

Dated: September 25, 2001.

Brenda E. Dyer,

Department Deputy Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice.

[FR Doc. 01-24469 Filed 9-28-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-18-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Solicitor; Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Equal Access to Justice Act

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/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3505(c)(2)(A)]. The program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of the collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently the Office of the Solicitor is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the information collection request (ICR) for applications to obtain awards in administrative proceedings subject to the Equal Access to Justice Act.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted by November 30, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments are to be submitted to Department of Labor/The Office of Solicitor Attn: Peter Galvin, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W. (Room N-2428) Washington D.C. 20210). Written comments limited to 10 pages or fewer may be transmitted by facsimile to (202) 693-5539.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Peter Galvin, The Office of Solicitor, telephone (202) 693-5514 or Darrin King at (202) 693-4129. Copies of the referenced information collection request are available in room N-1301, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. A copy of the ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Department of Labor. To obtain documentation, contact Darrin King at (202) 693-4129 or E-mail: King_Darrin@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Equal Access to Justice Act provides for the award of fees and expenses to certain parties involved in administrative proceedings with the United States. The statute requires, at 5 U.S.C. sec. 504(a)(2), that a party seeking an award of fees and other expenses in a covered administrative proceeding must submit to the agency "an application which shows that the party is the prevailing party and is eligible to receive an award" under the Act. The Department of Labor's regulations implementing the Equal Access to Justice Act contain a subpart which specifies the contents of applications for an award, 29 CFR Part 16, Subpart B.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is 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 proposed collection 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., permitting electronic submission of responses.

III. Current Action

This notice requests an extension of the current Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the paperwork requirements for the contents of applications for an award under the Equal Access to Justice Act.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Office of the Solicitor.

Title: Equal Access to Justice Act.

OMB Number: 1225-0013.

Affected Public: Individuals or household; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 10.

Frequency: On occasion.

Total Responses: 10.

Average Time per Response: 5 hours.
Estimated Total Burden Hours: 50 hours.

Total annualized capital/startup costs: \$0.

Total Annualized costs (operation and maintenance): \$0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and may be included in the request for OMB approval of the final information collection request. The comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 26, 2001.

Robert A. Shapiro,

Associate Solicitor for Legislation and Legal Counsel.

[FR Doc. 01-24516 Filed 9-28-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-23-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Working Group on Increasing Pension Coverage, Participation and Savings Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefits Plans; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the authority contained in section 512 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. 1142, the Working Group assigned by the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans to study the issue of increasing pension coverage, participation and savings will hold an open public meeting, via teleconference, on Monday, October 15, 2001, in the conference room in Suite N-5677, U.S. Department of Labor Building, Second and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210.

The purpose of the open meeting, which will run from 11:00 a.m. to approximately 1:30 p.m., is for Working Group members to discuss their findings and/or recommendations concerning the factors which either encourage or inhibit the growth of pension plan coverage and, ultimately, retirement security.

Members of the public are encouraged to file a written statement pertaining to the topic by sending 20 copies on or before October 7, 2001, to Sharon Morrissey, Executive Secretary, ERISA Advisory Council, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-5677, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. Individuals or representatives of organizations wishing to address the Working Group should forward their request to the Executive Secretary or telephone (202) 219-8753. Oral