

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before March 3, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005E3), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., or e-mail denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0406."

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0406" in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Verification of VA Benefit-Related Indebtedness, VA Form 26-8937.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0406.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Lenders authorized to make VA-guaranteed home or manufactured home loans on the automatic basis are required to determine through VA Finance Officers whether any benefits related debts exist in the veteran-borrower's name prior to the closing of any automatic loan. Lenders cannot close any proposed automatic loan until evidence is received from VA stating that there is no debt, or if a debt exists, the veteran has agreed on an acceptable repayment plan, or payments under a plan already in effect are current. VA Form 26-8937 is designed to assist lenders and VA in the completion of debt checks in a uniform manner. The form restricts information requested to only that needed for the debt check and also eliminates unlimited versions of lender-designed forms. It provides information advising the lender whether or not the veteran is exempt from paying the funding fee, which must be collected on all VA home loans unless the veteran is receiving service-connected disability compensation.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on November 5, 2003, at pages 62665-62666.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 6,250 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 5 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One-time.
Estimated Number of Total Respondents: 75,000.

Dated: January 15, 2004.

By direction of the Secretary.

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0567]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-21), this notice announces that the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before March 3, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT:

Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005E3), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8030, FAX (202) 273-5981 or e-mail: denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0567."

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0567" in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: President Memorial Certificate (PMC), VA Form 40-0247.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0567.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The PMC is a gold foiled-embossed certificate containing the Great Seal of the United States and bearing the President's signature. It is mailed to relatives and friends of deceased, honorably discharged

veterans honoring their military service to our Nation. In most cases involving recent deaths, the PMC is automatically initiated for those eligible veterans buried in VA national cemeteries. The local VA Regional Office originates the application process without a request from the next of kin as part of processing death benefits claims.

The PMC insert is not self-initiated by the general public/eligible recipients. There is no form or application that is used to initiate an original request. Original requests are normally in the form of letters and/or telephone calls from eligible recipients. The purpose of the PMC Insert is to allow an eligible recipient, which includes the next of kin, other relatives or friends, *i.e.*, surviving spouses, sons, daughters, grandchildren, and others, to request additional certificates and/or replacements or corrected certificates upon receipt of the original PMC. Replacements are requested due to the PMCs being bent, water soaked, or otherwise damaged during mail handling; corrected PMCs are requested due to an incorrect name of the deceased veteran.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on November 5, 2003, at pages 62664-62665.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 1,479.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 2 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 44,363.

Dated: January 21, 2004.

By direction of the Secretary.

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. 04-2043 Filed 1-30-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0325]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed to authorize advance payment of educational assistance benefits.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before April 2, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M35), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail comments to:

nancy.kessinger@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0325" in any correspondence.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

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

Title: Certificate of Delivery of Advance Payment and Enrollment, VA Form 22-1999V.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0325.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 22-1999V serves as the certificate of delivery of the advance payment and to report any changes in the student's training status. Schools are required to report the following to VA: (1) The failure of the student to enroll; (2) an interruption or termination of attendance; or, (3) a finding of unsatisfactory attendance, conduct or progress. VA uses this information from the current collection at the beginning of each school term to ensure that advance payments were delivered.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, and State, Local or Tribal Government.

Estimated Annual Burden: 1,133 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 5 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 8,000.

Estimated Total Number of Respondents: 13,600.

Dated: January 20, 2004.

By direction of the Secretary.

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.

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