

Approved: April 3, 2002.

**George Freeland,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 940-EZ

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 940-EZ, Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Tax Return.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before June 10, 2002 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Glenn P. Kirkland, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, or through the internet *CAROL.A.SAVAGE@irs.gov.*, Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Tax Return.

*OMB Number:* 1545-1110.

*Form Number:* Form 940-EZ.

*Abstract:* Form 940-EZ is a simplified version of Form 940 that most employers with uncomplicated tax situations (e.g., only paying unemployment contributions to one state and paying them on time) can use to pay their FUTA tax. Most small businesses and household employers use the form.

*Current Actions:* There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

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

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households, and farms.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 4,089,000.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 8 hours, 50 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden*

*Hours:* 36,162,483.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to

respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

#### Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

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