DEPARTMENT OF STATE


ACTION: Notice of request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of State (“Department”) 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 December 23, 2019.

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–2019–0037” 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: The notice of the President’s major disaster declaration for Private Non-Profit organizations in the State of Mississippi, dated 04/23/2019, is hereby amended to re-establish the incident period for this disaster as beginning 02/22/2019 and continuing through 08/23/2019.

All other information in the original declaration remains unchanged.

Title of Information Collection: Public Charge Questionnaire.
OMB Control Number: New Collection.
Type of Request: New Collection.
Originating Office: Bureau of Consular Affairs, Visa Office (CA/VO).
Form Number: DS–5540.
Respondents: Immigrant visa applicants, including diversity visa applicants, and certain nonimmigrant visa applicants.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 450,500.
Estimated Number of Responses: 450,500.

Average Time per Response: 60 minutes (10 minutes for applicants completing only questions 4 and 4A, estimated to be 500 of the 450,500 total applicants).
Total Estimated Burden Time: 450,084 hours.
Frequency: Once per respondent’s application.
Obligation to respond: Required to Obtain or Retain a Benefit.

We are soliciting public comments that assist the Department in:
- Evaluating whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department;
- Evaluating the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden of this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhancing the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and,
- Minimizing 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 Department seeks to better ensure that aliens subject to the public charge inadmissibility ground are self-sufficient and will not rely on public resources to meet their needs, but rather, will rely on their own capabilities, as well as the resources of sponsors. Through the DS–5540, the Department will collect information in a standardized format regarding applicants’ ability to financially support themselves following entry into the United States, without depending on government assistance. Fields primarily pertain to the applicant’s health, family status, assets, resources, financial status, education, skills, health insurance coverage, and tax history. The DS–5540 would also require applicants to provide information on whether they have received certain specified public benefits from a U.S. Federal, state, local or tribal government entity on or after October 15, 2019. Consular officers will use the completed forms in assessing whether an applicant is likely to become a public charge, and is thus ineligible for a visa under section 212(a)(4)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”). This collection is consistent with the burden of proof on applicants.
under section 291 of the INA to
establish that they are eligible to receive
a visa, including that they are not
inadmissible under any provision of the
INA.
Sponsors of immigrant visa applicants
must currently provide information
regarding their ability to financially
support the applicant on an I–864,
Affidavit of Support, which consular
officers use in considering whether the
applicant is likely to depend on certain
forms of government assistance. Visa
applicants provide limited optional
input on the I–864 regarding their
assets. The DS–5540 will be used to
collect more detailed information on an
applicant’s ability to support himself or
herself. Consular officers will use the
information to assess whether the
applicant is likely to become a public
charge, based on the totality of the
circumstances.
Applicants for immigrant visas,
including diversity visas, will be
required to complete the DS–5540,
except for categories of applicants that
are exempt from the public charge
ground of inadmissibility. The
exempted categories are listed in 8 CFR
212.23(a). Exempted categories include
applicants seeking immigrant visas
based on qualified service to the U.S.
government as an interpreter in
Afghanistan or Iraq, visas based on a
self-petition under the Violence Against
Women Act, and visas for special
immigrant juveniles. Additionally, a
consular officer has discretion to require
a nonimmigrant visa applicant to
complete the DS–5540, when the officer
determines the information is needed,
for example, if the officer is not
satisfied, based on other available
information, that the applicant would be
self-sufficient during his or her period
of stay. A consular officer may also
request any immigrant visa applicant
not subject to public charge, but subject
to The Presidential Proclamation on the
Suspension of Entry of Immigrants Who
Will Financially Burden the United
States Healthcare System (Oct. 4, 2019),
to complete questions 4 and 4A from
Form DS–5540 to establish that the
applicant will be covered by an
approved health insurance plan within
30 days of entry into the United States,
or that the applicant possesses sufficient
financial resources to cover reasonably foreseeable medical costs.

