

to a standard college degree or in non-college degree programs. The information is used to determine the individual's continued entitlement to VA benefits.

Current Actions: Public Law 98-525 established a new education program under Chapter 30, Title 38, U.S.C. It is available to individuals initially entering active duty on or after July 1, 1985 (Category I eligibility) and to individuals eligible under Chapter 34, Title 38, U.S.C., who meet service requirements imposed by Public Law 99-576 (Category II eligibility). Individuals with Category II eligibility became eligible for Chapter 30 benefits effective January 1, 1990. Public Law 102-484 established an additional Category of eligibility (Category III). Category III includes all persons previously ineligible for Chapter 30 who are separated from active duty under two special release programs. Title 38, U.S.C., Section 3034(b) requires certification of actual attendance by the student and verification of that student's continued enrollment before payment can be released. Public Law 99-576 allowed this information to be collected without certification by an institution. VA Form 22-8979 serves as the form for reporting necessary certification of actual attendance and verification of the student's continued enrollment for claimants pursuing college programs. Since the previous submission, Public Law 104-201 was enacted into law and added two additional categories of individuals eligible for Chapter 30 that would use this information collection. The first additional category pertains to individuals that previously participated in Chapter 32, who meet certain specifications set by law, and elect to receive Chapter 30 benefits. The second additional category pertains to individuals that entered the National Guard between certain dates, meet certain specifications set by law, and elect to receive Chapter 30 benefits.

VA is authorized to pay educational benefits to veterans and other eligible persons pursuing approved programs not leading to a standard college degree under Chapters 30, 32, and 35, Title 38, U.S.C.; Chapter 1606, Title 10, U.S.C.; and Section 903 of Public Law 96-342. VA Form 22-8979 serves as the form for reporting necessary certification of actual attendance and verification of the student's continued enrollment for claimant's pursuing non-college degree programs.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 189,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 5 minutes.

Frequency of Response: 7 times per year (The frequency is based on the average number of months each student will train.)

Estimated Number of Respondents: 324,000.

Estimated Number of Responses: 2,268,000.

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

Dated: February 11, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 97-6404 Filed 3-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment

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 May 12, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. All 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: 2900-0386.

Title and Form Number: Interest Rate Reduction Refinancing Loan Worksheet, VA Form 26-8923.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Need and Uses: Lenders are required to submit VA Form 26-8923 when requesting guaranty on an interest rate reduction refinancing loan. VA loan examiners must assure that the requirements of the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984 and applicable VA regulations have been met before the issuance of guaranty. The form ensures that lenders correctly compute the funding fee and the maximum permissible loan amount for interest rate reduction refinancing loans.

Current Actions: For a loan to be eligible for guaranty under Title 38 U.S.C. 3710(a)(8) or 3712(a)(1)(F), Title 38 U.S.C. 3710(e)(1)(C), provides that the amount of the loan may not exceed an amount equal to the sum of the balance of the loan being refinanced and such closing costs (include any discount permitted pursuant to Section 3703(c)(3)(A) of this Title as may be authorized by the Secretary, under regulations which the Secretary shall prescribe, to be included in such loans.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Annual Burden: 13,070 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 78,422.

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

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AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

ACTION: Notice.