

section 4 of the Bank Act by providing uniform requirements an applicant must meet to be approved for Bank membership and review criteria a Bank must apply to determine if an applicant satisfies the statutory and regulatory membership eligibility requirements, and by specifying the information and materials an institution must submit as part of its application.<sup>2</sup> Although the membership regulation authorizes the Banks to approve or deny applications for membership, it also provides institutions that have been denied membership in a Bank the option of appealing the decision to FHFA.<sup>3</sup> The membership regulation also addresses the requirements for withdrawal from Bank membership and for the transfer of an institution's membership from one Bank to another.<sup>4</sup>

This information collection may require four different types of submissions by Bank members or by institutions wishing to become a Bank member: (I) Applications for membership and supporting materials; (II) notices of appeal to FHFA by institutions that have been denied membership by a Bank; (III) requests to withdraw from Bank membership; and (IV) applications for transfer of membership to a different Bank and supporting materials. The information collection is necessary to enable a Bank to determine whether prospective and current Bank members, or transferring members of other Banks, satisfy the statutory and regulatory requirements to be certified initially and maintain their status as members eligible to obtain Bank advances. The collection is also necessary to inform a Bank of when to initiate the withdrawal process where a member so desires. On appeals, FHFA uses the information collection to determine whether to uphold or overrule a Bank's decision to deny Bank membership to an applicant.

The OMB control number for the information collection is 2590-0003, which is due to expire on October 31, 2013. The likely respondents are institutions that want to be certified as or are members of a Bank seeking continued certification.

#### B. Burden Estimate

FHFA has analyzed the cost and hour burden for the four facets of the information collection: (I) membership application process; (II) appeal of membership denial; (III) membership withdrawals, and (IV) transfer of membership to another Bank district.

The estimate for the total annual hour burden for all respondents is 2,261 hours. The estimate for the total annual cost burden is \$175,613. These estimates are based on the following:

##### I. Membership Application

FHFA estimates the total annual average number of applicants at 157, with 1 response per applicant. The estimate for the average hours per application is 11.7 hours. The estimate for the annual hour burden for applicants is 1,837 hours (157 applicants × 1 response per applicant × 11.7 hours per response). The estimate for the total annual cost burden to applicants for the membership application process is \$135,365.

##### II. Appeal of Membership Denial

FHFA estimates the total annual average number of appellants at 1, with 1 response per appellant. The estimate for the average hours per application for appeal is 10 hours. The estimate for the annual hour burden for appellants is 10 hours (10 appellants × 1 response per appellant × 10 hours per response). The estimate for the total annual cost burden to applicants for the appeal of membership denial process is \$950.

##### III. Withdrawals From Membership

FHFA estimates the total annual average number of membership withdrawals at 275, with 1 response per applicant. The estimate for the average hours per application is 1.5 hours. The estimate for the annual hour burden for applicants is 413 hours (275 withdrawals × 1 response per applicant × 1.5 hours per response). The estimate for the total annual cost burden to members for withdrawals from membership is \$39,188.

##### IV. Transfer of Membership

FHFA estimates the total annual average number of membership transfer requests at 1, with 1 response per applicant. The estimate for the average hours per application is 1.5 hours. The estimate for the annual hour burden for applicants is 1.5 hours (1 transfer × 1 response per applicant × 1.5 hours per response). The estimate for the total annual cost burden to member respondents of the transfer of membership process is \$110.

#### C. Comment Request

In accordance with the requirements of 5 CFR 1320.8(d), FHFA published a request for public comments regarding this information collection in the **Federal Register** on July 1, 2013. See 78 FR 39293 (July 1, 2013). The 60-day comment period closed on August 30,

2013. No public comments were received.

FHFA requests written comments on the following: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FHFA functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the FHFA's estimates of the burdens of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (4) 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.

Dated: September 30, 2013.

**Kevin Winkler,**

*Chief Information Officer, Federal Housing Finance Agency.*

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## GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

### Vacancy on Board of Governors of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

**AGENCY:** Government Accountability Office (GAO).

**ACTION:** Notice on letters of nomination.

**SUMMARY:** The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act gave the Comptroller General of the United States responsibility for appointing 19 members to the Board of Governors of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and for filling vacancies that may occur. Board members must meet the qualifications listed in Section 6301 of the Act. Due to the resignation of a physician representative on the board, I am announcing the following: letters of nomination and resumes should be submitted by November 15, 2013 to ensure adequate opportunity for review and consideration of nominees prior to appointment. Letters of nomination and resumes can be sent to either the email or mailing address listed below.

**ADDRESSES:** Nominations can be submitted by either of the following: Email: [PCORI@gao.gov](mailto:PCORI@gao.gov), Mail: GAO Health Care, Attention: Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, 441 G Street NW., Washington, DC 20548.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** GAO: Office of Public Affairs, (202) 512-4800. [Sec. 6301, Pub. L. 111-148]

**Gene L. Dodaro,**

*Comptroller General of the United States.*

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<sup>2</sup> See 12 CFR part 1263.

<sup>3</sup> See 12 CFR 1263.5.

<sup>4</sup> See 12 CFR 1263.26; 1263.18(d), (e).