

114–113, div. H, § 507(d), 129 Stat. 2242, 2649 (Dec. 18, 2015).

Congress has also been particularly solicitous of the religious freedom of American Indians. In 1978, Congress declared it the “policy of the United States to protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions of the American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, and Native Hawaiians, including but not limited to access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonials and traditional rites.” 42 U.S.C. 1996. Consistent with that policy, it has passed numerous statutes to protect American Indians’ right of access for religious purposes to national park lands, Scenic Area lands, and lands held in trust by the United States. *See, e.g.*, 16 U.S.C. 228i(b), 410aaa–75(a), 460uu–47, 543f, 698v–11(b)(11). It has specifically sought to preserve lands of religious significance and has required notification to American Indians of any possible harm to or destruction of such lands. *Id.* § 470cc. Finally, it has provided statutory exemptions for American Indians’ use of otherwise regulated articles such as bald eagle feathers and peyote as part of traditional religious practice. *Id.* §§ 668a, 4305(d); 42 U.S.C. 1996a.

The depth and breadth of constitutional and statutory protections for religious observance and practice in America confirm the enduring importance of religious freedom to the United States. They also provide clear guidance for all those charged with enforcing federal law: The free exercise of religion is not limited to a right to hold personal religious beliefs or even to worship in a sacred place. It encompasses all aspects of religious observance and practice. To the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, such religious observance and practice should be reasonably accommodated in all government activity, including employment, contracting, and programming. *See Zorach v. Clauson*, 343 U.S. 306, 314 (1952) (“[Government] follows the best of our traditions . . . [when it] respects the religious nature of our people and accommodates the public service to their spiritual needs.”).

[FR Doc. 2017–23269 Filed 10–25–17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Lodging of Proposed Consent Decree Under the Oil Pollution Act

On October 19, 2017, the Department of Justice lodged a proposed Consent Decree (“Consent Decree”) with the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts in the lawsuit entitled *United States, et al. v. Bouchard Transportation Company, Inc., et al.*, Civil Action No. 1:17–cv–12046–NMG.

The proposed Consent Decree will settle claims of the United States (on behalf of the Department of Commerce/ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of the Interior/Fish and Wildlife Service), the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the State of Rhode Island for injuries to birds (other than piping plover) under the Oil Pollution Act, 33 U.S.C. 2701, *et seq.*, (“Trustees”) against Bouchard Transportation Company, Inc., and related companies (“Defendants”), caused by an oil spill from the tank barge *Bouchard No. 120* which occurred in April 2003 in Buzzards Bay. Under the proposed Consent Decree, the Defendants will pay \$13,300,000 to the Trustees as damages for injuries to wildlife resources, as defined in the Consent Decree. The payment will be used to plan for and implement the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of the equivalent of the damaged resources. In addition, the Defendants acknowledge payment of almost \$3,500,000 to the Trustees for reimbursement of their assessment costs. The proposed Consent Decree is the second settlement between the Trustees and the Defendants for injuries to natural resources caused by the oil spill. Under the first settlement, entered by the District Court in 2011, the Defendants paid the Trustees \$6,076,393 for injuries to other natural resources caused by the oil spill.

The publication of this notice opens a period for public comment on the proposed Consent Decree. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, and should refer to *United States, et al. v. Bouchard Transportation Company, Inc., et al.*, D.J. Ref. No. 90–5–1–1–08159/1. All comments must be submitted no later than thirty (30) days after the publication date of this notice. Comments may be submitted either by email or by mail:

<i>To submit comments:</i>	<i>Send them to:</i>
By email	<i>pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov.</i>
By mail	Assistant Attorney General, U.S. DOJ—ENRD, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044–7611.

During the public comment period, the proposed Consent Decree may be examined and downloaded at this Justice Department Web site: <https://www.justice.gov/enrd/consent-decrees>. We will provide a paper copy of the proposed Consent Decree upon written request and payment of reproduction costs. Please mail your request and payment to: Consent Decree Library, U.S. DOJ—ENRD, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044–7611.

