

functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of OSC's estimate of the burden of the proposed collections of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Comments should be received by June 27, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Roderick Anderson, Director of Management and Budget, U.S. Office of Special Counsel, 1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 218, Washington, DC 20036-4505.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Roderick Anderson, Director of Management and Budget at the address shown above; by facsimile at (202) 254-3715. The survey form for the collection of information is available for review by calling OSC, or on OSC's Web site, at <http://www.osc.gov/reading.htm>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** OSC is an independent agency responsible for, among other things, (1) investigation of allegations of prohibited personnel practices defined by law at 5 U.S.C. 2302(b), protection of whistleblowers, and certain other illegal employment practices under titles 5 and 38 of the U.S. Code, affecting current or former Federal employees or applicants for employment, and covered state and local government employees; and (2) the interpretation and enforcement of Hatch Act provisions on political activity in chapters 15 and 73 of title 5 of the U.S. Code.

OSC is required to conduct an annual survey of individuals who seek its assistance. Section 13 of Public Law 103-424 (1994), codified at 5 U.S.C. 1212 note, states, in part: "[T]he survey shall--(1) determine if the individual seeking assistance was fully apprised of their rights; (2) determine whether the individual was successful either at the Office of Special Counsel or the Merit Systems Protection Board; and (3) determine if the individual, whether successful or not, was satisfied with the treatment received from the Office of Special Counsel." The same section also provides that survey results are to be published in OSC's annual report to Congress. Copies of prior years' annual reports are available on OSC's Web site, at <http://www.osc.gov/library.htm> (at the "Annual Reports to Congress" link), or by calling OSC at (202) 254-3600.

OSC plans to enhance the effectiveness of this survey by revising the questions asked, adding a section

dealing with the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), limiting questions asked to only those areas where an individual had rights before the MSPB under 5 U.S.C. 1212, and by converting to an online survey. The form has been edited to make the survey clearer (e.g., by re-ordering questions and possible answers). The estimated response time has been reduced due to the survey's automation.

**Title of Collection:** OSC Survey-- Prohibited Personnel Practice or Other Prohibited Activity (Agency Form Number OSC-48a; OMB Control Number 3255-0003)

**Type of Information Collection**

**Request:** Approval of a previously approved collection of information that expires on July 31, 2005, with revisions.

**Affected public:** Current and former Federal employees, applicants for Federal employment, state and local government employees, and their representatives, and the general public.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Voluntary.

**Estimated Annual Number of Respondents:** 600.

**Frequency:** Annual.

**Estimated Average Amount of Time for a Person to Respond:** 12 minutes.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 120 hours.

**Abstract:** This form is used to survey current and former Federal employees and applicants for Federal employment who have submitted allegations of possible prohibited personnel practices or other prohibited activity for investigation and possible prosecution by OSC, and whose matter has been closed or otherwise resolved during the prior fiscal year, on their experience at OSC. Specifically, the survey asks questions relating to whether the respondent was: (1) apprised of his or her rights; (2) successful at the OSC or at the Merit Systems Protection Board; and (3) satisfied with the treatment received at the OSC.

Dated: April 20, 2005.

**Scott J. Bloch,**

*Special Counsel.*

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**BILLING CODE 7405-01-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 2678

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 2678, Employer Appointment of Agent.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before June 27, 2005 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Glenn Kirkland, Internal Revenue Service, room 6512, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Larnice Mack at Internal Revenue Service, room 6512, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224, or at (202) 622-3179, or through the Internet at ([Larnice.Mack@irs.gov](mailto:Larnice.Mack@irs.gov)).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Title:** Employer Appointment of Agent.

**OMB Number:** 1545-0748.

**Form Number:** 2678.

**Abstract:** Internal Revenue Code section 3504 authorizes a fiduciary, agent or other person to perform acts of an employer for purposes of employment taxes. Form 2678 is used to empower an agent with the responsibility and liability of collecting and paying the employment taxes including backup withholding and filing the appropriate tax return.

**Current Actions:** There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

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

**Affected Public:** Businesses or other for-profit organizations, not-for-profit institutions, farms and the Federal Government.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 95,200.

**Estimated Time Per Respondent:** 3 minutes.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:** 47,600.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long

as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

*Request For Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: April 20, 2005.

**Glenn Kirkland,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. E5-2001 Filed 4-27-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Open Meeting of the Area 4 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (Including the States of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin)

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** An open meeting of the Area 4 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be conducted (via teleconference). The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comment, ideas, and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Tuesday, May 24, 2005, at 11 a.m., eastern time.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Ann Delzer at 1-888-912-1227, or (414) 297-1604.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that a meeting of the Area 4 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be held Tuesday,

May 24, 2005, at 11 a.m., Eastern time via a telephone conference call. You can submit written comments to the panel by faxing the comments to (414) 297-1623, or by mail to Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, Stop 1006MIL, 310 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53203-2221, or you can contact us at <http://www.improveirs.org>. This meeting is not required to be open to the public, but because we are always interested in community input, we will accept public comments. Please contact Mary Ann Delzer at 1-888-912-1227 or (414) 297-1604 for dial-in information.

The agenda will include the following: Various IRS issues.

Dated: April 20, 2005.

**Martha Curry,**

*Acting Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.*

[FR Doc. E5-2000 Filed 4-27-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0014]

### 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 to determine to claimants training program attendance.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before June 27, 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](mailto:irmnkess@vba.va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0014" 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:* Authorization and Certification of Entrance or Reentrance into Rehabilitation and Certification of Status, VA Form 28-1905.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0014.

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

*Abstract:* VA case managers use VA Form 28-1905 to identify program participants and provide specific guidelines on the planned program of course to facilities providing education, training, or other rehabilitation services. Facility officials certify that the claimant has enrolled in the planned program of course and submit the form to VA. VA uses the information collected to ensure that claimants do not receive benefits for periods for which they did not participate in any rehabilitation, special restorative or specialized vocational training programs.

*Affected Public:* Not-for-profit institutions, individuals or households, business or other for-profit, farms, Federal government, and State, local or tribal government.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 6,833 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 5 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Twice a year.  
*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 41,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Responses:* 82,000.

Dated: April 13, 2005.