

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Maritime Administration**

[Docket No. MARAD-2020-0119]

Request for Comments on the Approval of a Previously Approved Information Collection: Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, Transportation (DOT).**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Maritime Administration (MARAD) invites public comments on our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to renew an information collection. The collection of information is necessary for maintaining a current plot of U.S.-flag and U.S.-owned vessels. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before October 26, 2020.**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments [identified by Docket No. MARAD-2020-0119] through one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search using the above DOT docket number and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- *Fax:* 1-202-493-2251.

- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the Department's performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for the Department to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark O'Malley, 202-366-9347, Division of Sealift Operations and Emergency Response, Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:***Title:* Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System (AMVER).*OMB Control Number:* 2133-0025.*Type of Request:* Renewal of a previously approved collection.*Abstract:* This collection of information will be used to gather information regarding the location of U.S.-flag vessels and certain other U.S. citizen-owned vessels for the purpose of search and rescue in the saving of lives at sea and for the marshalling of ships for national defense and safety purposes. The collection of information is necessary for maintaining a current plot of U.S.-flag and U.S.-owned vessels.*Respondents:* U.S.-flag and U.S. citizen-owned vessels.*Affected Public:* Business or other for profit.*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 171.*Estimated Total Number of Responses:* 31,293 (183 per Respondents).*Estimated Hours per Response:* .07.
Annual Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,191.*Frequency of Response:* Annually.

(Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.93.)

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Dated: August 24, 2020.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2020-18842 Filed 8-26-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY****Internal Revenue Service****Privacy Act of 1974****AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service, Treasury.**ACTION:** Notice of a new matching program.**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs, notice is hereby given of the conduct of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Disclosure of Information to Federal, State and Local Agencies (DIFSLA) Computer Matching Program.**DATES:** Comments on this matching notice must be received no later than 30 days after date of publication in the **Federal Register**. If no public comments are received during the period allowed for comment, the re-established agreement will be effective January 1,

2021, provided it is a minimum of 30 days after the publication date.

Beginning and completion dates: The matches are conducted on an ongoing basis in accordance with the terms of the computer matching agreement in effect with each participant as approved by the applicable Data Integrity Board(s). The term of these agreements is expected to cover the 18-month period, January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Ninety days prior to expiration of the agreement, the parties to the agreement may request a 12-month extension in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(o).**ADDRESSES:** Inquiries may be sent by email to glds.cmpa@irs.gov or by mail to the Internal Revenue Service; Privacy, Governmental Liaison and Disclosure; Data Services; ATTN: Patricia Grasela, Program Manager, 2970 Market Street, BLN: 2-Q08.124, Philadelphia, PA 19104.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Internal Revenue Service; Privacy, Governmental Liaison and Disclosure; Data Services; ATTN: Patricia Grasela, Program Manager, 2970 Market Street, BLN: 2-Q08.124, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Telephone: 267-466-5564 (not a toll-free number).**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The notice of the matching program was last published at 83 FR 27082-083 (June 11, 2018). The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services is no longer participating in the DIFSLA Computer Matching Program. Members of the public desiring specific information concerning an ongoing matching activity may request a copy of the applicable computer matching agreement at the address provided above.**PARTICIPATING AGENCIES:***Name of Recipient Agency:* IRS.

Categories of records covered in the match: Information returns (e.g., Forms 1099-DIV, 1099-INT, and W-2G) filed by payers of unearned income in the IRS Information Returns Master File (IRMF) (Treasury/IRS 22.061).

Name of source agencies and categories of records covered in the match:

A. Federal agencies expected to participate and their Privacy Act systems of records are:

1. Department of Veterans Affairs: Veterans Benefits Administration—Compensation, Pension and Education and Rehabilitation Records-VA, 58 VA 21/22; and Veterans Health Administration—Healthcare Eligibility Records, 89 VA 19; and

2. Social Security Administration, Office of Systems Requirements—Supplemental Security Income Record and Special Veterans Benefits, (60–0103).

