

information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice by clicking on the following link [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain), select “Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments”, then search the list for the information collection by Title or “OMB Control No. 2900–0075.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** VA PRA information: Maribel Aponte, 202–461–8900, [vacopaperworkreduact@va.gov](mailto:vacopaperworkreduact@va.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Statement in Support of Claim (VA Form 21–4138).

*OMB Control Number:* 2900–0075  
<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRASearch>.

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

*Abstract:* VA Form 21–4138 is used to provide self-certified statements in support of various types of claims processed by VA. Statements submitted by or on behalf of a claimant should contain certification by the respondent that the information provided is true and correct. This form facilitates claims processing by providing a uniform format for the certification statement. No changes have been made to this form. The respondent burden has increased due to the estimated number of receivables averaged over the past year.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at 89 FR 20299, March 21, 2024.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or Households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 317,265 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 15 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* One time.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,269,058 per year.

*Authority:* 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, 38 U.S.C. 501, 38 CFR 3.150.

**Maribel Aponte,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024–11840 Filed 5–29–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**[OMB Control No. 2900–0760]**

**Agency Information Collection Activity: Paralympics & Olympics Monthly Training Allowance Application and Certification**

**AGENCY:** Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Veterans Health Administration (VHA), 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:** Comments must be received on or before July 29, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments must be submitted through [www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

*Program-Specific information:* Veta Brooks-Berryman, 202–480–4633, [Veta.Brooks1@va.gov](mailto:Veta.Brooks1@va.gov).

*VA PRA information:* Maribel Aponte, 202–461–8900, [vacopaperworkreduact@va.gov](mailto:vacopaperworkreduact@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, VHA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VHA’s functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VHA’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:* Paralympics & Olympics Monthly Training Allowance

Application and Certification (VA Forms 0918a & 0918b).

*OMB Control Number:* 2900–0760.

<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:* Section 703 of the Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2008, Public Law 110–389, authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to administer a monthly assistance allowance to a veteran with a service-connected or non-service-connected disability if the veteran is competing for a slot on or selected for the United States Paralympics and Olympics team or is residing at a United States Paralympics or Olympics training center. The Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events will use VA Forms 0918a and 0918b to collect information to certify eligibility for the monthly assistance allowance, verify the veteran’s mailing address, confirm that he or she has been accepted by the Paralympics or Olympics to compete in a specific Paralympic or Olympic sport, and to determine their marital status and number of dependents for the purpose of assessing payment amounts.

*Affected Public:* Individuals and households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 43 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 15 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Once annually.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 170.

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

**Maribel Aponte,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024–11861 Filed 5–29–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**[OMB Control No. 2900–0404]**

**Agency Information Collection Activity under OMB Review: Veteran’s Application for Increased Compensation Based on Unemployment**

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden, and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice by clicking on the following link [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain), select “Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments”, then search the list for the information collection by Title or “OMB Control No. 2900–0404.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** VA PRA information: Maribel Aponte, 202–461–8900, [vacopaperworkreduct@va.gov](mailto:vacopaperworkreduct@va.gov)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Veteran’s Application for Increased Compensation Based on Unemployability (VA Form 21–8940).

*OMB Control Number:* 2900–0404  
<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAsearch>

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

*Abstract:* VA Form 21–8940 is used by veterans to apply for increased VA disability compensation based on the inability to secure or follow a substantially gainful occupation due to service-connected disabilities. Without this information, entitlement to individual unemployability benefits could not be determined. No changes have been made to this form. The respondent burden has increased due to the estimated number of receivables averaged over the past year.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at 89 FR 20299, March 21, 2024.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or Households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 50,558 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 45 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* One time.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 67,411 per year.

*Authority:* 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, 38 U.S.C. 1163, 38 CFR 3.340, 3.341, and 4.16.

**Maribel Aponte,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024–11859 Filed 5–29–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Notice of Intent To Exempt Copayments for the First Three Mental Health Care Outpatient Visits Annually

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** VA intends to implement a new law that prohibits the collection of copayments for the first three mental health care outpatient visits of a Veteran in a calendar year for which the Veteran would otherwise be required to pay a copayment. VA’s current regulations regarding copayments do not include an exemption for this purpose, but VA will revise them soon to align with the law. In April 2024, VA was able to modify its systems and processes to comply with the law for qualifying appointments that occurred on or after June 27, 2023. By law, the exemption will expire on December 29, 2027.

**DATES:** Implementation will be applicable upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Tamara Wagner, Office of Finance, Revenue Operations, (104RO2), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 128 Bingham Road, Suite 1000, Asheville, NC 28806; 970–242–0731, extension 2219. (This is not a toll-free number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The primary purpose of this notice is to inform the public of VA’s intent to modify its systems and processes to comply with new statutory requirements while rulemaking proceeds to modify existing regulations. On December 29, 2022, the Joseph Maxwell Cleland and Robert Joseph Dole Memorial Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2022 (the Act; Pub. L. 117–328, Division U), added a new section 1722C to title 38, U.S.C., that generally prohibits VA from imposing or collecting a copayment for the first three mental health care outpatient visits of a Veteran in a calendar year for which the Veteran would otherwise be required to pay a copayment to VA. The Act defines a

mental health care outpatient visit to mean an outpatient visit with a qualified mental health professional for the primary purpose of seeking either mental health care, or treatment for substance abuse disorder. The copayment exemption for the first three outpatient mental health care visits includes appointments completed in VA clinics as well as those conducted by community care providers.

VA will modify its regulations regarding copayments for outpatient mental health care, set forth at 38 CFR 17.108, to reflect this authority. Mental health care outpatient visits are defined in law to mean an outpatient visit with a qualified mental health professional for the primary purpose of seeking either mental health care or treatment for substance abuse disorder.

The determination of the first three mental health visits is expected to be complex due to a variety of issues, including the need to consider whether care is service-connected or otherwise exempt, how to handle Veterans with multiple appointments in the same day, and administrative requirements (such as establishing a tool to count the number of appointments a Veteran has had in a calendar year). To ensure the most effective application of this benefit and exempt copayments as applicable under the statute, VA will determine if a visit qualifies for a copayment exemption using the following process.

First, VA will evaluate the clinic where the appointment occurred. If the clinic is a mental health, psychiatry, psychology, or substance abuse clinic, VA will exempt the copayment, if applicable, if the appointment is one of the first three qualifying visits in a calendar year. Second, if the visit was not performed in such a clinic, VA will review what provider completed the appointment to determine if the visit applies for a copayment exemption. If the provider is a psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed professional mental health counselor, marriage or family therapist, or social worker, and if the medical service provided is classified as an evaluation and management visit, mental health visit, group therapy visit, or psychiatric diagnostic assessment, VA will exempt the copayment, if applicable, provided the appointment is one of the first three qualifying visits in a calendar year. Veterans that are otherwise copayment exempt based on Priority Group or service connection should see no difference in their copayment status as the copayment would already be exempt for other reasons. If a Veteran has multiple appointments in one day, including a visit that would qualify for