

period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cynthia Harvey-Pryor at (202) 461-5870.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Under the PRA of 1995, 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.

*Authority:* 38 U.S.C. 3032(d), 3034, 3241, 3323, 3474, 3481, 3484, 3534(b), 3680(b), 3684, 3686(a), and 10 U.S.C. 16131(e), 16136(b), chapter 31, section 510 and chapter 1607; 38 CFR 21.4203(e), 21.4206, 21.5200(d) & (g), 21.7140(c)(3), 21.7159, 21.7640(a)(4), 21.7659, and 21.9720.

*Title:* Certification of Lessons Completed VA Form 22-6553(b)/(b-1).

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0353.

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

*Abstract:* VA uses information from the current collection to determine the number of lessons completed by the student and serviced by the correspondence school and to determine the date of completion or termination of correspondence training. VA pays education benefits based on the information furnished on the form. Without this information, VA would be unable to determine the proper payment or the student's training status.

*Affected Public:* Individuals and households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 110 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 10 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 224.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Cynthia D. Harvey-Pryor,**

*Department Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Privacy and Risk, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Solicitation of Nominations for Appointment to the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans**

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Center for Minority Veterans (CMV), is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans ("the Committee").

**DATES:** Nominations for membership on the Committee must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on June 1, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** All nominations should be mailed to the Center for Minority Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW (00M), Washington, DC 20420 or faxed to (202) 273-7092.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Juanita J. Mullen and Mr. Dwayne Campbell, Center for Minority Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW (00M), Washington, DC 20420, Telephone (202) 461-6191. A copy of the Committee charter and list of the current membership can be obtained by contacting Ms. Mullen or by accessing the website managed by CMV at [www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/Advisory\\_Committee.asp](http://www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/Advisory_Committee.asp).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In carrying out the duties set forth, the Committee responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

(1) Advising the Secretary and Congress on VA's administration of benefits and provisions of healthcare, benefits, and services to minority Veterans.

(2) Providing an Annual report to congress outlining recommendations, concerns and observations on VA's delivery of services to minority Veterans.

(3) Meeting with VA officials, Veteran Service Organizations, and other stakeholders to assess the Department's efforts in providing benefits and outreach to minority Veterans.

(4) Making periodic site visits and holding town hall meetings with Veterans to address their concerns.

Management and support services for the Committee are provided by the Center for Minority Veterans (CMV).

*Authority:* The Committee was established in accordance with 38 U.S.C. 544 (Pub. L. 103-446, Sec 510). In accordance with 38 U.S.C. 544, the Committee advises the Secretary on the administration of VA benefits and services to minority Veterans; assesses the needs of minority Veterans with respect to such benefits; and evaluates whether VA compensation, medical and rehabilitation services, outreach, and other programs are meeting those needs. The Committee makes recommendations to the Secretary regarding such activities. Nominations of qualified candidates are being sought to fill upcoming vacancies on the Committee.

*Membership Criteria:* CMV is requesting nominations for upcoming vacancies on the Committee. The Committee is currently composed of 12 members, in addition to ex-officio members. As required by statute, the members of the Committee are appointed by the Secretary from the general public, including:

(1) Representatives of Veterans who are minority group members;

(2) Individuals who are recognized authorities in fields pertinent to the needs of Veterans who are minority group members;

(3) Veterans who are minority group members and who have experience in a military theater of operations;

(4) Veterans who are minority group members and who do not have such experience and;

(5) Women Veterans who are minority group members recently separated from active military service.

Section 544 defines "minority group member" as an individual who is Asian American, Black, Hispanic, Native American (including American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian); or Pacific-Islander American.

In accordance with Sec. 544, the Secretary determines the number, terms of service, and pay and allowances of members of the Committee appointed by the Secretary, except that a term of service of any such member may not exceed three years. The Secretary may reappoint any member for additional terms of service.

*Professional Qualifications:* In addition to the criteria above, VA seeks—

(1) Diversity in professional and personal qualifications;

(2) Experience in military service and military deployments (please identify Branch of Service and Rank);

(3) Current work with Veterans;

(4) Committee subject matter expertise;

(5) Experience working in large and complex organizations;

*Requirements for Nomination*

*Submission:* Nominations should be type written (one nomination per nominator). Nomination package should include: (1) A letter of nomination that clearly states the name and affiliation of the nominee, the basis for the nomination (*i.e.* specific attributes which qualify the nominee for service in this capacity), and a statement from the nominee indicating a willingness to serve as a member of the Committee; (2) the nominee's contact information, including name, mailing address, telephone numbers, and email address; (3) the nominee's curriculum vitae, and (4) a summary of the nominee's

experience and qualification relative to the *professional qualifications* criteria listed above.

Individuals selected for appointment to the Committee shall be invited to serve a two-year term. Committee members will receive a stipend for attending Committee meetings, including per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses incurred.

The Department makes every effort to ensure that the membership of its Federal advisory committees is fairly balanced in terms of points of view represented and the committee's function. Every effort is made to ensure that a broad representation of geographic areas, males & females, racial and ethnic minority groups, and the disabled are given consideration for membership. Appointment to this

Committee shall be made without discrimination because of a person's race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity, transgender status, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), national origin, age, disability, or genetic information. Nominations must state that the nominee is willing to serve as a member of the Committee and appears to have no conflict of interest that would preclude membership. An ethics review is conducted for each selected nominee.

Dated: May 16, 2018.

**Jelessa M. Burney,**

*Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

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