Methodology
The DS–5540 will be available online
in fillable PDF format. Immigrant visa
applicants will download the completed forms and then upload and submit the
completed DS–5540 and other
supporting documentation as a part of
their immigrant visa application
through the Consular Electronic
Application Center (CEAC). Nonimmigrant visa applicants who are
required to submit this form will be able
to do so via email or in hard copy.

Carl C. Risch,
Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Consular
Affairs, Department of State.
[FR Doc. 2019–23219 Filed 10–23–19; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4710–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Notice of Determinations: Culturally Significant Object Imported for
Exhibition—Determinations: “Raphael and the Pope’s Librarian”
Exhibition

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the
following determinations: I hereby
determine that a certain object to be
exhibited in the exhibition “Raphael and the Pope’s Librarian”, imported
from abroad for temporary exhibition
within the United States, is of cultural
significance. The object is imported
pursuant to a loan agreement with the
foreign owner or custodian. I also
determine that the exhibition or display
of the exhibit object at the Isabella
Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston,
Massachusetts, from on or about
October 31, 2019, until on or about
January 30, 2020, and at possible
additional exhibitions or venues yet to
be determined, is in the national
interest. I have ordered that Public
Notice of these determinations be
published in the Federal Register.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chi D. Tran, Paralegal Specialist, Office of
the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of
State (telephone: 202–632–6471; email:
section24590@state.gov). The mailing
address is U.S. Department of State, L/
PD, SA–5, Suite 5H03, Washington, DC
20522–6505.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
foregoing determinations were made
pursuant to the authority vested in me
985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order
12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign
Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act
6501 note, et seq.), Delegation of
Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999,
and Delegation of Authority No. 236–3

Marie Therese Porter Royce,
Assistant Secretary, Educational and Cultural
Affairs, Department of State.
[FR Doc. 2019–23218 Filed 10–23–19; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4710–05–P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Union Pacific Railroad Company and
Jackson County, Mo.—Abandonment
Exemption—in Jackson County, Mo.

On October 4, 2019, Union Pacific
Railroad Company (UP) and Jackson
County, Mo. (the County) (collectively,
Petitioners), jointly filed with the Board
a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for
exemption from the prior approval
requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to
abandon the railroad line extending
between milepost 288.3 and milepost
270.6 in Jackson County, Mo. (the Line).
The Line traverses U.S. Postal Service
Zip Codes 64063, 64081, 64082, 64086,
64129, 64133, 64138, and 64139.

According to Petitioners, based on
information in their possession, the Line
does not contain federally granted
rights-of-way. Petitioners further state
that any documentation in the County’s
or UP’s possession will be made
available promptly to those requesting
it.

In 2016, the County received
authority through the Board’s class
exemption process at 49 CFR 1150.31 to
acquire from UP and operate the Line.
Recently, however, the Board revoked
the County’s acquisition and operation
exemption. See Jackson Cnty., Mo.—
Acquis. & Operation Exemption—Union
Pac. R.R., FD 35982 (STB served July 31,
2019). Petitioners state that, in light of
that decision, to avoid doubt on how to
proceed, they jointly seek an exemption
to abandon the Line. Petitioners state
that there are no shippers on the Line
and that there has not been any rail
traffic on the Line in more than 20
years.

The County and UP indicate that they
intend to enter into an interim trail use/
rail banking agreement pursuant to the
National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C.
1247(d). If a NITU 1 is issued, the County
anticipates salvaging track and
track materials.

The interest of railroad employees
will be protected by the conditions set
forth in Oregon Short Line Railroad—
Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch
Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham &
Bonneville Counties, Idaho, 360 I.C.C.
91 (1979).

By issuing this notice, the Board is
instituting an exemption proceeding
pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(b). A final

1 Although the County and UP indicate that the
County will seek issuance of a certificate of
interim trail use or abandonment (CITU) (Pet. 8), the Board
issues CITUs in abandonment application
proceedings and notices of interim trail use or
abandonment (NITU’s) in abandonment exemption
proceedings.