towaway operations, which are excluded from the ELD mandate. In these instances, neither the carriers nor the drivers own the vehicles being driven, nor are they authorized to make any modifications to those vehicles. Similarly, in both cases, the vehicles at issue may only be operated by the carrier’s drivers for a single trip.

The application for exemption is in the docket for this notice.

IV. Public Comments

On April 21, 2017, FMCSA published notice of the G4S application and requested public comment (82 FR 18820). The Agency received three comments, and all opposed the granting of the G4S exemption request. Groups filing in opposition were the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates), the Owner-Operator Independent Driver’s Association (OOIDA), and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA). Issues raised by these commenters in opposition to the exemption request are as follows.

1) The G4S application does not meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for the exemption. It fails to consider practical alternatives, justify the need for exemption, provide an analysis of the safety impacts the requested exemption may cause, and provide information on the specific countermeasures to be undertaken to ensure that the exemption will achieve an equivalent or greater level of safety than would be achieved absent the exemption.

2) G4S cites technical concerns regarding interoperability of ELDs and the use of different vehicles as reasons why their drivers should be exempted from the ELD mandate. While these points are legitimate, they are not limited to this carrier. Carriers of all sizes may encounter these same interoperability problems as drivers operate multiple ELD platforms with varying methods of data transfer.

3) Confusion and inconsistencies, such as patchwork adoption of the ELD requirement because of exemptions, create more work for the enforcement community and industry alike. These inconsistencies also have a direct impact on data quality, an especially important consideration for the accurate tracking of HOS compliance.

All comments are available for review in the docket for this notice.

V. FMCSA Decision

When FMCSA published the final rule mandating ELDs, it relied upon research indicating that the rule improves commercial motor vehicle (CMV) safety by improving compliance with the hours-of-service rules. The rule also reduces the overall paperwork burden for both motor carriers and drivers.

In its application, G4S provides no analysis of the safety performance of drivers who would operate using paper records of duty status under the exemption. G4S compares its request to the ELD regulatory exception for driveaway-towaway vehicles, but provides no analysis of how the risk of fatigue and crashes when operating an empty vehicle in a driveaway-towaway operation would be equivalent to the risk posed by operating a passenger-carrying vehicle.

The G4S application does not consider practical alternatives or provide an analysis of the safety impacts the requested exemption may cause. It also does not provide countermeasures to be undertaken to ensure that the exemption would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved by the current regulation.

For these reasons, FMCSA denied the request for exemption by letter dated January 5, 2018.

Issued on: February 20, 2018.
Larry W. Minor,
Associate Administrator for Policy.
[FR Doc. 2018–03944 Filed 2–26–18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P
collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.


Title: Dependents’ Application for VA Education Benefits, VA Form 22–5490.

OMB Control Number: 2900–0098.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA claims examiners use the information from this collection to help determine whether an applying individual qualifies for DEA or Fry Scholarship benefits. The information will also be used to determine if the program of education the applicant wishes to pursue is approved for educational assistance. The form is used to obtain the necessary information from the claimant, and a determination cannot be made without this information.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 29,739 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 45 and 25 min (paper and electronic, respectively).

Frequency of Response: One-time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 50,981.

By direction of the Secretary.

Cynthia Harvey-Pryor,
Department Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Privacy and Risk, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2018–03908 Filed 2–26–18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0635]

Agency Information Collection Activity: Suspension of Monthly Check

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 reinstatement of a previously 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 April 30, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at www.Regulations.gov or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administrations (20M33), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420 or email to nancy.kessinger@va.gov. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–0635” in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia Harvey-Pryor at (202) 461–5870.

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 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: Suspension of Monthly Check (VA Form 29–0759).

OMB Control Number: 2900–0635.

Type of Review: Reinstatement of a previously approved collection.

Abstract: The form is used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to advise the beneficiary that his/her monthly check has been suspended. The information requested is authorized by law, 38 U.S.C. 1917.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 83 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On Occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 500.

By direction of the Secretary.

Cynthia Harvey-Pryor,
Department Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Privacy and Risk, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2018–03909 Filed 2–26–18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8320–01–P