

Dated: October 8, 2026.

Stephanie J. Bost,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison
Officer, Department of Defense.*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DOD-2026-OS-2219]

Privacy Act of 1974; Matching Program

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary,
Department of Defense, (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of a new matching
program.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance on computer matching, the DoD is providing notice of the establishment of a new matching program. Pursuant to the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA), DoD, including its component Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), is establishing a new matching program consisting of the computerized comparison of its system of records for the Military Retirement—Retired Pay program with the Do Not Pay (DNP) Working System, which is administered by Treasury’s Bureau of the Fiscal Service. This matching program will enable the DoD program to compare records maintained in its system of records with records maintained in the DNP Working System for the purposes of identifying and preventing improper payments.

DATES: Comments will be accepted on or before November 13, 2026. This proposed action will be effective the day following the end of the comment period unless comments have been received from interested members of the public that require modification and republication of the notice. This new matching program will be effective through September 10, 2029.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

* *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

* *Mail:* Department of Defense, Office of the Director of Administration and Management, Oversight and Compliance Directorate, Regulatory Division, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Attn: Mailbox 24, Suite 05F16, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and

docket number for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Cochran, System Manager, 8899 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46249-0150, Phone: (800) 321-1080.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 amended the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 United States Code (U.S.C.) 552a) by establishing procedural safeguards for agencies’ use of records in computerized matching. The Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (31 U.S.C. 3351 *et seq.*) provides the authority to waive the requirements for matching agreements in certain cases. Pursuant to this authority, the Secretary of the Treasury, after consulting with the OMB Director, authorized the issuance of a four-year waiver of the requirement for entering into a matching agreement for programs that meet the criteria in OMB Memorandum M-25-32. DoD has determined that the DNP matching program for the Military Retirement—Retired Pay (PIIA Program ID: DOD-0046) is eligible for this waiver.

Participating Agencies: The DoD, through DFAS, will match records against the DNP Working System, maintained by the Bureau of the Fiscal Service at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Authority for Conducting the Matching Program: The Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (31 U.S.C. 3351 *et seq.*) and OMB Memorandum M-25-32. The Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (31 U.S.C. 3351 *et seq.*) establishes the DNP Initiative and requires, for the purposes of identifying and preventing improper payments, each executive agency to have access to, and use of, the relevant databases in DNP to verify payment or award eligibility. Additional applicable authorities for this matching program include Executive Order 13520, Reducing Improper Payments (74 FR 62201); Executive Order 14249, Protecting America’s Bank Account Against Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (90 FR 14011); and OMB Memorandum M-25-32, Preventing Improper Payments and Protecting Privacy Through Do Not Pay. Additional information regarding the authorities for the collection and maintenance of information for each of

the DoD programs that will conduct matches with the DNP Working System are contained within the systems of records notices listed below.

Purpose(s): The purpose of the matching program is to identify and prevent improper payments by verifying through DNP prepayment or pre-award eligibility.

Categories of Individuals: Applicants for, or recipients of, Federal funds from the Military Retirement—Retired Pay program.

Categories of Records: Data elements to be matched include applicant’s name, Social Security Number (SSN) or Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), address, date of birth, and payment/banking information. These data elements include all the records involved in the matching program.

System(s) of Records: The records contained within the DNP Working System are maintained in the Treasury system of records, Bureau of the Fiscal Service .017—Do Not Pay Payment Verification Records (85 FR 11776). The DoD records involved in this matching program are maintained in the following system of records: T7347b, Defense Military Retiree and Annuity Pay System Records (74 FR 696), (90 FR 54312).

Dated: October 8, 2026.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DOD-2026-OS-0232]

Request for Information for 2028 Department of Defense (DoD) State Priorities Impacting Service Members and Their Families

AGENCY: Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy (MC & FP), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Request for information;
response to public comments.

