

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act and Veterans' Preference Eligibility**

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL) is submitting this Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)-sponsored information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). Public comments on the ICR are invited.

DATES: The OMB will consider all written comments that the agency receives on or before May 11, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nicole Bouchet by telephone at 202-693-0213, or by email at DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title 38 U.S.C. 4322 of USERRA authorizes the Secretary of Labor (through the Veterans' Employment and Training Service) to investigate claims by individuals who believe their USERRA rights have been violated. The information is used to determine eligibility of veterans complaints to reemployment rights they are seeking as well as to state alleged violations by employers of the pertinent statutes and request assistance in obtaining appropriate reemployment benefits. The Veterans Employment Opportunities Act (VEOA) of 1998, Public Law 105-339, 112 Stat. 3182, contained in Title 5 U.S.C. 3330a-3330(b), provides assistance to preference eligible individuals who believe their rights under the veterans' preference laws and the Veterans Benefit Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law No: 110-389) have been violated. Section 3 of the VEOA provides the Secretary of Labor similar authority to investigate complaints brought by preference eligibles. The collection instrument completed by claimants contains the information

required and needed for the Department to determine initial eligibility of the claimant. For additional substantive information about this ICR, see the related notice published in the **Federal Register** on January 26, 2026 (91 FR 3230).

Comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless the OMB approves it and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid OMB Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

DOL seeks PRA authorization for this information collection for three (3) years. OMB authorization for an ICR cannot be for more than three (3) years without renewal. The DOL notes that information collection requirements submitted to the OMB for existing ICRs receive a month-to-month extension while they undergo review.

Agency: DOL-VETS.

Title of Collection: Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act and Veterans' Preference Eligibility.

OMB Control Number: 1293-0002.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Total Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,250.

Total Estimated Number of Responses: 2,250.

Total Estimated Annual Time Burden: 1,688 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden: \$99.00.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D).)

Nicole Bouchet,

Senior Paperwork Reduction Act Analyst.

[FR Doc. 2026-06990 Filed 4-9-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Office of Workers' Compensation Programs**

[OMB Control No. 1240-0011].

Proposed Extension Without Change of a Currently Approved Information Collection; Application for Approval of Representative's Fee in a Black Lung Claim Proceeding Conducted by The U.S. Department of Labor

AGENCY: Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Labor.

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL) is soliciting comments concerning a proposed extension for the authority to conduct the information collection request (ICR) titled, "Application for Approval of a Representative's fee in Black Lung Claim Proceedings Conducted by U.S. Department of Labor." This comment request is part of continuing Departmental efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA).

DATES: All comments must be received on or before June 9, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments as follows. Please note that late, untimely filed comments will not be considered.

Electronic Submissions: Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments for WCPO-2026-0166. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to <https://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket, with no changes. Because your comment will be made public, you are responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as your or anyone else's Social Security number or confidential business information.

- If your comment includes confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission.

Written/Paper Submissions: Submit written/paper submissions in the following way:

- *Mail/Hand Delivery:* Mail or visit DOL-OWCP, Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Suite C3520-DCMWC, Washington, DC 20210.

• OWCP will post your comment as well as any attachments, except for information submitted and marked as confidential, in the docket at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anjanette Suggs, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, at suggs.anjanette@dol.gov (email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The DOL, as part of continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information before submitting them to the OMB for final approval. This program helps to ensure 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 collection requirements can be properly assessed.

The CM-972 is sent to and completed by the authorized representative of a black lung claimant whose claim has been approved for benefits. The completed form is then returned to and evaluated by the district director, administrative law judge, or appropriate appellate tribunal before whom the claimed services were performed, and a fee amount is determined. The regulations (20 CFR 725.366) set forth specific requirements for the items of information that must be included on fee applications. The CM-972 was designed to collect this information. 20 CFR 725.366 authorizes this information collection.

This information collection is subject to PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless the OMB under the PRA approves it and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments to the contact shown in the **ADDRESSES** section. Written comments will receive consideration, be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the final ICR. In order to help ensure appropriate

consideration, comments should mention 1240-0011.

Submitted comments will also be a matter of public record for this ICR and posted on the internet, without redaction. The DOL encourages commenters not to include personally identifiable information, confidential business data, or other sensitive statements/information in any comments.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

OWCP is soliciting comments concerning the proposed information collection related to the Application for Approval of a Representative's Fee in a Black Lung Claim Proceeding Conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor. OWCP is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information has practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of OWCP's estimate of the burden related to the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used in the estimate;
- Suggest methods to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the information collection 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.

Documents related to this information collection request are available at <https://regulations.gov> and at DOL-OWCP located at 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room C-3520, Washington, DC 20210. Questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** section of this notice.

III. Current Actions

This information collection request concerns Application for Approval of Representatives' Fee in a Black Lung Claim Proceeding Conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor. OWCP has updated the data with respect to the number of respondents, responses, burden hours, and burden costs supporting this information collection request from the previous information collection request.

Type of Review: Extension without change of a currently approved collection.

Agency: Office of Workers' Compensation Programs.

OMB Number: 1240-0011.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 820.

Number of Responses: 820.

Annual Burden Hours: 574 hours.

Annual Respondent or Recordkeeper

Cost: \$340.00.

OWCP Forms: CM-972, Application for Approval of a Representative's Fee in a Black Lung Claim Proceeding Conducted by The U.S. Department of Labor.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the proposed information collection request; they will become a matter of public record and will be available at <https://www.reginfo.gov>.

Anjanette Suggs,

Agency Clearance Officer.

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BILLING CODE 4510-CR-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of Workers' Compensation Programs

[OMB Control No. 1240-0027]

Proposed Extension of Information Collection; Survivor's Form for Benefits Under the Black Lung Benefits Act

AGENCY: Office of Workers' Compensation Programs

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL) is soliciting comments concerning a proposed extension for the authority to conduct the information collection request (ICR) titled, "Survivor's Form for Benefits Under the Black Lung Benefits Act." This comment request is part of continuing Departmental efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA).

DATES: All comments must be received on or before June 9, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments as follows. Please note that late, untimely filed comments will not be considered.

Electronic Submissions: Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments