

collection of information should be received on or before March 31, 2003.

**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 *mailto:irmnkess@vba.va.gov*. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0112" 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 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), 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:* Statement of Holder or Servicer of Veteran's Loan, VA Form 26-559.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0112.

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

*Abstract:* Veteran-borrowers may sell their homes subject to the existing VA-guaranteed mortgage lien without prior approval of VA if the commitment for the loan was made prior to March 1, 1988. However, if they request release from personal liability to the Government in the event of a subsequent default by a transferee, VA must determine that (1) loan payments are current; (2) the transferee will assume the veteran's legal liabilities in connection with the loan; and (3) the purchaser qualifies from a credit standpoint. A veteran-borrower may sell his or her home to a veteran-transferee. However, eligible transferees must meet all the requirements in addition to having sufficient available loan guaranty entitlement to replace the amount of entitlement used by the seller in obtaining the original loan.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households, Business or other for profit.  
*Estimated Annual Burden:* 1,167 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 10 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 7,000.

Dated: January 16, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Ernesto Castro,**

*Director, Records Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-2126 Filed 1-29-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0321]

### 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 previously approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments for information needed to determine whether representatives of veterans service organization are authorized to have access to a beneficiary's claim file.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before March 31, 2003.

**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. 2900-0321" 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 (Public Law 104-13; 44

U.S.C., 3501-3520), 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:* Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative, VA Form 21-22.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0321.

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

*Abstract:* VA beneficiaries to appoint a representative from a recognized veterans service organization to represent them in the prosecution of their VA claims, must complete VA Form 21-22. The information is used to determine who has access to the beneficiary's claim file and the right to receive copies of correspondence from VA to the beneficiary. Title 38, U.S.C. 5902(b)(2), provides that VA may recognize representatives of service organizations to assist beneficiaries in the prosecution of VA claims, but that no individual shall be recognized unless such individual has filed a power of attorney, executed in a manner prescribed by VA.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 27,083 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 5 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 325,000.

Dated: January 15, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Loise A. Russell,**

*Acting Director, Records Management Service.*

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