DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 10932]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Public Charge Questionnaire

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Persons with access to the internet may contact Megan Herndon at 202–485–7586 or via email at PRA_BurdenComments@state.gov.

Obtain or Retain a Benefit.

Frequent: 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 1–864. 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 1–864 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 the DS–5540.

Methodology

The DS–5540 will be available online in fillable PDF format. Immigrant visa applicants will download the completed form 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.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Public Notice: 10931

Notice of Determinations: Culturally Significant Object Imported for Exhibition—Determination: “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.


Marie Therese Porter Royce,
Assistant Secretary, Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. AB 33 (Sub–No. 342X)]

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 Cty., 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/traffic agreement pursuant to the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d). If a NITU 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 (NITUs) in abandonment exemption proceedings.