

address their needs. The SSI program provides a minimum income level for aged, blind, or disabled persons who do not have income or resources above levels specified in the Social Security Act (Act).

**DATES:** To ensure that your comments are considered, we must receive them no later than March 12, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any one of three methods—Internet, fax, or mail. Do not submit the same comments multiple times or by more than one method. Regardless of which of the following methods you choose, please state that your comments refer to Docket No. SSA–2011–0087 so that we may associate your comments with the correct document.

*Caution:* You should be careful to include in your comments only information that you wish to make publicly available. We strongly urge you not to include in your comments any personal information, such as Social Security numbers or medical information.

1. *Internet:* We strongly recommend that you submit your comments via the Internet. Please visit the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Use the Search function of the Web page to find docket number SSA–2011–0087. The system will issue you a tracking number to confirm your submission. It may take up to one week for your comment to be viewable.

2. *Fax:* Fax comments to (410) 966–2830.

3. *Mail:* Mail your comments to the Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, 107 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235–6401.

Comments are available for public viewing on the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>, or in person, during regular business hours, by arranging with the contact person identified below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Al Fatur, Office of Income Security Programs, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235–6401, (410) 965–9855. For information on eligibility or filing for benefits, call our national toll-free number, 1–(800) 772–1213 or TTY 1–(800) 325–0778, or visit our Internet site, Social Security Online, at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The primary goal of the SSI program is to ensure a minimum level of income to people aged 65 or older, blind, or

disabled, and who have limited income and resources. SSI serves an important role in the lives of its recipients, including those individuals who are homeless. According to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report, almost 650,000 people were homeless on a single night in January 2010, an increase of 1.1 percent over the same figure in January 2009.<sup>1</sup> HUD also reported that, in 2010, over 1.59 million people spent at least 1 night in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program; the vast majority of these individuals (nearly 80 percent) spent time only in an emergency shelter.<sup>2</sup>

A homeless individual may receive SSI payments and (in some States) associated Medicaid coverage, as long as he or she meets all of the basic eligibility requirements for the SSI program. Subject to some exceptions, residents of public institutions generally are ineligible for SSI<sup>3</sup> because the institution in which they reside provides them with both housing and basic subsistence needs. One of these exceptions provides that individuals who reside in a public emergency shelter for the homeless may be eligible for up to 6 months of SSI payments in any 9-month period.<sup>4</sup> By contrast, individuals who live in *private* shelters for the homeless are eligible to receive SSI payments with no limitation on the number of months if they meet all other SSI eligibility requirements.

**Request for Comments**

We are requesting information regarding the unique needs of the Nation's homeless population, particularly the needs of those individuals who are SSI recipients and who reside in public emergency shelters, in an effort to better understand and address those needs. We ask that, in preparing comments, you address questions such as:

1. What is your experience with SSI recipients in homeless shelters?
2. In your experience, do both public and private homeless shelters meet the needs of the homeless in the same way? If they differ in how they meet the needs of the homeless, how do they differ?

<sup>1</sup> United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, *The 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress*, at 5, 7 (available at: <http://www.hudhre.info/documents/2010HomelessAssessmentReport.pdf>).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, at 9, 10.

<sup>3</sup> See section 1611(e)(1)(A) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. 1382(e)(1)(A).

<sup>4</sup> See section 1611(e)(1)(D) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. 1382(e)(1)(D) and 20 CFR 416.201 and 416.211(d).

3. Do individuals rely on public emergency shelters exclusively to address short-term needs, or is transitioning out of such shelters into permanent housing becoming more difficult? Is the short-term assistance provided by public emergency shelters meeting the transitional needs of SSI recipients?

4. What specific needs do public emergency shelters meet?

5. Do public emergency shelters usually address the health care needs of individuals in the shelter? To what extent do individuals in public emergency shelters rely on Medicaid to meet their health care needs?

6. Do residents of public emergency shelters usually lose their Medicaid coverage if they stay longer than 6 consecutive months and their SSI is suspended?

7. Do current SSI eligibility rules present obstacles to homeless individuals who are in need of emergency shelter?

8. Do current SSI eligibility rules present obstacles to individuals who are trying to transition from a public emergency shelter to a permanent living arrangement?

9. After residing in a public emergency shelter for 6 months, do SSI recipients tend to remain there until they can transition to a permanent living arrangement or do they consider other options?

Please see the information under **ADDRESSES** earlier in this document for methods to give us your comments. We will not respond to your comments, but we will consider them as we review our policies and instructions to determine if we should revise or update them.

**Michael J. Astrue,**

*Commissioner of Social Security.*

[FR Doc. 2012–406 Filed 1–11–12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4191–02–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

[Public Notice 7469]

**U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee on Private International Law (ACPIL)—Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Study Group Meeting**

The Office of Private International Law, Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State, hereby gives notice that the ACPIL Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Study Group will hold a public meeting on Friday, January 20, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. EDT. The ACPIL ODR Study Group will meet to discuss the results of the

November 2011 session of the UNCITRAL ODR Working Group as well as planning for the next session of that Working Group, scheduled for May 28 through June 1, 2012 in New York City.