SUMMARY: On Tuesday, March 24, 2026, the Department of Defense (referred to herein as “the Department”, “Department of War” or DoW”) published a request for information in the **Federal Register** (FR) that provided an opportunity for the public to submit issues that have an impact on service members and their families, where state governments are the primary agents for making positive change. Each year, DoW

selects state policy priorities for states to consider that represent barriers resulting from the transience and uncertainty of military life. For example, DoW has asked states to consider remedies that trade residency-based and time-in-state requirements for portability and continuity, including interstate compacts, license reciprocity, credit for military training, spouse unemployment compensation; cross-reporting agreements with child welfare agencies; educational opportunities including advance enrollment, homeschool solutions, in-state tuition, records transfer, and waiver waitlist retention for families with special needs; support for severely injured personnel; custody and juvenile justice protections for deployed parents and military-connected youth; information sharing on military protective orders; employment and legal protections for military families; and predatory lending safeguards. DoW will consider public submissions in setting those priorities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Christopher R. Arnold, (571) 309-4712 (voice), christopher.r.arnold18.civ@mail.mil (email), 1500 Defense Pentagon, Room 1C514/1C549, Washington, DC 20301-1500 (mailing address).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On Tuesday, March 24, 2026 (91 FR 14002), DoW published a notice titled “Request for Information for 2028 Department of War (DoW) State Policy Priorities Impacting Service Members and Their Families.” The Department accepted public comments for 30 days until April 23, 2026, and received one hundred twenty submissions. The DoW responds to the comments as follows:

Thank you for your submission to the DoD-2026-OS-0232 docket. State-level policies directly impact military families’ stability and, consequently, combat readiness. To sustain a focus on the mission, the Department must develop aligned relationships with states that address both existing and emerging needs of our military community.

The Department received fourteen comments proposing issues that met the criteria for further evaluation as potential Fiscal Year (FY) 2028 DoW state policy priorities; we respond as follows:

- The DoW appreciates the feedback on standardized veterans’ preference policies for local government employment. The DoW is actively addressing Military Spouse Hiring Preference through current DoW State Policy Priorities. This feedback will

inform ongoing assessment of potential State policy priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback on expanding early non-clinical behavioral health support. The DoW recognizes the importance of accessible, early-engagement support that complements existing clinical and non-clinical services, particularly for populations managing the stresses of military life, transition, and geographic dispersion. This input will be considered as the DoW assesses potential State policy priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the consideration of Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) in state benefit eligibility calculations. DoW acknowledges the concern that income definitions in state-administered assistance programs may create unintended barriers for military families whose housing allowances are fully consumed by local costs. The DoW will analyze the provided examples of state legislative practices for consideration in future state policy priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding coordination between installation family readiness programs and community-based resource navigation systems. DoW acknowledges the importance of ensuring military-connected families living off installation can access both military and civilian services efficiently. This input will be considered as the DoW continues to assess potential state policy priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the financial stability of National Guard and Reserve members and their families during activation. The DoW notes that this comment addresses a distinct issue from the military exigency provisions in State paid family leave laws. The recommendation regarding statutory pay differential and benefits continuation will be considered as the DoW assesses potential State policy priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding retirement system participation requirements for military spouses employed in public-sector positions. The DoW acknowledges the concern that mandatory enrollment in State pension systems may limit access to portable retirement benefits for individuals subject to frequent relocation. This input will be considered during the development of future State policy priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding unintended benefit cliffs that result when military allowances are calculated as gross income. The DoW remains committed to ensuring junior enlisted families can achieve financial stability. Suggestions regarding internal

DoW data-sharing protocols fall outside the scope of this state-focused notice, but feedback on income calculations will be evaluated as the DoW assesses future state policy priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback on state-level digital resource networks. While the DoW cannot endorse specific non-federal entities, the underlying policy concept of encouraging states to adopt vetted, data-driven, and coordinated referral networks to support military families is highly relevant. This input, including the proposed evaluation framework, will be carefully considered as the DoW develops its upcoming State Policy Priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback on risks faced by transitioning service members and military families. Recommendations to leverage State Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) allocations and establish designated veteran transition coordinators highlight intersections between housing and employment that will be carefully evaluated as the DoW develops upcoming State Policy Priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding extracurricular and athletic eligibility for military-connected students. Standardizing exemptions for high school athletic transfer waiting periods represents a distinct issue. The recommendation to emulate existing best practices will be carefully evaluated as the DoW develops its upcoming State Policy Priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback on models that formalize the voice of the military community in state-level decision-making. Emphasis on a data-informed, whole-of-government approach directly supports DoW’s readiness and retention objectives. This input will be carefully considered as the DoW continues to refine its priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding driver’s education reciprocity and licensing challenges for military-connected teens. This input will be considered as the DoW assesses potential State policy priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding benefits awareness and navigation for Service members, veterans, and their families. This input may be considered as the DoW assesses potential State policy priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding state compensating use taxes on exchange service purchases. The DoW acknowledges the concern that such tax provisions may affect the intended value of exchange benefits for service members, their families, and other authorized patrons. This input

will be considered as the DoW assesses potential State policy priorities.

The Department received twenty-four comments proposing issues that are substantially addressed by a current or emeritus DoW state policy priority; we respond as follows:

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding workforce and licensing barriers affecting transitioning Service members. The DoW designated Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts as a State Policy Priority, which addresses many of the concerns described. This feedback will inform ongoing assessment of future state policy priorities.
- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding quality-of-life impacts of workforce actions. While many school transitions are addressed through the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, the DoW appreciates feedback on challenges that remain.
- The DoW appreciates the comment supporting occupational licensure compacts. The DoW designated Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts as a State Policy Priority, and the Department continues to work with state policymakers on adoption. This input reinforces the importance of this ongoing effort.
- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding continuity of care for controlled substance prescriptions during permanent change of station (PCS) moves. Disruptions in access to care can affect readiness. This feedback will inform ongoing assessment of potential state policy priorities.
- The DoW appreciates you sharing your experience with licensure portability challenges. The DoW designated the advancement of Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts as a State Policy Priority, and the Defense-State Liaison Office continues to work with States to improve portability.
- The DoW appreciates you sharing your experience with PCS-related employment disruption. The state-actionable aspects of this comment align with existing DoW State Policy Priorities, including Military Spouse Employment Preference, Military Spouse Unemployment Compensation, and Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts.
- The DoW appreciates you sharing your experience regarding the challenges military spouses face in balancing employment with household responsibilities during deployments. The DoW has designated Military Spouse Employment Preference and Military Clause in State Family Leave

Laws as State Policy Priorities to reduce employment barriers. This input will be considered as the DoW assesses potential State policy priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding streamlining State licensing for DoW Family Child Care providers. The DoW has designated State Exemption for Military-Certified Family Child Care Homes as a State Policy Priority. This input reinforces the importance of these ongoing efforts.
- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding educational consistency for military-connected children. The DoW acknowledges concerns regarding curriculum standards, school transitions, and support resources. The DoW has designated Education Policy Implementation and Information Enhancements as a State Policy Priority, and the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children addresses many of the interstate transition barriers described. This input will be considered as future State policy priorities are developed.
- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding driver's license and vehicle registration requirements affecting military families during relocations. The DoW acknowledges the challenges associated with varying state documentation requirements and in-person processing obligations. This input will be considered as the DoW assesses opportunities to support military families through state policy.
- The DoW appreciates the feedback on exempting DoW-certified Family Child Care homes from duplicative State licensing requirements. DoW agrees that reliable childcare is essential and directly supports military readiness. State Exemption for Military-Certified Family Child Care Homes is a current DoW State policy priority. This input will inform continued efforts to encourage adoption across all States.
- The DoW appreciates the feedback on occupational licensure portability for military spouses. The DoW pursues a variety of approaches including Enhanced Spouse License Portability and Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts as policy solutions for occupational licensure portability. This input will inform continued efforts to encourage broader, more consistent adoption across all States.
- The DoW appreciates your feedback and recognizes the employment challenges military spouses face due to frequent relocations. Military Spouse Employment Preference was designated as a DoW State Policy Priority in 2024. The input regarding State-level remote work protections offers an additional perspective on career continuity that

