

accept the submission as payment, subject to verification at VA's discretion. VA may request the third-party payer to submit evidence or information to substantiate the appropriateness of the payment amount (e.g., health plan policies, provider agreements, medical evidence, and proof of payment to other providers demonstrating the amount paid for the same care and services VA provided). The information is needed to determine whether the third-party payer has met the test of properly demonstrated its equivalent private sector provider payment amount for the same care or services and within the same geographic area as provided by VA.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Individuals or households, not for profit institutions, farms, and State, local or tribal government.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 800 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 2 hours.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 400.

By direction of the Secretary.

Dated: December 29, 2004.

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. 05-490 Filed 1-10-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0601]

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 information needed to refinance a delinquent VA-guaranteed loan with a lower interest rate.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before March 14, 2005.

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. 2900-0601" 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 (Pub.L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), 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: Loan Guaranty: Requirements for Interest Rate Reduction Refinancing Loans.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0601.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: A veteran may refinance an outstanding VA guaranteed, insured, or direct loan with a new loan at a lower interest rate provided that the veteran still owns the property used as security for the loan. The new loan will be guaranteed only if VA approves it in advance after determining that the borrower, through the lender, has provided reasons for the loan deficiency, and has provided information to establish that the cause of the delinquency has been corrected, and qualifies for the loan under the credit standard provisions.

Affected Public: Business or other for profit.

Estimated Annual Burden: 39 hours.

Estimated Annual Burden per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 78.

Dated: December 29, 2004.

By direction of the Secretary.

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0116]

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 for information needed from penal institutions regarding incarcerated VA beneficiaries.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before March 14, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M35), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail: irmnkess@vba.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0116" 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 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), 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: Notice to Department of Veterans Affairs of Veteran or Beneficiary Incarcerated in Penal Institution, VA Form 21-4193.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0116.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The data collected on VA Form 21-4193 is used to determine whether a beneficiary's VA compensation or pension rate should be reduced or terminated when the beneficiary is incarcerated in a penal institution in excess of 60 days after conviction.

Affected Public: Federal Government, and State, Local or Tribal Government.

Estimated Annual Burden: 416 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One-time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,664.

Dated: December 29, 2004.

By direction of the Secretary.

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.

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