The UNCITRAL ODR Working Group is charged with the development of legal instruments for resolving both business to business and business to consumer cross-border electronic commerce disputes. The Working Group has been considering, inter alia, ODR procedural rules for resolution of cross-border electronic commerce disputes.

For the report of the first three sessions of the UNCITRAL ODR Working Group—December 13–17, 2010 in Vienna (A/CN.9/716); May 23–27, 2011 in New York (A/CN.9/721); and November 14–18, 2011 in Vienna (A/CN.9/739)—please follow the following link: [http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/commission/working\\_groups/3Online\\_Dispute\\_Resolution.html](http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/commission/working_groups/3Online_Dispute_Resolution.html)

**Time and Place:** The public meeting will take place at the Office of Private International Law, Department of State, Washington, DC in the second floor conference room, Room 240, State Annex 4, South Building, Navy Hill. Participants should appear by 9:30 a.m. at the 23rd and D Street, NW, gate to the Navy Hill compound, so that you can be escorted to the office. If you are unable to attend the public meeting and would like to participate from a remote location, teleconferencing will be available.

**Public Participation:** This study group meeting is open to the public, subject to the capacity of the meeting room. Access to the building is controlled; persons wishing to attend should contact Tricia Smeltzer or Niesha Toms of the Office of Private International Law at [SmeltzerTK@state.gov](mailto:SmeltzerTK@state.gov) or [TomsNN@state.gov](mailto:TomsNN@state.gov) and provide your name, address, date of birth, citizenship, driver's license or passport number, email address, and mailing address to get admission into the meeting. Persons who cannot attend but who wish to comment are welcome to do so by email to Michael Dennis at [DennisMJ@state.gov](mailto:DennisMJ@state.gov). A member of the public needing reasonable accommodation should advise those same contacts not later than January 13th. Requests made after that date will be considered, but might not be able to be fulfilled. If you are unable to attend the public meeting and you would like to participate by teleconferencing, please contact Tricia Smeltzer (202) 776–8423 or Niesha Toms at (202) 776–8420 to receive the conference call-in number and the relevant information.

Dated: January 6, 2012.

**Michael Dennis,**

*Attorney-Adviser, Office of Private International Law, Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 2012–490 Filed 1–11–12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710–28–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement: In the Vicinity of the City and Borough of Juneau, AK

**AGENCY:** Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA, in cooperation with DOT&PF, will prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for Juneau Access Improvements, a project to improve surface transportation to and from Juneau within the Lynn Canal corridor.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Tim Haugh, Environmental Program Manager, FHWA Alaska Division, P.O. Box 21648, Juneau, Alaska 99802–1648; office hours 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (AST), phone (907) 586–7430; email [Tim.Haugh@dot.gov](mailto:Tim.Haugh@dot.gov). You may also contact Mr. Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Project Manager, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, 6860 Glacier Highway, P.O. Box 112506, Juneau, Alaska 99811–2506; office hours 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (AST), phone (907) 465–1774.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for this project was released on January 18, 2006, and a Record of Decision was approved on April 3, 2006. However, on February 13, 2009, the United States District Court for Alaska determined the FEIS was invalid and vacated the ROD. The SEIS will therefore evaluate a new alternative of improved ferry service using existing assets, as was determined reasonable by the Court. The SEIS will also address any new issues identified and update FEIS alternatives and topics.

The purpose for the project remains the same: to improve surface transportation to and from Juneau within the Lynn Canal corridor to provide travel flexibility, capacity to meet demand, and greater travel opportunity while reducing travel time, state costs, and user costs. In addition to the court ordered alternative, the SEIS will also update the reasonable alternatives evaluated in the FEIS.

These include the No Action Alternative (Alternative 1), the East Lynn Highway to Katzehin with Shuttles to Haines and Skagway (Alternative 2B), the West Lynn Canal Highway (Alternative 3), and four primary marine alternatives that would construct new ferries (Alternatives 4A–D). Two of the marine alternatives include a short road extension and a new ferry terminal (Alternatives 4B and 4D).

FHWA anticipates a focused scoping effort prior to commencement of SEIS studies. Letters describing the SEIS process and requesting comments will be sent to appropriate federal, state, and local agencies. Meetings will be held with all Cooperating Agencies and other agencies, as requested. Newspaper notices, newsletters, and Web site postings will explain the SEIS process, describe the new alternative, detail the topics anticipated to be addressed, and request public comments.

Public hearings will be held in Juneau, Haines, Skagway, and Sitka following publication of the draft SEIS. Notice of the hearings and availability of the document will be published in the **Federal Register**, the Juneau Empire, the Chilkat Valley News, the Skagway News, the Sitka Sentinel, and the Anchorage Daily News. Comments or questions concerning the project and the SEIS should be directed to the FHWA or DOT&PF at the addresses provided.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

**Authority:** 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1).

Issued on: January 3, 2012.

**David C. Miller,**

*Division Administrator, Juneau, Alaska.*

[FR Doc. 2012–408 Filed 1–11–12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–RY–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

#### Petition for Exemption From the Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Fuji Heavy Industries U.S.A., Inc.

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Grant of petition for exemption.

**SUMMARY:** This document grants in full the Fuji Heavy Industries U.S.A., Inc.'s (FUSA's) petition for exemption of the Subaru [confidential] vehicle line in