will be considered as the DoW assesses potential State policy priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding challenges military spouses face in obtaining clinical supervision for Licensed Professional Counselor overseas. The DoW has designated Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts as a State Policy Priority. The Counseling Compact is currently being adopted by States and may help address aspects of this concern. This input will be considered as the DoW continues its work on licensure portability.
- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding support for surviving families. The DoW designated Military Spouse Employment Preference as a State Policy Priority in 2024, and many State veterans' preference statutes already extend hiring preference to surviving spouses. The input regarding broader support will be considered as the DoW assesses potential state policy priorities.
- The DoW designated Military Spouse Employment Preference as a State Policy Priority in 2024 and is actively working with states to adopt this priority. States can assist by enacting laws permitting state and local governments and private industries to offer hiring and procurement preferences for military spouses.
- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the identification of Reserve Component military-connected students. The DoW designated Education Policy Implementation and Information Enhancements as a State Policy Priority, encouraging States to include National Guard and Reserve families in Military Student Identifier reporting. This input will be considered as the DoW assesses potential state policy priorities.
- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the need for state-level suicide prevention structures. The DoW designated Ask the Question as a State Policy Priority in 2021, encouraging states to identify military-connected individuals at service touchpoints. The DoW continues to engage States on incorporating interagency coordination, annual reporting, and military families into state suicide prevention plans.
- DoW designated State Solutions for Military Homeschoolers as a State Policy Priority in 2026. State policies that streamline homeschool requirements, expand access to educational resources, and clarify participation requirements for Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) contribute to greater stability for military families and support retention efforts. The DoW appreciates the ongoing support for military homeschooling families.

- The DoW is addressing the specific reforms recommended through existing and emeritus DoW State Policy Priorities, including License Issuance and Reporting Uniformity, Military Community Representation on State Boards and Councils, Military Spouse Occupational Licensure Access, Solutions for Military Homeschoolers, Ask the Question, Interstate Compacts, Education Policy Implementation, and Military Clause in State Family Leave Laws.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback on military spouse licensing barriers. The DoW designated Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts and Enhanced Spouse License Portability as State Policy Priorities, which are actively being addressed through State engagement.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback on strengthening recertification standards for military-friendly school recognition programs. The DoW designated Education Policy Implementation and Information Enhancements as a State Policy Priority to improve the quality and consistency of State education policies. This input will be considered as the DoW continues its work in this area.

- The DoW designated Solutions for Military Homeschoolers as a State Policy Priority. The concerns and recommendations in this submission are consistent with the scope of that ongoing effort. The DoW appreciates the continued engagement on this issue.

- The DoW is committed to removing structural barriers faced by military families navigating State regulations. The DoW has previously designated Medicaid Waiver Portability and State Support of Military Families with Special Education Needs as State Policy Priorities.

The Department received twelve comments proposing issues that are primarily within the jurisdiction of the federal government and are therefore not germane to this request for information, which solicits federal concerns within the purview of states to resolve; these comments have been forwarded to the appropriate federal office of primary responsibility and we respond as follows:

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the affordability of housing for Service members and their families. This **Federal Register** Notice solicits issues that can be addressed through state government action.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback detailing the exclusion of students attending the Department of War Education Activity (DoWEA) schools overseas from the United States

Department of Agriculture (USDA) summer nutrition programs. These matters involve federal nutrition program administration rather than State policy priorities addressed by this **Federal Register** Notice (FRN).

- The DoW appreciates the feedback highlighting the challenges military families face with TRICARE coverage for dependent children ending at age 21 (or 23 if full-time students). These matters involve federal TRICARE eligibility rules and DoW benefits policy rather than state policy priorities addressed by this FRN.

- The DoW appreciates the input regarding compensation for warfighters, including targeted pay raises, adjustments to BAH, and the need for greater stability in privatized housing costs. These matters involve federal pay and allowance structures as well as Department-level oversight of privatized housing contracts and are not within the purview of state governments to resolve.

- The DoW appreciates the detailed submission regarding the exclusion of Outside the Continental United States (OCOUS) DoWEA students from USDA summer nutrition programs and recognizes the concern about equitable nutrition support for military children stationed overseas. Because this issue involves federal program administration by USDA and DoWEA rather than state government action, it falls outside the scope of the DoW State Policy Priorities process.

- These matters involve federal benefits law and Congressional legislation and fall outside the scope of the DoW State Policy Priorities addressed by this FRN.

- The DoW appreciates the comment regarding challenges military spouses may face when navigating federal retirement systems and employment records. Suggestions related to additional support mechanisms fall outside the scope of the DoW State Policy Priorities addressed by this FRN.

- State Support of Military Families with Special Education Needs has been designated as a DoW State Policy Priority. Because this submission focuses on a future strategy and federal legislative changes, it falls outside the current scope of this FRN.

