

standards should govern the operation of electronic information systems and how information systems should be developed in accordance with those standards. We would also like comment on how the cost of system development and use should be recovered.

Questions Regarding Standards and System Development

12. What standard information should be included in the datasets to be exchanged electronically? What standard definitions and units should be used for this information?

13. What standard record formats and identification codes are needed to exchange the information associated with comparable access?

14. What standard codes should be used to identify facilities, interconnection points, and other locations?

15. What standard protocol(s) should be developed to download and upload files, or to exchange information across the information network?

16. Should a regional or national information system be developed?

17. If some regional development of information systems is desirable, what regional entities should develop and maintain the system? Do these entities currently exist? If they do not exist, how should they be developed?

18. What system development and usage costs should be borne by all transmission users, and what costs should be paid for only by users of the information system?

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

20 CFR Chapter III

Review of Social Security Administration Regulations

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice with Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with President Clinton's memorandum of March 4, 1995 to heads of Departments and Agencies which announced a government-wide Regulatory Reinvention Initiative, we are soliciting comments on Social Security Administration (SSA) regulations which mandate burdens on States, other governmental agencies or the private sector and suggestions to reduce or eliminate any such mandated burden.

DATES: To be sure your comments are considered, we must receive them no later than May 8, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted in writing to the Commissioner of Social Security, P.O. Box 1585, Baltimore, Maryland 21235, sent by telefax to (410) 966-2830, sent by E-mail to "regulations@ssa.gov," or delivered to the Division of Regulations and Rulings, Social Security Administration, 3-B-1 Operations Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on regular business days. Comments may be inspected during these same hours by making arrangements with the contact person shown below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Henry D. Lerner, Legal Assistant, Division of Regulations and Rulings, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235, telephone (410) 965-1762.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Regulatory Reinvention Initiative announced by the President on March 4, 1995 is designed to provide to all Americans the benefits of effective regulation while minimizing burdens on States and members of the public. The initiative is aimed primarily at regulatory agencies which impose mandatory burdens on States, other governmental entities and the private sector as part of their core business processes.

While SSA is not generally regarded as a "regulatory agency," SSA does issue regulations. However, SSA regulations usually serve only to amplify Congressional direction in administering the social insurance and assistance programs for which we are responsible. While we have some program rules which may create a burden on the public in terms of forms completion or other activities concerning information collection, we generally do not impose mandatory burdens on States, other governmental entities or the private sector.

We recognize that members of the public may have a very different view of the burdens imposed by SSA regulations than the views of those who administer the programs. In the hope of obtaining the widest possible span of viewpoints, we issue this invitation for public comments on any SSA regulations which mandate actions by States, other governmental entities, or the private sector. We are requesting that the public assist us in identifying any SSA regulation which creates such a burden, along with suggested changes to lessen or eliminate the burden. We

request further that commenters provide specific details regarding the regulation which imposes the burden, the nature of the burden, and the recommended solution.

We do not consider as part of this initiative SSA regulations which provide the rules we use to determine entitlement to retirement, survivors, disability insurance or supplemental security income benefits since they do not, by their very nature, impose mandatory burdens. Also, we view as outside the scope of this initiative our internal operating procedures in which members of the public do not have a direct role, including the statutory relationship under which State Disability Determination Services make disability determinations on behalf of SSA.

We do consider "burdens" on individuals and other segments of the public as needing our attention. However, in accord with the principles of the National Performance Review we initiated a process that allows customers to provide input on such matters. By means of focus groups, customer surveys, comment cards, and other means, we have in place a process for determining the needs of the public we serve. We will address burdens on individuals through a separate initiative to provide "world class service" to the public. This is a long-term project related to one of the Agency's major goals. Accordingly, we are restricting this request for comments to those SSA regulations which appear to impose mandatory burdens on States, other governmental entities, or the private sector.

Dated: April 4, 1995.

Shirley Chater,

Commissioner of Social Security.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

26 CFR Part 1

[FI-33-94]

RIN 1545-AS76

Debt Instruments with Original Issue Discount; Annuity Contracts

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking and notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: This document contains proposed regulations relating to the