

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment and Training Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the collection of the State Income and Eligibility Verification provisions of the Deficit Reduction Act. A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addressee section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the

addressee section below on or before September 23, 1997.

The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

ADDRESSES: Lorenzo Roberts, Unemployment Insurance Service, 200 Constitution Ave. N.W., Room S-4231, Frances Perkins Building, Washington, D.C. 20210; telephone 202-219-5616, ext. 175; FAX 202-219-8506 (these are not toll-free numbers).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background: The Deficit Reduction Act of 1984 established an income and eligibility verification system for the

exchange of information among State agencies administering specific programs. The programs are: Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income, Unemployment Compensation and any State program approved under Title I, X, XIV, or XVI of the Social Security Act. Under the Act, programs participating must exchange information to the extent it is useful and productive in verifying eligibility and benefit amounts to assist in the child support program and the Secretary of Health and Human Services in verifying eligibility and benefit amounts under Titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act.

II. Current Actions: As the only continuous source of information on the Income and Eligibility program, the data is required to monitor and evaluate that program. As a result of decreased estimated workloads, the requested burden is a reduction of 4509 hours from the previously requested total.

Agency: Employment and Training Administration.

Title: Income and Eligibility.

OMB Number: 1205-0238.

Agency Number: None.

Affected Public: State Governments.

Total Respondents: 53.

Frequency: Quarterly.

Total Responses: 212.

Average Time per Response: 10.033 minutes.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 52,269 hours.

Report	Total respondents	Frequency	Total responses	Average time per response	Burden (hours)
New & Additional Claims	21.0 Mil	Annually	21.0 Mil	2 seconds	11,666
New Claims	243,100	Annually	243,100	10 minutes	40,517
Totals	52,269

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): At approximately \$20 per hour average State salary, the State burden is estimated at \$1,045,380 per year.

Comments submitted in response to this comment request will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 22, 1997.

Grace A. Kilbane,

Director, Unemployment Insurance Service, Employment and Training Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Federal-State Unemployment Compensation Program: Unemployment Insurance Program Letters Interpreting Federal Unemployment Insurance Law

The Employment and Training Administration interprets Federal law requirements pertaining to unemployment compensation as part of its role in the administration of the Federal-State unemployment compensation program. These interpretations are issued in