

comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro/shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NYSE. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSE-2004-68 and should be submitted on or before January 20, 2005.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.³³

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E4-3899 Filed 12-29-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request and Comment Request

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages that will require clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Public Law 104-13 effective October 1, 1995, The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The information collection packages that may be included in this notice are for new information collections and revisions to OMB-approved information collections.

SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Written

comments and recommendations regarding the information collection(s) should be submitted to the OMB Desk Officer and the SSA Reports Clearance Officer (contact information is listed below).

(OMB) Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, Fax: 202-395-6974.

(SSA) Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Reports Clearance Officer, 1338 Annex Bldg., 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235, Fax: 410-965-6400.

I. The information collection listed below has been submitted to OMB for clearance. Your comments on the information collection would be most useful if received by OMB and SSA within 60 days from the date of this publication. You can obtain a copy of the OMB clearance package by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at 410-965-0454, or by writing to the address listed above.

1. Homeless Outreach Project and Evaluation (HOPE)

Background

Congress passed the McKinney Act of 1987 in recognition of and in an effort to address situations and conditions facing people without permanent shelter. The Act funded 15 emergency services and nine individual titles to authorize the provision of specific programs by Federal agencies. The Act also established the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) composed of leaders from 15 Federal agencies who are in charge of coordinating efforts to assist people who are homeless. During the past decade, SSA and other ICH agencies have compiled important data about people who are homeless and have carried out evaluations of services which have generated evidence about "best" or "promising practices" well suited to combating homelessness.

In fiscal year 2003, President George W. Bush announced an initiative to end chronic homelessness in 10 years. As a result, SSA developed Project HOPE and in May 2004 awarded 34 Cooperative Agreements to organizations which provide outreach, support services and benefit application assistance to the chronically homeless and other underserved populations. An additional 7 cooperative agreements were awarded in November 2004 for a total of 41. The goal of Project HOPE is to improve both the quantity and quality of applications for disability benefits. Project HOPE gives focused support to Cooperative (co-op) awardees via a training program and ongoing technical assistance.

Evaluation of Project HOPE

SSA is undertaking the project HOPE evaluation to determine the effectiveness and the efficiency of the program. To obtain the information needed for the evaluation, SSA is developing an interactive Web site that will be used by co-op awardees to input client and program data, and by SSA to communicate project-wide announcements to the awardees. The respondents are HOPE grantees/non-profit social services organizations serving people who are homeless & disabled.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Number of Respondents: 41.

Frequency of Response: 12.

Average Burden Per Response: 65 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 533 hours.

II. The information collection listed below has been submitted to OMB for clearance. Your comments on the information collection would be most useful if received by OMB and SSA within 30 days from the date of this publication. You can obtain a copy of the OMB clearance package by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at 410-965-0454, or by writing to the address listed above.

1. Social Security Disability Report—20 CFR 404.1512 & 416.912—0960-0579

SSA requires applicants for disability payments to furnish medical, work history, and other evidence or information indicating they have an impairment which is disabling. The information is used by State DDSs to make disability determinations for SSA. The respondents are applicants for Title II and Title XVI disability benefits. These applicants may provide the information using any of the following modalities: (1) The traditional paper form SSA-3368; (2) an interview with an SSA field office representative, using the Electronic Disability Collection System (EDCS); (3) the Internet (i3368); and (4) a new modality, the i3368-PRO, an Internet form designed to be completed by representatives of applicants for disability payments. The latter three versions of the form collect the same information as the paper form, but may be formatted differently and include certain enhancements (ex: self-help screens) to guide the claimant or interviewer through the application process.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Note: In the 60-day **Federal Register** notice, published on November 1, 2004 at 69 FR 63429, the number of respondents for the

³³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

paper version was given as 10,000 and the number of respondents using the EDCS modality was listed as 1,956,667. Since

publishing the Notice, the Agency has realized those numbers should actually be

reversed, and they are published correctly in the chart below.

Collection format	Number of respondents	Frequency of response	Average burden per response (hours)	Estimated annual burden (hours)
SSA-3368 (Paper version)	10,000	1	1	10,000
Field office/Electronic Disability Collection System (EDCS)	1,956,667	1	1	1,956,667
i3368 (Internet version; Hour burden varies from 1½–3 hours, depending on information required)	66,000	1	2½	165,000
i3368-PRO	84,000	1	1½	126,000
Totals	2,116,667			2,257,667

Dated: December 22, 2004.

