

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 10429]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: JADE Act Questionnaire**ACTION:** Notice of request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are requesting comments on this collection from all interested individuals and organizations. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: The Department will accept comments from the public up to August 7, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Web:* Persons with access to the internet may comment on this notice by going to www.Regulations.gov. You can search for the document by entering "Docket Number: DOS-2018-0018" in the Search field. Then click the "Comment Now" button and complete the comment form.
- *Email:* PRA_BurdenComments@state.gov.

You must include the DS form number (if applicable), information collection title, and the OMB control number in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- *Title of Information Collection:* JADE Act Questionnaire.
- *OMB Control Number:* None.
- *Type of Request:* New Collection.
- *Originating Office:* CA/VO/L/R.
- *Form Number:* DS-5537.
- *Respondents:* Burmese applicants for U.S. visas.
- *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 20,500.
- *Estimated Number of Responses:* 20,500.
- *Average Time per Response:* 30 minutes.
- *Total Estimated Burden Time:* 10,250 hours.
- *Frequency:* Once per visa application.
- *Obligation to Respond:* Required to Obtain or Retain a Benefit.

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department.
- Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for

this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that comments submitted in response to this Notice are public record. Before including any detailed personal information, you should be aware that your comments as submitted, including your personal information, will be available for public review.

Abstract of Proposed Collection

The Tom Lantos Block Burmese Jade Junta's Anti-Democratic Efforts (JADE) Act of 2008, Public Law 110-286, renders certain individuals involved in specified Burmese organizations or activities ineligible for U.S. visas, including: leaders of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), the Burmese military, or the Union Solidarity Development Association (USDA); officials of the SPDC, the Burmese military, or the USDA involved in human rights violations and impeding democracy in Burma; and Burmese persons who provided substantial economic or political support to the SPDC, Burmese military, or USDA. Immediate family members of these individuals are also ineligible for United States visas. Department of State consular officers will use the information provided to evaluate and adjudicate the individual applicant's eligibility for a visa consistent with these requirements.

Methodology

Visa applicants from Burma will fill out and submit the supplemental form and provide it to consular officers. Consular officers will use the form to screen for potential visa ineligibility under the JADE Act.

Edward J Ramotowski,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State.

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. EP 682 (Sub-No. 9)]

2017 Tax Information for Use in the Revenue Shortfall Allocation Method**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Board is publishing, and providing the public an opportunity to comment on, the 2017 weighted average state tax rates for each Class I railroad, as calculated by the Association of American Railroads (AAR), for use in the Revenue Shortfall Allocation Method (RSAM).

DATES: Comments are due by July 9, 2018. If any comment opposing AAR's calculation is filed, AAR's reply will be due by July 30, 2018. If no comments are filed by the due date, AAR's calculation of the 2017 weighted average state tax rates will be automatically adopted by the Board, effective July 10, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted either via the Board's e-filing format or in traditional paper format. Any person using e-filing should attach a document and otherwise comply with the instructions at the E-FILING link on the Board's website at <http://www.stb.gov>. Any person submitting a filing in the traditional paper format should send an original and 10 copies referring to Docket No. EP 682 (Sub-No. 9) to: Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sarah Fancher, (202) 245-0355. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RSAM figure is one of three benchmarks that together are used to determine the reasonableness of a challenged rate under the Board's *Simplified Standards for Rail Rate Cases*, EP 646 (Sub-No. 1), slip op. at 10 (STB served Sept. 5, 2007),¹ as further revised in *Simplified Standards for Rail Rate Cases—Taxes in Revenue Shortfall Allocation Method*, EP 646 (Sub-No. 2) (STB served Nov. 21, 2008). RSAM is intended to measure the average markup that the railroad would need to collect from all of its "potentially captive traffic" (traffic with a revenue-to-variable-cost ratio above 180%) to earn adequate revenues as measured by the Board under 49 U.S.C. 10704(a)(2) (*i.e.*, earn a return on investment equal to the railroad industry cost of capital). *Simplified Standards—Taxes in RSAM*, slip op. at 1. In *Simplified Standards—Taxes in RSAM*, slip op. at 3, 5, the Board modified its RSAM formula to account for taxes, as the prior formula

¹ *Aff'd sub nom. CSX Transp., Inc. v. STB*, 568 F.3d 236 (D.C. Cir. 2009), and vacated in part on reh'g, *CSX Transp., Inc. v. STB*, 584 F.3d 1076 (D.C. Cir. 2009).