

Approved: January 16, 2001.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Notice 98-1

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Notice 98-1, Nondiscrimination Testing.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 27, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the notice should be directed to Larnice Mack, (202) 622-3179, Internal Revenue Service, room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Nondiscrimination Testing.

OMB Number: 1545-1579.

Notice Number: Notice 98-1.

Abstract: Notice 98-1 provides guidance for discrimination testing under section 401(k) and (m) of the Internal Revenue Code as amended by section 1433(c) and (d) of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. The guidance is directed to employers maintaining retirement plans subject to these Code sections.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the notice at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 147,000.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 20 min.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 49,000.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: January 19, 2001.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Notice of Solicitation of Panel Members

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Applications are being accepted for membership on the panels, located in Brooklyn, Florida, Milwaukee and Seattle.

DATES: The Application period is January 29, 2001 to March 9, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Lewis, Director, IRS Citizen Advocacy Panel, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Room 2421, Washington, DC 20220. Information is also available at www.improveirs.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The mission of the panels is: to provide citizen input into enhancing IRS customer service by identifying problems and making recommendations for improvement with IRS systems and procedures; elevate the identified problems to the appropriate IRS official and monitor the progress to effect change; and refer individual taxpayers to the appropriate IRS office for assistance in resolving their problems. The panels will consist of 9-14 volunteer members who serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of Treasury and will function solely as advisory bodies.

The panels are seeking applicants who have an interest in good government, a personal commitment to volunteer approximately 300 hours a year and a desire to help improve IRS customer Service. Potential candidates must be U.S. Citizens, compliant with Federal, State and Local Taxes, and pass a FBI name check. Experience in the following areas is helpful: formulating and presenting proposals; knowledge of taxpayer concerns; experience representing the interests of your community, state or region; working with people from diverse backgrounds; and helping people resolve disputes.

Dated: January 11, 2001.

John J. Mannion,

Director, Program Planning and Quality.

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