

(the internet, fax, or professional delivery service) to submit comments to the docket and ensure their timely receipt at U.S. DOT. You may fax your comments to the DMS at (202) 493-2251. Comments can also be viewed and/or submitted via the Federal Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Please note that anyone is able to electronically search all comments received into our docket management system by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; pages 19475-19570) or you may review the Privacy Act Statement at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janine L. McFadden, (202) 366-2468, NCFO Project Manager, BTS, OST-R, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Room E32-316, Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* National Census of Ferry Operators (NCFO)

*Background:* The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) (Pub. L. 105-178), section 1207(c), directed the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study of ferry transportation in the United States and its possessions. In 2000, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Intermodal and Statewide Planning conducted a survey of approximately 250 ferry operators to identify: (1) Existing ferry operations including the location and routes served; (2) source and amount, if any, of funds derived from Federal, State, or local governments supporting ferry construction or operations; (3) potential domestic ferry routes in the United States and its possessions and to develop information on those routes; and (4) potential for use of high speed ferry services and alternative-fueled ferry services. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Pub. L. 109-59, Section 1801(e) required that the Secretary, acting through the BTS, shall establish and maintain a national ferry database containing current information regarding routes, vessels, passengers and vehicles carried, funding sources and such other information as the

Secretary considers useful. MAP-21 legislation [Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Pub. L. 112-141)], continued the BTS mandate to conduct the NCFO and also required that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) use the NCFO data to set the specific formula for allocating federal ferry funds. The funding allocations were based on a percentage of the number of passenger boardings, vehicle boardings, and route miles served.

BTS conducted the first Census of Ferry Operators in 2006, and again in 2008, 2010, 2014, 2016 and 2018, and plans are underway for the conduct of the next NCFO in the Spring of 2020. These information collections were originally approved by OMB under Control Number 2139-0009.

The recently enacted FAST Act legislation [Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (Pub. L. 114-94, sec. 1112)] continues the BTS mandate to conduct the NCFO on a biennial basis, and extended the requirement that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) use the NCFO data to set the specific formula for allocating federal ferry funds based on a percentage of the number of passenger boardings, vehicle boardings, and route miles served. The overall length of the revised questionnaire for the 2020 NCFO will remain consistent with that of previous years.

The survey will be administered to the entire population of ferry operators (estimate of 250 or less). The survey will request the respondents to provide information such as: the points served; the type of ownership; the number of passengers and vehicles carried in the past 12 months; vessel descriptions (including type of fuel), federal, state and local funding sources, and intermodal connectivity. All data collected in 2020 will be added to the existing NCFO database.

*Respondents:* The target population for the survey will be all of the approximately 250 ferry operators existing in the United States.

*Estimated Average Burden per Response:* The burden per respondent is estimated to be an average of 30 minutes. This average is based on an estimate of 20 minutes to answer new questions and an additional 10 minutes to review (and revise as needed) previously submitted data that will be pre-populated for each ferry operation.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* The total annual burden (in the year that the survey is conducted) is estimated to be just under 125 hours (that is 30 minutes per respondent for 250 respondents equals 7,500 minutes).

*Frequency:* This survey will be updated every other year.

*Public Comments Invited:* Interested parties are invited to send comments regarding any aspect of this information collection, including, but not limited to: (1) The necessity and utility of the information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the DOT; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, clarity and content of the collected information; and (4) ways to minimize the collection burden without reducing the quality of the collected information. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

**Authority:** The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, P.L. 105-178, section 1207(c), The Safe, Accountable, Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), P.L. 109-59, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), P.L. 112-141, 49 CFR 1.46, and Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), P.L. 114-94, sec. 1112.

Issued in Washington, DC on the 14th of February 2019.

**Patricia Hu,**

*Director, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

[OMB Control No. 2900-0358]

**Agency Information Collection Activity: Supplemental Information for Change of Program or Reenrollment After Unsatisfactory Attendance, Conduct, or Progress**

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before April 23, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov) or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M33), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420 or email to [nancy.kessinger@va.gov](mailto:nancy.kessinger@va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0358" in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Danny S. Green at (202) 421-1354.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, Veterans

Benefits Administration (VBA) invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

**Authority:** Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521.

**Title:** Supplemental Information for Change of Program or Reenrollment After Unsatisfactory Attendance, Conduct, or Progress, VA Form 22-8873.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900-0358.

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

**Abstract:** Students use the form to change programs of education or to

notify VA that they are making unsatisfactory progress in their programs of education.

VA uses the information provided from the current collection to ensure (1) that programs are suitable to a claimant's aptitudes, interests, and abilities and (2) that the cause of any past unsatisfactory attendance, progress, or conduct has been resolved. Without this information, VA could not determine further entitlement to education benefits.

**Affected Public:** Individual and households.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 8,860 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:** 30 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** Annual.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 17,720.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Danny S. Green,**

*VA Interim Clearance Officer, Office of Quality Performance and Risk, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

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