

information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) 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; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: January 23, 2018.

**Laurie Brimmer,**

*Senior Tax Analyst.*

[FR Doc. 2018-01658 Filed 1-26-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Internal Revenue Service, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning employers' qualified educational assistance programs.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before March 30, 2018 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Laurie Brimmer, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the regulation should be directed to LaNita Van Dyke at Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224, or (202) 317-6009 or, through the internet at [Lanita.VanDyke@irs.gov](mailto:Lanita.VanDyke@irs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Employers' Qualified Educational Assistance Programs.

*OMB Number:* 1545-0768.

*Regulation Project Number:* EE-178-78 (TD 7898).

*Abstract:* Internal Revenue Code section 127(a) provides that the gross income of an employee does not include amounts paid or expenses incurred by an employer if furnished to the employee pursuant to a qualified educational assistance program. This regulation requires that a qualified educational assistance program must be a separate written plan of the employer and that employees must be notified of the availability and terms of the program. Also, substantiation may be required to verify that employees are entitled to exclude from their gross income amounts paid or expenses incurred by the employer.

*Current Actions:* There is no change to this existing regulation.

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

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations, and individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 5,200.

*Estimated Time per Respondent:* 7 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 615.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) 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; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation,

maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: January 23, 2018.

**Laurie Brimmer,**

*Senior Tax Analyst.*

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**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Internal Revenue Service, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The IRS is soliciting comments concerning information collection requirements related to real estate mortgage conduits; reporting requirements and other administrative matters; and allocation of allocable investment expense; original issue discount reporting requirements.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before March 30, 2018 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Laurie Brimmer, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of this regulation should be directed to LaNita Van Dyke, at Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224, or (202) 317-6009 or, through the internet, at [Lanita.VanDyke@irs.gov](mailto:Lanita.VanDyke@irs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* T.D. 8366, Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits; Reporting Requirements and Other Administrative Matters. T.D. 8431, Allocation of Allocable Investment Expense; Original Issue Discount Reporting Requirements.

*OMB Number:* 1545-1018.

*Regulation Project Number:* T.D. 8366 and T.D. 8431.

*Abstract:* T.D. 8366 contains temporary and final regulations relating to real estate mortgage investment conduits (REMICS). T.D. 8431 contains final regulations relating to reporting requirements with respect to single-

class real estate mortgage investment conduits (REMICs) and the market discount fraction reported with other REMIC information. This document also contains final regulations that require an issuer of publicly offered debt instruments with original issue discount (OID) to file an information return with the Internal Revenue Service. The relevant provisions in the Internal Revenue Code were added or amended by the Tax Reform Act of 1984, the Tax Reform Act of 1986, and by the Technical and Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1988.

*Current Actions:* There is no change to these existing regulations.

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

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 9,725.

*Estimated Time per Respondent:* 6 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 978.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number.

Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) 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; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: January 23, 2018.

**Laurie Brimmer,**

*Senior Tax Analyst.*

[FR Doc. 2018-01652 Filed 1-26-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Internal Revenue Service, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The IRS is soliciting comments concerning credits for affected disaster area employers.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before March 30, 2018 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to L. Brimmer, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6529, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Kerry Dennis, at (202) 317-5751 or Internal Revenue Service, Room 6529, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224, or through the internet, at [Kerry.Dennis@irs.gov](mailto:Kerry.Dennis@irs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Credits for Affected Disaster Area Employers.

*OMB Number:* 1545-1978.

*Regulation Project Number:* Form 5884-A.

*Abstract:* Form 5884-A is used to figure the employee retention credit that an eligible employer who conducted an active trade or business in the Hurricane Harvey, Irma, or Maria disaster zones may claim. The credit is equal to 40

percent of qualified wages for each eligible employee (up to a maximum of \$6,000 in qualified wages per employee).

*Current Actions:* There are no changes to the paperwork burden previously approved by OMB.

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

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations, and farms.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 250,000.

*Estimated Time per Respondent:* 3.04 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 760,000.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) 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; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: January 16, 2018.

**L. Brimmer,**

*Senior Tax Analyst.*

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