B. State agencies expected to participate using non-federal systems of records are:

1. Alabama Department of Human Resources
2. Alabama Medicaid Agency
3. Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Public Assistance
4. Arizona Department of Economic Security
5. Arkansas Department of Human Services
6. California Department of Social Services
7. Connecticut Department of Social Services
8. Delaware Department of Health & Social Services
9. District of Columbia Department of Human Services
10. Florida Department of Children & Families
11. Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services
12. Hawaii Department of Human Services
13. Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
14. Illinois Department of Human Services
15. Indiana Family & Social Services Administration
16. Iowa Department of Human Services
17. Kansas Department for Children and Families
18. Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
19. Louisiana Department of Health
20. Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
21. Maine Department of Health & Human Services
22. Maryland Department of Human Services
23. Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance
24. Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
25. Minnesota Department of Human Services
26. Mississippi Department of Human Services
27. Mississippi Division of Medicaid
28. Missouri Department of Social Services
29. Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services
30. Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
31. New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services, Division of

Economic & Housing Stability, Bureau of Family Assistance

32. New Jersey Department of Human Services
33. New Mexico Human Services Department
34. New York State Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance
35. North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services
36. North Dakota Department of Human Services
37. Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
38. Ohio Department of Medicaid
39. Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Adult & Family Services
40. Oregon Health Authority, Department of Human Resources
41. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
42. Rhode Island Department of Human Services
43. South Carolina Department of Social Services
44. South Dakota Department of Social Services
45. Tennessee Department of Human Services
46. Texas Health and Human Services Commission
47. Utah Department of Workforce Services
48. Vermont Department of Children and Families, Economic Services Division
49. Virginia Department of Social Services
50. Washington Department of Social & Health Services
51. Wisconsin Department of Children & Families
52. Wyoming Department of Family Services

AUTHORITY FOR CONDUCTING THE MATCHING PROGRAM:

In accordance with section 6103(l)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), the Secretary shall, upon written request, disclose current return information from returns with respect to unearned income from the IRS files to any federal, state, or local agency administering a program listed below:

- (i) A state program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act;
- (ii) Medical assistance provided under a state plan approved under title XIX of the Social Security Act, or subsidies provided under section 1860D–14 of such Act;
- (iii) Supplemental security income benefits provided under title XVI of the Social Security Act, and federally administered supplementary payments of the type described in section 1616(a) of such Act (including payments pursuant to an agreement entered into under section 212(a) of Pub. L. 93–66);

(iv) Any benefits provided under a state plan approved under title I, X, XIV, or XVI of the Social Security Act (as those titles apply to Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands);

(v) Unemployment compensation provided under a state law described in section 3304 of the IRC;

(vi) Assistance provided under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008;

(vii) State-administered supplementary payments of the type described in section 1616(a) of the Social Security Act (including payments pursuant to an agreement entered into under section 212(a) of Pub. L. 93–66);

(viii)(I) Any needs-based pension provided under chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, or under any other law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

(viii)(II) parents' dependency and indemnity compensation provided under section 1315 of title 38, United States Code;

(viii)(III) Health-care services furnished under sections 1710(a)(2)(G), 1710(a)(3), and 1710(b) of such title.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this program is to prevent or reduce fraud and abuse in certain federally assisted benefit programs while protecting the privacy interests of the subjects of the match. Information is disclosed by the IRS only for the purpose of, and to the extent necessary in, determining eligibility for, and/or the correct amount of, benefits for individuals applying for or receiving certain benefit payments.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS:

Individuals applying for or receiving benefits under federal and state administered programs.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS:

The source Agency will furnish the IRS with records in accordance with the current IRS Publication 3373, DIFSLA Handbook. The Agency may request return information on a monthly basis for new applicants. The Agency may request information with respect to all beneficiaries once per year. The requests from the Agency will include: The Social Security Number (SSN) and name control (first four characters of the surname) for each individual for whom unearned income information is requested. IRS will provide a response record for each individual identified by the Agency. The total number of records will be equal to or greater than the number of records submitted by the Agency. In some instances, an individual may have more than one record on file. When there is a match of

individual SSN and name control, IRS will disclose the following to the Agency: Payee account number; Payee name and mailing address; payee taxpayer identification number (TIN); payer name and address; payer TIN; and income type and amount.

SYSTEM(S) OF RECORDS:

Public Law 98–369, Deficit Reduction Act of 1984, requires the Agency administering certain federally assisted benefit programs to conduct income verification to ensure proper distribution of benefit payments. The records in this match are to be disclosed only for purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, determining eligibility for, or the correct amount of benefits under, these programs.

IRS will extract return information with respect to unearned income from the Information Returns Master File (IRMF), Treas/IRS 22.061, as published at 80 FR 54081–082 (September 8, 2015), through the DIFSLA Computer Matching Program.

Ryan Law,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Privacy, Transparency, and Records.

