

current Federal employees at the time they file. However, an estimated 4.9 percent, or some 1,175 of the branchwide total SF 278 filers are members of the public, including private citizen Presidential nominees to positions subject to Senate confirmation (and their private representatives—lawyers, accountants, brokers and bankers), other private citizen prospective new entrants to reportable positions, and those who file termination reports from such positions after their Government service ends, and Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates. The OGE estimate covers the next three years, 2007–2009, including a significant increase in reports anticipated with the fall 2008 Presidential election and following transition. The estimated average amount of time to complete the report form, including review of the instructions and gathering of needed information, remains the same as previously reported, at three hours. Thus, the overall estimated annual public burden for the SF 278 for the private citizen/representative nominee and terminee report forms processed in executive branch agencies, and those report forms processed by the OGE, including private citizen Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates report forms, is 3,525 hours.

The prior paperwork burden estimate for the 2003–2005 period was 1,347 hours. This estimate was based upon an annual average of 449 SF 278 forms, those received only at OGE from private citizen/representative nominee and terminee filers, and Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates. The burden estimate for 2007–2009 is adjusted to cover private citizen filers in departments and agencies throughout the executive branch.

Consideration of Comments

Public comment is invited on each aspect of the SF 278 Public Financial Disclosure Report as set forth in this notice, including specifically views on the need for and practical utility of this collection of information, the accuracy of OGE's burden estimate, the potential for enhancement of quality, utility and clarity of the information collected, and the minimization of burden (including the use of information technology).

Any comments received in response to this notice will be summarized for, and may be included with, OGE's request to OMB for paperwork approval for this information collection.

Comments will also become a matter of public record. After reviewing any comments received, OGE will also publish a second round notice in the

Federal Register to inform the public and the agencies at the time it submits the request for OMB paperwork approval.

Approved: October 26, 2006.

Robert I. Cusick,

Director, Office of Government Ethics.

[FR Doc. E6–18554 Filed 11–2–06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS–R–234]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Title of Information Collection: Subpart D—Private Contracts and Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR 405.410, 405.430, 405.435, 405.440, 405.445, and 405.455.

Use: Under the section 4507 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, CMS is required to permit certain physicians and practitioners to opt out of Medicare and furnish covered services to Medicare beneficiaries through private contracts.

Form Number: CMS–R–234 (OMB#: 0938–0730).

Frequency: Reporting—Biennially.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profits.

Number of Respondents: 26,820.

Total Annual Responses: 26,820.

Total Annual Hours: 7,197.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access CMS' Web site address at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PaperworkReductionActof1995>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to Paperwork@cms.hhs.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786–1326.

To be assured consideration, comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be received at the address below, no later than 5 p.m. on January 2, 2007.

CMS, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Division of Regulations Development—C, Attention: Bonnie L Harkless, Room C4–26–05, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244–1850.

Dated: October 24, 2006.

Michelle Shortt,

Director, Regulations Development Group, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs.

[FR Doc. E6–18412 Filed 11–2–06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS–R–64, CMS–3070G–I, CMS–576A, and CMS–304/304A]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the Agency's function; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or