

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**[OMB Control No. 2900–0055]****Agency Information Collection****Activity: Request for Determination of Loan Guaranty Eligibility—Unmarried Surviving Spouses****AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: Veterans Benefits Administration, 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 currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before August 29, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted through www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Program-Specific information: Kendra McCleave, 202–461–9568, Kendra.McCleave@va.gov.

VA PRA information: Dorothy Glasgow, 202–461–1084, VAPRA@va.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, 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: VA Form 26–1817, Request for Determination of Loan Guaranty Eligibility—Unmarried Surviving Spouses.

OMB Control Number: 2900–0055. <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAsearch> (Once at this link, you can enter the OMB Control Number to find the historical versions of this Information Collection).

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The VA Form 26–1817 is submitted by an unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran whose death was service-connected for determination of eligibility for VA home loan benefits as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 3701(b)(2). Serves to record application and internal VA processing of request including verification on veterans service-connected death and status of applicant as unmarried surviving spouse. In addition, adjustments were made to the burden hours from the previous submission. The change reflects a correction to a previous estimate. The adjustments is attributed to a higher number of respondent applications, likely due to an increase in VA home loan benefit among the surviving spouses.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 3,125 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One Time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 12,500.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

Dorothy Glasgow,

Acting, VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Enterprise and Integration/Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**Notice of Department of Veterans Affairs Implementation of Law Concerning Changes to Policies and Guidance Affecting the Educational Assistance Programs of the Department****AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.**ACTION:** Notice of Changes to Department of Veterans Affairs Policies and Guidance Affecting the Educational Assistance Programs of the Department.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is informing the public of efforts to implement Section 213 of the

Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvements Act (Dole Act), which requires VA to make notice and justification for changes in policy and guidance available to students, educational institutions, and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Alphonso, Veterans Benefits Administration, (202) 461–9800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 2, 2025, the “Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvements Act” was signed into law. Section 213 of the Act, “Notice of changes to Department of Veterans Affairs policies and guidance affecting the educational assistance programs of the Department,” amends subchapter III of chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, by adding a new section 3699D, “Notice of changes to policies and guidance relating to educational assistance programs”.

This new section prohibits VA from implementing any changes in policy or guidance that relates to any VA educational assistance program, before a date 90 days after the date on which VA makes available to students, educational institutions, and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives notice of and justification for the change.

This **Federal Register** Notice serves as a public notification of how VA will comply with the requirements of this law:

(1) VA will post policy and guidance changes covered by this law including justification to a publicly facing website located at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/policy-change-notice.asp.

(2) VA will notify the statutorily mandated stakeholders, students, educational institutions, and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives, that a policy or guidance change covered by this law has been posted on the aforementioned website via previously established routes, such as email and include a brief summary of the change.

(3) VA will wait at least 90 days after notification of any changes to policy or guidance covered by section 213 of the “Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvements Act” to implement the specified change.

What is a change in policy or guidance?

VA will make 90-day notice and justification available to students, educational institutions, and the