[FR Doc. 2020–18863 Filed 8–26–20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Disruption of Mail Service

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

ACTION: Notice of exception to date of receipt rule.

SUMMARY: In response to the declaration of a national emergency, announced on March 13, 2020, due to the coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic in the United States, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) instituted temporary provisions for determining the acceptable dates for the receipt of correspondence through the United States Postal Service mail and other mail delivery systems. This is an updated notice to VA’s April 20, 2020, **Federal Register** publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cleveland Karren, Director, Policy and Procedures, Compensation Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, 202–461–9700. (This is not a toll-free telephone number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States signed a declaration of national emergency due to the COVID–19

pandemic in the United States, beginning March 1, 2020. The COVID–19 pandemic required VBA to dramatically alter its operations in concert with the Federal Government’s efforts to combat the spread of the virus.

VBA, as part of its efforts to protect veterans and employees, has in many locations maximized the use of telework from home. In addition, VBA has temporarily closed public contact units within VBA regional offices. Although the United States Postal Service operations have continued, limited physical staffing at VBA regional offices could lead to delays in the ability of these regional offices to receive mail and process it in a timely manner. At several VBA regional office locations the processing of correspondence (containing claims, pertinent beneficiary information or related evidence) mailed to VA during this period could be interrupted due to VA’s involvement in the Federal Government’s effort to combat the spread of COVID–19. VA aims to protect the interest of claimants who send such correspondence to VBA through the normal channels of communication during this period and could possibly be deprived of benefits solely because these channels of communication are disrupted during this time of national emergency. Therefore, VA has instituted temporary provisions for determining the acceptable dates for the receipt of correspondence through the United States Postal Service mail and other mail delivery systems (such as courier mail), as updated in this notice.

VA regulation 38 CFR 3.1(r) allows the Under Secretary for Benefits to establish exceptions to VA’s rule on the date of receipt of claims, information or evidence by a notice published in the **Federal Register**. Ordinarily, “date of receipt” means the date on which a claim, information or evidence was received in a VA office. This regulation states that exceptions may be established when a natural or man-made interference with the normal channels through which VBA ordinarily receives correspondence has resulted in one or more VBA regional offices experiencing extended delays in the receipt of claims, information or evidence to an extent that, if not addressed, the delay would adversely affect such claimants, through no fault of their own.

The COVID–19 pandemic has interrupted operations at all VBA regional offices since the beginning of March 2020. Correspondence containing claims, information or evidence sent to VA during this period was likely delayed due to interrupted operations of VBA regional offices. Because VBA

regional office mail systems were impacted, VA has established the following updated exceptions to the standard date of receipt rule.

Exceptions to Date of Receipt Rule for Claimants Affected by the COVID–19 Outbreak

VA previously gave notice that for purposes of determining entitlement to benefits, any correspondence received by VA from any claimant, during the period March 1, 2020, through 60 calendar days past the date the President ends the national state of emergency, that contains claims, information or evidence, is considered received on the date of postmark. That guidance remains in effect unless existing regulations permit an earlier date of receipt, such as in 38 CFR 3.108, 3.153 or 3.201, or in the case of Veterans Pension, if its application would, in rare instances, unduly disadvantage the claimant.

VA also previously gave notice that, in the event there is no mail postmark or date stamp by the through the United States Postal Service mail and other mail delivery systems, VA would consider the correspondence as received no later than February 29, 2020. This updated notice provides that, effective immediately, VA will consider any correspondence with no postmark or date stamp as received 10 calendar days prior to the document’s scanning date at the centralized claims intake center, counting the date of receipt at the intake center as the 10th calendar day; except in such cases where the mailing clearly shows that the receipt date would be erroneous. This change is necessary to account for the length of the COVID–19 pandemic and the realities of current mail processing.

Due to length of the COVID–19 pandemic, it is no longer reasonable to assume that mail lacking a postmark was received prior to March 1, 2020. Most mail sent to regional offices is forwarded directly to VBA’s claims intake center for scanning and processing; however, some sites are excluded from direct forwarding. At those sites, there are personnel onsite to review the mail and send it for scanning. Also, VA is aware of some minor delays in either forwarding, receiving and scanning the mail. In either case, treating mail as received by VA 10 calendar days prior to the date of the scanning at the claims intake center, is sufficient to cover the current delays in mail processing.

VA, in applying this guidance, is attempting to give claimants the earliest and most accurate date of claim. As such, VA will treat mail that lacks a