

Title: Work Experience and Career Exploration Programs (29 CFR Part 570.35a).

OMB Number: 1215-0121.

Form Number: None.

Frequency: Biannually.

Type of Response: Reporting; Recordkeeping; and Third party disclosure.

Affected Public: Individuals or households and State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 14,014.

Annual Responses: 14,014.

Average Response Time: 2 hours for state application; 1 hour for written training agreement; and one-half minute to file a record.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 14,145.

Total Annualized capital/startup costs: \$0.

Total Annual Costs (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services): \$0.

Description: The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), 29 U.S.C. 201 et seq., section (3)(l) establishes a minimum age of 16 years for most nonagricultural employment but allows the employment of 14- and 15 year olds in occupations other than manufacturing and mining, if the Secretary of Labor determines such employment is confined to (1) periods that will not interfere with the minor's schooling and (2) conditions that will not interfere with the minor's health and well-being. FLSA section 11(c) requires all employers covered by the FLSA to make, keep and preserve records of their employees' wages, hours and other conditions and practices of employment. Regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor prescribe the recordkeeping and reporting requirements for these records. Subpart C of Regulations, 29 CFR part 570, Child Labor Regulations, Orders and Statements of Interpretation, sets forth the employment standards for 14- and 15-year olds (CL Reg. 3). Regulations 29 CFR 570.35a contains the requirements describing the criteria for use, occupations permitted and conditions of employment that allow employment of 14- and 15-year olds-pursuant to a school-supervised and school administered Work Experience and Career Exploration Program (WECEP)—under the conditions CL Reg. 3 otherwise prohibits. In order to utilize the CL Reg. 3 WECEP provisions, regulations 29 CFR 570.35(b)(2) requires a state educational agency to file an application for approval of a state WECEP program as one not interfering with schooling or with the health and well-being of the minors involved. Regulations 29 CFR 570.35a(b)(3)(vi)

requires preparation of a written training agreement for each student participating in a WECEP and that such agreement be signed by the teacher, coordinator, employer and student. The regulation also requires the student's parent or guardian to sign or otherwise consent to the agreement, in order for it to be valid. Regulations 29 CFR 570.35a(b)(4)(ii) requires state education agencies to keep a record of the names and addresses of each school enrolling WECEP students and the number of enrollees in each unit. The state or local educational agency office must keep a copy of the written training agreement for each student participating in the program and maintain these records for 3 years from the date of enrollment in the program.

Ira L. Mills,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employee Benefits Security Administration

Proposed Extension of Information Collection; Comment Request Settlement Agreements Between a Plan and Party in Interest

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), the Department of Labor (the Department) conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing collections of information. This program helps to ensure that the data the Department gathers can be provided in the desired format, that the reporting burden on the public (time and financial resources) is minimized, that the public understands the Department's collection instruments, and that the Department can accurately assess the impact of collection requirements on respondents.

By this notice, the Department is soliciting comments concerning the information collection provisions of two similar prohibited transaction class exemptions, PTE 94-71 and PTE 03-39. Both of these class exemptions concern transactions undertaken pursuant to settlement agreements between an employee benefit plan and a party in interest to that plan. A copy of the ICR may be obtained by contacting the office

listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office shown in the **ADDRESSES** section below on or before February 21, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments regarding the information collection request and burden estimates to: Susan G. Lahne, Office of Policy and Research, U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N-5647, Washington, DC 20210. Telephone: (202) 693-8410; Fax: (202) 219-4745. These are not toll-free numbers. Comments may also be submitted electronically to ebbsa.opr@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 94-71, entitled Class Exemption to Permit Certain Transactions Authorized Pursuant to Settlement Agreements Between the U.S. Department of Labor and Plans, which was published in final form on October 7, 1994 (59 FR 60837), exempts from the prohibitions of sections 406 and 407(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) transactions that are specifically authorized by a settlement agreement resulting from an investigation of an employee benefit plan by the Department pursuant to the authority of section 504(a) of ERISA. The availability of the exemption is conditioned on providing certain notices and disclosures. Specifically, the person seeking to rely on the exemption must provide notice to the affected participants and beneficiaries, at least 30 days prior to entering into the settlement agreement with the Department, in a manner approved by the Department that is reasonably calculated to result in actual receipt. The notice must include an objective description of the transaction, the approximate date on which it will occur, the address of the office of the Department that negotiated the settlement, and a statement apprising participants and beneficiaries of their right to provide comments to that office.

Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 03-39, entitled Class Exemption For Release of Claims and Extensions of Credit in Connection With Litigation, which was published in final form on December 31, 2003 (68 FR 75632), exempts from the prohibitions of sections 406 and 407(a) of ERISA certain transactions engaged in by a

plan in connection with the settlement of litigation. Exempted transactions must involve either release by the plan or by a plan fiduciary of a legal or equitable claim against a party in interest in exchange for consideration given by, or on behalf of, a party in interest to the plan in partial or complete settlement of the plan's or the fiduciary's claim, or an extension of credit by the plan or by a plan fiduciary to a party in interest in connection with a settlement whereby the party in interest agrees to repay, over time, an amount owed to the plan in settlement of a legal or equitable claim by the plan or a plan fiduciary against the party in interest. Among other conditions, the exemption requires that the terms of the settlement be specifically described in a written agreement or consent degree and that the fiduciary entering into the settlement on behalf of the plan acknowledge in writing its fiduciary status. The exemption also requires the plan to maintain, for a period of six years, the records necessary to enable specified interested person to determine whether the exemption's conditions were met.

Because of the similarity of these two exemptions, the Department submitted a combined ICR for the information collections in both exemptions to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance at the time that PTE 03-39 was published as a proposal in the **Federal Register** (February 11, 2003, 68 FR 6953). The ICR for the information collections in both class exemptions was approved under OMB control number 1210-0091. The approval for the ICRs included in the two exemptions will expire on April 30, 2006.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

The Department is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collections of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology,

e.g., by permitting electronic submission of responses.

III. Current Action

The Department is requesting an extension of the currently approved ICR for Settlement Agreements Between a Plan and Party in Interest. The Department is not proposing or implementing changes to the two exemptions or to the existing ICR. A summary of the ICR and the current burden estimates follows:

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

Agency: Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor.

Title: Settlement Agreements Between a Plan and Party in Interest.

OMB Number: 1210-0091.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Respondents: 4.

Frequency of Response: One-time.

Responses: 1080.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 40.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 14, 2005.

Susan G. Lahne,

Senior Pension Law Specialist, Office of Policy and Research, Employee Benefits Security Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employee Benefits Security Administration

Proposed Extension of Information Collection; Public Comment ERISA Advisory Opinion Procedure 76-1

AGENCY: Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This helps to ensure that the data the Department gathers can be provided in the desired

format, that the reporting burden on the public (time and financial resources) is minimized, that the public understands the Department's collection instruments, and that the Department can accurately assess the impact of collection requirements on respondents.

Currently, the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) is soliciting comments concerning an extension of the information collection provisions incorporated in ERISA Advisory Opinion Procedure 76-1. A copy of the information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the office shown in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office shown in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice on or before February 21, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments regarding the information collection request and burden estimates to: Susan G. Lahne, Office of Policy and Research, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20210, (202) 693-8410, FAX (202) 693-4745 (these are not toll-free numbers). Comments may also be submitted electronically to ebsa.opr@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA), the Secretary of Labor is responsible for administration and enforcement of reporting, disclosure, fiduciary, and other standards established for pension and welfare benefit plans. These responsibilities have been delegated within the Department to EBSA. ERISA Advisory Opinion Procedure 76-1 describes the administrative procedures through which the public may request a written interpretation of ERISA from EBSA to resolve issues arising out of specific actual transactions or circumstances. The procedure is designed to promote efficient handling of such inquiries and to facilitate prompt responses. The Procedure requires requesters seeking advisory opinions or information letters to submit certain information that EBSA has determined is essential for determining the nature of a request for interpretation and EBSA's response. EBSA has previously submitted the information collection provisions of Advisory Opinion Procedure 76-1 to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review in an ICR and