

and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: September 19, 2001.

Judith R. Tillman,

Assistant Commissioner, Financial Operations.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0105]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), 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. This notice solicits comments on the information needed to determine if a

claimant's accidental injury was the result of the claimant's misconduct.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before November 26, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail: irmnkess@vba.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0105" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501 " 3520), 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, 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.

Title: Statement of Witness to Accident, VA Form Letter 21-806.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0105.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The form letter is used to gather information to support veterans' claims for disability benefits based on disability(ies) which is/are the result of an accident. The information given by a witness to the accident is used as a source to gather specific data regarding the accident and to obtain from the witness opinions as well as facts based on his or her knowledge and beliefs regarding the accident. Benefits may be paid if a disability is incurred in the line of duty and is not the result of the veteran's own willful misconduct.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 4,400 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 20 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Generally one time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 13,200.

Dated: September 10, 2001.

By direction of the Secretary.

Barbara H. Epps,

Management Analyst, Information Management Service.

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