Elizabeth A. Davidson,

Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-28562 Filed 12-29-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4945]

Deployment of the Biometric Visa Program for the Collection of Biometric Identifiers of Nonimmigrant and Immigrant Visa Applicants

This public notice announces the Biometric Visa Program, which has been operating in a pilot mode since September 22, 2003, which became a permanent program effective October 26, 2004.

Section 303 of the “Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act” (The Border Security Act) (Pub. L. 107-173, 116 Stat. 543), requires that “not later than October 26, 2004, the Attorney General [now the Secretary of Homeland Security] and the Secretary of State shall issue to aliens only machine-readable, tamper-resistant visas and travel and entry documents that use biometric identifiers.” In order to fulfill the requirement for biometric identifiers, we established the Biometric Visa Program, by which immigrant and nonimmigrant visa applicants enroll fingerscans of their two index fingers and submit photographs with visa applications.

In establishing the Biometric Visa Program, we coordinated closely with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Biometric Visa Program is a partner program to the DHS US-VISIT Program that is in effect at U.S. ports of entry and that uses the same biometric identifiers, two index fingerscans and a photograph. By coordinating these two programs, the two departments have ensured the integrity of the U.S. visa. This is accomplished by sending the fingerscans and photos of visa

applicants to DHS databases. When a person to whom a visa has been issued arrives at a port of entry, his or her photo is retrieved from a database and projected on the computer screen of the Customs and Border Protection officer. The person’s fingerscans are compared to the fingerscans in the database to ensure that the person presenting the visa is the same as the person to whom the visa was issued.

Certain exemptions to the fingerscans under the Biometric Visa Program were also coordinated with the Department of Homeland Security to coincide with the exemptions to fingerscans under the US-VISIT Program. Under the Biometric Visa Program, applicants for diplomatic or official visas, for visas to represent their governments at recognized international organizations such as the United Nations or for visas to serve as employees of such organizations, for NATO visas, or for government officials on official transit through the U.S. are exempt from the fingerscans. The aforementioned are represented by visa categories: A-1, A-2, G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, NATO-1, NATO-2, NATO-3, NATO-4, NATO-5, NATO-6 and C-3 (except for attendants, servants, or personal employees of accredited officials). In addition, persons under age 14 and persons age 80 or above are exempt from the fingerscans, unless the person is applying for a nonimmigrant visa at a consular post in Mexico. In Mexico, we have been requiring fingerscans for applicants age 7 and above under the program for issuance of biometric Border Crossing Cards (commonly known as “laser visas”), which began in 1998. We will continue to require fingerscans for any nonimmigrant visa applicant age 7 and above at our posts in Mexico. These age exemptions are being put into effect for operational efficiencies; however, the Secretary of State retains the authority to require fingerscans of children under age 14 or adults age 80 or above. All visa applicants are required to submit a photograph with the visa application,

except at consular posts in Mexico where most nonimmigrant visa applicants have a live-capture photo taken at post.

By checking fingerscans against a biometric watchlist, the Biometric Visa Program enables consular officers to deny visas to persons on the watchlist who are ineligible for visas. For the great majority of travelers, the Biometric Visa Program performs a travel facilitation function by allowing for biometric identity verification at ports of entry, which serves to facilitate admission to the United States.

Dated: December 17, 2004.

Maura Harty,

Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 04-28566 Filed 12-29-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4927]

Notice of Meeting; United States International Telecommunication Advisory Committee Meeting on Preparations for the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Study Group 2 Meeting and Preparations for the CITEL Permanent Consultative Committee II Meeting in Guatemala

The Department of State announces the following meetings of the International Telecommunication Advisory Committee (ITAC) to prepare for the ITU-T Study Group 2 (Service Definitions, Numbering, Routing, and Global Mobility) meeting. This Study Group 2 meeting will be held February 16–24, 2005, in Geneva, Switzerland. In addition, five preparatory meetings of the ITAC will be held to prepare for the OAS Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) Permanent Consultative Committee II meeting in Guatemala from April 26–19, 2005.