

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**[OMB Control No. 2900-0342]****Proposed Information Collection
Activity: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request; Extension****AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) 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 requirements to determine the individual's continued entitlement to VA benefits.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before April 13, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0342" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or fax (202) 275-5146.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), 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 and Form Numbers:

Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training Agreement and Standards, VA Form 22-8864 and Employer's Applications to Provide Training, VA Form 22-8865.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0342.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA has used the information on the current VA Form 22-8864 to ensure that a trainee is entering an approved training program. VA has used the information on the current VA Form 22-8865 to ensure that training programs and agreements meet the statutory requirements for approval of an employer's job-training program.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, non-for-profit institutions, farms, Federal, State, Local or Tribal Governments.

Estimated Annual Burden: 575 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 120 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,050.

Dated: January 26, 1998.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 98-3402 Filed 2-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**Loan Guaranty: Percentage To Determine Net Value**

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice provides information to participants in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) loan guaranty program concerning the percentage to be used in determining whether the Secretary will accept conveyance of a foreclosed property. The new percentage is 13.97 percent.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The new percentage is effective February 11, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Leonard A. Levy, Assistant Director for Loan and Property Management (261), Loan Guaranty Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of

Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-7344.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: VA regulations concerning the payment of loan guaranty claims are set forth at 38 CFR 36.4300, et seq. The formulas for determining whether VA will offer the lender an election to convey the property to VA are set forth at 38 CFR 36.4320. A key component of this is the "net value" of the property to the Government, as defined in 38 CFR 36.4301. Essentially, "net value" is the fair market value of the property, minus the total of the costs the Secretary estimates would be incurred by VA resulting from the acquisition and disposition of the property for property taxes, assessments, liens, property maintenance, administration, and resale. Each year VA reviews the average operating expenses incurred for properties acquired under 38 CFR 36.4320, which were sold during the preceding three fiscal years, and the average administrative cost to the Government associated with the property management activity. Administrative cost is based on the average holding time for properties sold during the preceding fiscal year. Property improvement expenses are estimated on an individual case basis at the time the net value is estimated. VA also includes in the net value calculation an amount equal to the gain or loss experienced by VA on the resale of acquired properties during the prior fiscal year. VA annually updates the net value percentage and publishes a notice of the new percentage in the **Federal Register**. For Fiscal Year 1997, the percentage was 13.54 percent. For Fiscal Year 1998, the revised percentage will be 13.97 percent, based upon the operating expenses incurred, exclusive of estimated property improvement expenses, which are accounted for separately in each case, for Fiscal Years 1994, 1995, and 1996, and property resale experience for Fiscal Year 1997. Accordingly, VA will subtract 13.97 percent from the fair market value of the property to be foreclosed in order to arrive at the "net value" of the property to VA. This new percentage will be used in "net value" calculations made by VA on and after [date of publication], the date the new percentage was provided to VA field stations for use in these calculations.

Approved: February 3, 1998.

Togo D. West, Jr.,

Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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