

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C., 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before July 3, 2002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Denise McLamb, Information Management Service (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8030, FAX (202) 273-5981 or e-mail:

*denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov*. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0320."

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0320" in any correspondence.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Escrow Agreement for Postponed Exterior Onsite Improvements, VA Form 26-1849.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0320.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* VA Form 26-1849 is provided as a service to veterans, builders/sellers, and escrow agents to use in situations involving escrows. A VA loan amount cannot exceed the reasonable value of the property as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The reasonable value is predicated on the completion of all improvements. In certain circumstances, such as adverse weather or other specified unavoidable conditions, the completion of some improvements may have to be postponed. For these situations, VA has developed escrow procedures whereby a builder/seller deposits at least one and one-half times the cost of completing the improvements into an escrow account held by a third party. The funds can only be used for the purpose of finishing the postponed improvements and are released when the improvements have been completed. These escrow procedures provide incentive to builder/sellers to complete all postponed improvements and are standard

practices in both the real estate and mortgage lending fields.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on December 19, 2001, at page 65531.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 1 hour.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 30 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Total Respondents:* 10,000.

Dated: May 13, 2002.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Genie McCully,**

*Acting Director, Information Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 02-13748 Filed 5-31-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**[OMB Control No. 2900-0085]**

**Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review**

**AGENCY:** Board of Veterans' Appeal, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C., 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Board of Veterans' Appeal (BVA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before July 3, 2002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Denise McLamb, Information Management Service (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8030, FAX (202) 273-5981 or e-mail:

*denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov*. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0085."

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New

Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0085" in any correspondence.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Titles:*

a. Appeal to Board of Veterans' Appeals, VA Form 9.

b. Withdrawal of Services by a Representative.

c. Filing of Representative's Fee Agreements and Motions for Review of Such Agreements.

d. Motion for Review of Representative's Charges for Expenses.

e. Request for Changes in Hearing Date.

f. Motion for Reconsideration.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0085.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:*

a. *Appeal to Board of Veterans' Appeals, VA Form 9:* May be used by appellants to complete their appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) from a denial of VA benefits. The information is used by BVA to identify the issues in dispute and prepare a decision responsive to the appellant's contentions and the legal and factual issues raised.

b. *Withdrawal of Services by a Representative:* When the appellant's representative withdraws from a case, both the appellant and the BVA must be informed so that the appellant's rights may be adequately protected and so that the BVA may meet its statutory obligations to provide notice to the current representative.

c. *Filing of Representative's Fee Agreements and Motions for Review of Such Agreements:* Agreements for fees charged by individuals or organizations for representing claimants and appellants before VA are filed with, and reviewed by, the Board of Veterans' Appeals. The information is used to determine whether such fees are excessive or unreasonable.

d. *Motion for Review of Representative's Charges for Expenses:* Expense reimbursements claimed by individuals and organizations for representing claimants and appellants before VA have been monitored for fairness for many years. The information is used to review changes by claimants' representatives for expenses to afford protection to such claimants from overreaching by unscrupulous representatives, to monitor fees charged by representatives, and to ensure that fee limitations are not avoided by mischaracterizing fees as expenses.

e. *Request for Changes in Hearing Date:* VA provides hearings to

appellants and their representatives, as required by basic Constitutional due process and by Title 38 U.S.C. 7107(b). From time to time, hearing dates and/or times are changed, hearing requests withdrawn and new hearings requested after appellants fail to appear at a scheduled hearing. The information is used to comply with the appellants' or their representatives' requests.

*f. Motion for Reconsideration:* Decisions by BVA are final unless the Chairman orders reconsideration of the decision either on the Chairman's initiative, or upon motion of a claimant. The Board Chairman, or his designee, uses the information in deciding whether reconsideration of a Board decision should be granted.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on February 5, 2002, at pages 5362-5363.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households, Business or other for profit, and Not for profit institutions.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 35,608 hours.

a. Appeal to Board of Veterans' Appeals, VA Form 9—32,500 hours.

b. Withdrawal of Services by a Representative—183.33 hours.

c. Filing of Representative's Fee Agreements and Motions for Review of Such Agreements—287 hours.

d. Motion for Review of Representative's Charges for Expenses—4 hours.

e. Request for Changes in Hearing Date—1,760.75 hours.

f. Motion for Reconsideration—877 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:*

a. Appeal to Board of Veterans' Appeals, VA Form 9—1 hour.

b. Withdrawal of Services by a Representative—20 minutes.

c. Filing of Representative's Fee Agreements and Motions for Review of Such Agreements—1 hour (contract modifications), 10 minutes (basic filing)—2 hours (filing motion or response).

d. Motion for Review of Representative's Charges for Expenses—4 hours (2 hours for motion and 2 hours for response to motion).

e. Request for Changes in Hearing Date—15 minutes (basic request)—1 hour (requests requiring preparation of a motion).

f. Motion for Reconsideration—1 hour.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.  
*Estimated Total Number of Respondents:* 39,782.

a. Appeal to Board of Veterans' Appeals, VA Form 9—32,500.

b. Withdrawal of Services by a Representative—550.

c. Filing of Representative's Fee Agreements and Motions for Review of Such Agreements—1,279.

d. Motion for Review of Representative's Charges for Expenses—2.

e. Request for Changes in Hearing Date—4,574.

f. Motion for Reconsideration—877.

Dated: May 13, 2002.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Genie McCully,**

*Acting Director, Information Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 02-13749 Filed 5-31-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0353]

### Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C., 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before July 3, 2002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Denise McLamb, Information Management Service (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8130, FAX (202) 273-5981 or e-mail:

*denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov.* Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0353."

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316.

Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0353" in any correspondence.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Certification of Lessons Completed, VA Forms 22-6553b and 22-6553b-1, (Chapters 30, 32, and 35, Title 38, U.S.C.; Chapter 1606, Title 10, U.S.C., and Section 903, Pub. L. 96-342).

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0353.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* VA Forms 22-6553b and 22-6553b-1 are used to determine the number of lessons completed by the student and serviced by the correspondence school. Students receiving education benefits for correspondence training complete their portions of the forms and submit the forms to the school for certification. The schools' certifying official certifies the number of lessons serviced and submits the forms to VA for processing. VA uses the information to determine continuing eligibility for benefits and the proper amount payable.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on February 28, 2002, at pages 9359-9360.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households, Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 1,780 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 10 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Quarterly.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 3,559.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 10,617.

Dated: May 9, 2002.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Genie McCully,**

*Acting Director, Information Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 02-13750 Filed 5-31-02; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0501]

### Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.