Please enclose a check or money order for \$22.75 (25 cents per page reproduction cost), payable to the United States Treasury.

Robert E. Maher, Jr.,

Assistant Section Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of Justice Programs

[OMB Number 1121–0197]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Extension of Currently Approved Collection

AGENCY: Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice.

ACTION: 60 day notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, is submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: The Department of Justice encourages public comment and will accept input until December 26, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have additional comments especially on the estimated public burden or associated response time, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions or additional information, please contact Michelle Martin, Senior Management Analyst, Bureau of Justice Assistance,

810 Seventh Street NW., Washington, DC 20531 (phone: 202 514-9354).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information are encouraged. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Evaluate whether and if so how the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected can be enhanced; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of This Information Collection

1. *Type of Information Collection:* Extension of currently approved collection.
2. *The Title of the Form/Collection:* State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.
3. *The agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department sponsoring the collection:* Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, United States Department of Justice.
4. *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:*
Primary: States and local units of general government including the 50 state governments, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the more than 3,000 counties and cities with correctional facilities.
Other: None.
Abstract: In response to the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 Section 130002(b) as amended in 1996, BJA administers the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) with the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). SCAAP provides federal

payments to States and localities that incurred correctional officer salary costs for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens with at least one felony or two misdemeanor convictions for violations of state or local law, and who are incarcerated for at least 4 consecutive days during the designated reporting period and for the following correctional purposes:

- Salaries for corrections officers
- Overtime costs
- Performance based bonuses
- Corrections work force recruitment and retention
- Construction of corrections facilities
- Training/education for offenders
- Training for corrections officers related to offender population management
- Consultants involved with offender population
- Medical and mental health services
- Vehicle rental/purchase for transport of offenders
- Prison Industries
- Pre-release/reentry programs
- Technology involving offender management/inter agency information sharing
- Disaster preparedness continuity of operations for corrections facilities

5. *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* It is estimated that no more than 800 respondents will apply. Each application takes approximately 120 minutes to complete and is submitted once per year (annually).

6. *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* The total hour burden to complete the applications is 1,600 hours. $800 \times 120 \text{ minutes} = 96,000/60 \text{ minutes per hour} = 1,600 \text{ burden hours}$

If additional information is required contact: Melody Braswell, Department Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Justice Management Division, Policy and Planning Staff, Two Constitution Square, 145 N Street NE., 3E.405A, Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: October 23, 2017.

Melody Braswell,

Department Clearance Officer for PRA, U.S. Department of Justice.

[FR Doc. 2017-23279 Filed 10-25-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Notice of the Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion Charter Establishment and Public Meeting

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor is publishing this notice to announce the establishment of a Charter for the Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion (hereinafter “the Task Force” or “the panel”), a non-discretionary federal advisory committee authorized pursuant to section 8 of Executive Order 13801, entitled “Expanding Apprenticeships in America” (hereinafter “the Executive Order”), which was issued on June 15, 2017 (82 FR 28229) and which directed the Secretary of Labor to establish and chair such a panel in the Department of Labor and to provide notice, pursuant to section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), of the initial public meeting of the Task Force to be held on November 13, 2017.

DATES: The initial public meeting of the Task Force will begin at approximately 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on November 13, 2017.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the U.S. Department of Labor, Frances Perkins Building, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20210. The Department will post any updates regarding the agenda and meeting logistics to the Task Force Web site: <https://www.dol.gov/apprenticeship/task-force.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John V. Ladd, Administrator, Office of Apprenticeship, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20210, Telephone: (202) 693-2796 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Task Force Charter

The Task Force has been established in accordance with the provisions of FACA, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, and its implementing regulations (41 CFR 101-6 and 102-3). Interested parties can obtain the Task Force's charter on the Task Force Web site: <https://www.dol.gov/apprenticeship/task-force.htm>. The Task Force is charged with the mission of identifying strategies and proposals to promote apprenticeships, especially in sectors where apprenticeship programs are