

Dated: October 11, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 96-27242 Filed 10-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits

Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this information collection. This request for comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Comments should address the accuracy of the burden estimates and ways to minimize the burden including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology, as well as other relevant aspects of the information collection.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be received on or before December 23, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Veterans Benefits Administration (20M30), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. All written comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the VBA request for office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. In this document VBA is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

OMB Control Number: 2900-0321.

Titles and Form Numbers:

Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative, VA Form 21-22.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Need and Uses: The form is used by VA beneficiaries to appoint any one of a number of recognized service organizations to represent them in the prosecution of their VA claims. The information is used to determine who has access to the beneficiary's claim file. In addition, it determines who has the right to receive copies of correspondence from the VA to the beneficiary.

Current Actions: Title 38, U.S.C. 5902(b)(2), provides that the VA may recognize representatives of service organizations to assist beneficiaries in the prosecution of VA claims, but that no individual shall be recognized unless such individual has filed a power of attorney, executed in a manner prescribed by the VA.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 27,083 hours.

Estimated Total Average Burden Per Respondent: 20 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Number of Respondents: 325,000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Nancy Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M30), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, telephone (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-4884.

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DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be received on or before December 23, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Veterans Benefits Administration (20S520), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW,

Washington, DC 20420. All written comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the VBA request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. In this document VBA is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

OMB Control Number: 2900-0156.

Titles and Form Numbers: Notice of Change in Student Status, VA Forms 22-1999b and 22-1999b-1.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Need and Uses: The information collected on the forms is used by the VA to determine if a claimant's educational benefits are to be increased, decreased, or terminated. Without this information, the VA might underpay or overpay benefits.

Current Actions: The VA is authorized to pay educational benefits to veterans and other eligible persons pursuing approved program of education under Chapters 30, 32, and 35, Title 38, U.S.C., Chapter 1606, Title 10, U.S.C., and Sections 901 and 903 of Public Law 96-342. Benefits are not payable when pursuit of the program is interrupted or terminated, or is not in accordance with the regularly established policies and regulations of the school. The school is required to report without delay to the VA, in the form prescribed by the VA, an interruption or termination, or a finding of unsatisfactory attendance, progress, or conduct. VA Forms 22-1999b and 22-1999b-1 serve as this report to VA of such changes in enrollment status.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 73,563 hours.

Estimated Total Average Burden Per Respondent: 5 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Number of Respondents: 7,481.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Nancy Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, telephone (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-4884.

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