal with qualifications of personnel conducting the studies, staff and consultant critiques of research protocols, and similar documents, and the medical records of patients who are study subjects, the disclosures of which would

constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Dated: April 14, 1998.

By Direction of the Acting Secretary.

**Heyward Bannister,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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