

553), it is the practice of the Secretary to offer interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed rules that are not taken directly from the statute. Ordinarily, this practice would have applied to the rules in this notice. Section 437(d)(2) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), however, exempts from this rulemaking requirement those rules where the Secretary determines it would cause extreme hardship to the intended beneficiaries of the program affected by the regulations. The Secretary, in accordance with section 437(d)(2) of GEPA, has decided to forego public comment with respect to the rules in this grant competition in order to ensure timely and high-quality awards. These rules will apply only to the FY 2003 grant competition.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Madeline E. Baggett, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-6140. Telephone: (202) 260-2502 or via Internet: madeline.baggett@ed.gov.

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 6531-6537.

Dated: May 12, 2003.

Nina Rees,

Deputy Under Secretary for Innovation and Improvement.

[FR Doc. 03-12285 Filed 5-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P