- The DoW appreciates the perspective regarding Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility and time limitations for veterans pursuing higher education. The DoW recognizes the importance of education benefits in supporting veterans' transition to civilian life and acknowledges the concern raised regarding delays in utilization. This input falls outside the scope of the DoW

State Policy Priorities addressed by this FRN.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding access to USDA summer nutrition programs for military families stationed OCONUS. Because the proposed solutions fall under federal and interagency jurisdiction, they are outside the scope of this FRN regarding State-level policy priorities.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the treatment of military retainer pay in State divorce proceedings. The Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act establishes the federal framework governing State authority over the division of military retirement pay. This comment extends beyond State-specific policy solutions.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding family support services, mental health resources, the promotion system, assignment stability, equal treatment, and educational and employment opportunities abroad. The issues identified are within the purview of federal authorities and internal DoW policy rather than state government action.

The Department received forty-nine comments requesting changes to DoW internal policies, programs, or procedures, which are not germane to this request for information; these comments have been forwarded to the appropriate internal office of primary responsibility and we respond as follows:

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding institutional eligibility for military-funded advanced academic degree programs. We value the perspective of service members navigating career and educational decisions. Because these determinations are made at the federal level and do not involve State legislative, regulatory, or procedural action, they fall outside the scope of this **Federal Register** Notice. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR).

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding educational outcomes, access to performance data, and compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at DoWEA schools. The issues raised fall outside the scope of this request for information on potential State Policy Priorities. We encourage engaging directly with DoWEA's established parent engagement and complaint resolution processes. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoWOPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding dependent minor access to electronic medical records between the ages of 13 and 18. This FRN solicited input on potential State policy priorities. The issue identified involves DoW information system access policies and credentialing requirements, which are governed at the federal level. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the challenges faced by military families living off-base overseas following the transition to the AFN Now streaming application. Because this Notice solicits input on potential State Policy Priorities, issues involving DoW-managed programs and federal contracting decisions fall outside its scope. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding access to electronic health information through the Military Health System (MHS) Genesis patient portal for minor dependents. This matter involves the internal configuration and policies of a DoW health information system and is not within the scope of this FRN, which solicits input on issues where state governments are the primary change agents. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding Reduction in Force (RIF) procedures and the impact on military families. Because this submission addresses internal Department procedures rather than a state policy issue, it falls outside the scope of this FRN. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding reduction-in-force actions affecting families in Virginia. Federal workforce RIF procedures are governed by federal statute and regulation and fall outside the scope of this request for information. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to appropriate internal DoWOPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding RIF procedures and the availability of contact resources for military spouses. This matter pertains to federal personnel processes and is not within the scope of this FRN. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and family separation resulting from EFMP assignment decisions. Because EFMP is

administered by the DoW, the issues raised relate to internal policy and programming rather than State government action. The DoW has designated State Support of Military Families with Special Education Needs as a current State Policy Priority, which addresses the State-level dimension of services available. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and military spouse training opportunities. This **Federal Register** Notice solicits input on potential State Policy Priorities where state governments are the primary agents for change; the issues raised relate to federal programs and internal Department policies and fall outside its scope. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding parental access to dependent medical records through MHS Genesis and DS Login. Because MHS Genesis and DS Login are DoW systems, this matter falls outside the scope of this FRN. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the consolidation of the military club system and its impact on quality of life. The operation and funding of on-installation Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) programs, including the military club system, are matters of federal policy and are not within the scope of State legislative action. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding caregiver access to wellness resources and homeschooling support. To the extent the submission addresses access to federal wellness and mental health programs, this is primarily a matter of federal program eligibility. Regarding homeschooling accommodations, the DoW notes that Solutions for Military Homeschoolers is a current DoW State Policy Priority. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the challenges military spouses face in completing clinical preceptorship requirements overseas. Because the proposed solutions primarily involve DoW internal actions, including Military Treatment Facility (MTF) partnerships, rather than changes to state law or policy, the issue falls outside the scope of this FRN.

Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding military spouse employment opportunities on installations and childcare access. Because the matters raised involve DoW installation-level policies rather than State government action, they fall outside the scope of this FRN. The DoW designated Access to Quality Child Care as a State Policy Priority in 2023 and Military Spouse Hiring Preference in 2024 to address State-level dimensions of these concerns. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding experiences with Department of the Army civilian personnel. Because this matter concerns internal federal employment practices on military installation rather than a state policy issue, it falls outside the scope of this request for information. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding Service member development, morale, and retention. This **Federal Register** Notice solicits input on potential state policy priorities. The matters described relate to internal Department policies and practices. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding access to care for children with disabilities and Child Development Center waitlist management. The DoW designated Access to Quality Child Care as a State Policy Priority in 2023 and continues to work with states on expanding childcare options for military families. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding traumatic brain injury screening and rehabilitation for Service members. The concerns raised regarding pre- and post-deployment screening procedures fall within the DoW's internal health policy responsibilities rather than the State policy priorities addressed by this **Federal Register** Notice. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding funding for various installation and family support programs. The issues raised involve federal programs, congressional appropriations, and internal Department policies. This FRN solicits input on potential state policy priorities. The

matters described relate to internal Department policies and practices. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding access to dental care and the TRICARE Dental Program. The DoW recognizes that provider availability and network accuracy are important. This issue primarily involves federal program design and contractor performance rather than State-level policy. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding mental health support for military dependents. The DoW recognizes the importance of access to mental health care for family members. This comment primarily addresses federal programs, data tracking, and internal policy considerations rather than State-level authorities. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding access to care, appointment scheduling, and patient advocate responsiveness within the Defense Health Agency (DHA). This FRN solicits input on potential State policy priorities. The matters described relate to internal Department policies and practices. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding chaplain accession policies, pastoral care, and religious liberty. Issues concerning military chaplaincy accessions and personnel policies represent internal Department and Military Service-level matters, rather than the State Policy Priorities addressed by this FRN. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the challenges military families face accessing complete medical records for adolescent dependents ages 13–18. These matters involve federal health record systems, identity management, and privacy policies rather than State Policy Priorities addressed by this FRN. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding oversight and accountability of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) operating on military installations. These matters involve internal DoW and Service-level policies on nonfederal entities rather than State Policy Priorities addressed by this FRN.

Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the TAP scope and effectiveness. These matters involve federal law and DoW transition policies rather than State Policy Priorities addressed by this FRN. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding force protection and the right of self-defense for warfighters. These matters involve Department-level force protection policy rather than State Policy Priorities addressed by this FRN. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding potential national security risks from foreign nationals on installations. These matters relate to internal security processes rather than State Policy priorities. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding challenges with privatized military housing in the OCONUS and Hawaii. These matters involve the structure and oversight of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative and federal jurisdiction rather than State Policy Priorities addressed by this FRN. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- DoW appreciates feedback regarding the challenges of accessing children's health records in MHS GENESIS after they turn 13, particularly during a mid-schoolyear PCS move. This FRN solicits input on potential State Policy Priorities. The matters described relate to internal Department policies and practices. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding challenges with parental access to minor children's medical records in MHS GENESIS. This FRN solicits input on potential State Policy Priorities. The matters described relate to internal Department policies and practices. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the application of BAH and Family Separation Allowance (FSA) in joint custody and dual-military co-parenting situations. These matters involve the interpretation and enforcement of DoW pay policies in the Financial Management Regulation rather than State Policy Priorities

addressed by this FRN. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding employment and retirement-related challenges faced by military spouses. The DoW notes that it has recently established the Office of Spouse Employment to address these challenges. While the comment highlights important considerations, the FRN requested input on issues that can be addressed through State-level policy. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the Family Advocacy Program, military protective orders, and their intersection with family law proceedings. This FRN solicits input on potential State Policy Priorities. The matters described relate to internal Department policies and practices. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates feedback regarding family support program pricing structures, the reinvestment of revenues, and unit-level fundraising policies. This FRN solicits input on potential State Policy Priorities. The matters described relate to internal Department policies and practices. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback concerning educational continuity and oversight for military-connected children with disabilities. State Support of Military Families with Special Education Needs is currently a DoW State Policy Priority. Because the submission identifies documented service and oversight concerns within the federal military education and compliance framework, rather than a gap in State-level legislation, it falls outside the scope of this FRN regarding State Policy Priorities. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the challenges military spouses face managing household legal matters during deployment. The proposed solution references a federal statute outside the scope of this request for State Policy Priorities. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the challenges of Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves to Germany with a personal vehicle. The proposed issue falls outside the scope of this FRN State Policy Priorities.

Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding challenges with federal enclave jurisdiction and landlord-tenant protections in privatized military housing. These concerns involve matters of federal legislative jurisdiction and Department-level oversight of privatized housing rather than State policy action. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding access and engagement challenges affecting transitioning Service members, veterans, and their families. These issues primarily concern program engagement and service delivery approaches rather than specific State-level policy authorities. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the administrative, logistical, and emotional demands associated with military life. The DoW recognizes the sacrifices made by military families and notes the importance of incorporating family perspectives into policy development. This submission primarily addresses federal policy framing and internal program design rather than State-level authorities or statutes. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the accessibility and coherence of military family support systems, particularly childcare availability. This comment primarily addresses federal program design, coordination, and service delivery rather than state-level policy action. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the administrative, logistical, and emotional demands associated with military life. The DoW recognizes the sacrifices made by military families and notes the importance of incorporating family perspectives into policy development. This submission primarily addresses federal policy framing and internal program design rather than State-level authorities or statutes. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the mental health and counseling needs of military-dependent students in public schools. The DoW acknowledges the unique stressors that military-connected children face. The

DoW's Military OneSource, Military and Family Life Counseling program and School Liaison Officer network are designed to address many of these concerns. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate internal DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback detailing the career challenges posed by frequent relocations and recommendations regarding Military Spouse Preference. These matters involve federal civilian hiring authorities and Department personnel policies rather than State Policy Priorities addressed by this FRN. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate DoW Office of OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding cost-of-living allowances, privatized housing policies, vehicle transportation, procurement oversight, rotator flight service, emergency evacuation, and leadership accountability. These issues fall within federal jurisdiction and internal DoW policy, rather than state government authority, and are outside the scope of this FRN. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding support for National Guard and Reserve Component members and their families. Suggestions regarding expanded support for currently serving Guard and Reserve families are noted. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding access to quality healthcare, conditions in privatized housing, adequacy of BAH, funding delays during PCS moves, and resources for families with special needs. These issues primarily involve federal programs, benefit structures, and Department-level oversight rather than State Policy Priorities addressed by this FRN. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate DoW OPR.

The Department received six comments proposing issues where the target audience falls outside the population defined in the FRN, the resolution would not address a barrier caused by some aspect of military service, or do not fall within the mission or authority of the Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness (USW(P&R)); we respond as follows:

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding access to quality healthcare, conditions in privatized housing, adequacy of BAH, funding delays during PCS moves, and resources for families with special needs. These

issues primarily involve federal programs, benefit structures, and Department-level oversight rather than State Policy Priorities addressed by this FRN. Comments on this notice have been forwarded to the appropriate DoW OPR.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the disposal of unserviceable United States flags at the State level. The submitted comment is noted but falls outside the Scope of this FRN.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding property tax relief for veterans with 100 percent service-connected disability ratings. The DoW State Policy Priorities focus on barriers caused by the dynamics of military life affecting currently serving members and their families. The submitted issue is noted but outside the defined target audience of this FRN.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding fuel costs for service members and their families. This FRN solicits issues where State governments are the primary change agents when military life creates a barrier not shared by the public.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the experiences of women veterans in accessing State-level benefits. The DoW acknowledges the concern and encourages continued public input on issues affecting service members, veterans, and their families. The submitted issue is noted but outside the defined target audience of this FRN.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the impact of frequent relocation on military spouses and career continuity. This comment primarily addresses workforce development frameworks and employment recognition practices that extends beyond State-specific policy solutions.

The Department received eight comments that did not include the information specified in the FRN, including an issue title, description of the problem and impacted population, proposed solution identifying the appropriate level of state action, current status, and description of enacted state policies or practices, if known; we respond as follows:

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding cost-of-living disparities and benefit indexing across States. We note that this submission did not include several elements requested in the FRN, including citations to existing State legislation.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback and shares your commitment to supporting military dependents. While this comment did not identify a specific issue for consideration, we encourage

reviewing the current DoW State Policy Priorities for information about ongoing efforts on behalf of Service members and their families.

- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding military families during relocations. This **Federal Register** Notice seeks specific information regarding state-level policy solutions and enacted practices.
- The DoW appreciates the feedback on recognizing the Second Amendment rights of men and women in uniform, particularly when permanent change-of-station moves present compliance challenges with State laws. This FRN seeks specific information regarding State-level policy solutions and enacted practices.
- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding challenges associated with PCS moves and military spouse employment. Suggestions regarding State-level oversight of moving companies and potential employment incentives are noted. This FRN seeks specific information regarding state-level policy solutions and enacted practices.
- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding access to adequate housing during assignment transitions. This FRN seeks specific information regarding state-level policy solutions and enacted practices.
- Feedback regarding the presentation of the Notice is noted. The DoW notes that this submission does not address the FRN criteria as requested. This FRN seeks specific information regarding state-level policy solutions and enacted practices.
- The DoW appreciates the feedback regarding the economic impacts experienced by military spouses following reductions in force and related employment disruptions. This FRN seeks specific information regarding state-level policy solutions and enacted practices.

Additionally, the Department received seven comments that were duplicates of other comments or were blank.

We value your ideas, and your advocacy for our military families is both recognized and valued.

Each FY, the DoW considers numerous vital state policy issues, aiming to select those that hold the most promise to positively impact the lives of service members and their families. Within this competitive framework, we evaluate all proposed best practices.

We rigorously examine these and other issues. Our process is designed to ensure that we advance the most impactful and viable initiatives to support our military families effectively.

When military families are stable and supported through effective state policies, warfighters can dedicate themselves fully to the lethality and readiness our nation demands.

For the FY beginning on October 1, 2026, the USW(P&R) recently announced the Department's 2027 State Policy Priorities:

- *License Utilization Reporting and Issuance Uniformity (Approved 2027)*: Federal law requires states to recognize out-of-state licenses for military families under orders, but employers and insurers require state-issued licenses. States can bridge this gap by issuing courtesy licenses to qualified military families, allowing them to maintain an active license eligible for recognition and renewal, while tracking data that reveals how effectively states are utilizing military-trained professionals in critical occupations.
- *Solutions for Military Homeschoolers (Approved 2026)*: Military families homeschool their children at nearly twice the rate of civilian families and face unique challenges associated with military life. State policies that streamline homeschool requirements and expand access to educational resources such as extracurricular activities and sports, JROTC, school facilities, and special education services provide military families with increased stability and improve retention.
- *Education Policy Implementation and Information Enhancements (Approved 2025)*: States have an opportunity to facilitate improved local implementation of policies designed to support military-connected children and ensure families are empowered with the knowledge they need by clarifying requirements, enhancing communication efforts, and streamlining access to information on state and local education websites.
- *Military Exigency Clause in Family Leave Laws (Approved 2025)*: States can ensure family leave laws include provisions for military-specific needs like activations, training, and transitions. This enables readiness by reducing family stress during critical mission periods.
- *Military Spouse Employment Preference (Approved 2024)*: Military spouses in the civilian work force have a 20 percent unemployment rate, which adversely impacts military family economic security. States can assist in bolstering military families by enacting state laws that permit state and local governments and private industry to offer hiring and procurement preferences for military spouses, recognizing the need to combat military

spouse unemployment rates and supporting the financial well-being of military families.

- *State Support of Military Families With Special Educational Needs (Approved 2024)*: Highly mobile children, including military children, are more likely to experience recurring educational disruptions and challenges accessing special education services, particularly those who need access. States can assist military families by ensuring timely establishment of services upon relocation and reducing procedural burdens.
- *State Exemption for DoW Family Child Care Homes (Approved 2023)*: In many cases, in-home child-care providers who live off a military installation must be licensed by both the state and the DoW, even when only caring for eligible DoW-affiliated children. By exempting in-home childcare providers certified by the DoW from state licensure requirements, states can improve access to family child care for military families.
- *State Response to Military Interpersonal Violence (Approved 2023)*: Interpersonal violence is a pattern of harmful behavior in which one person uses various forms of abuse to assert power and control over another. States can further protect victims of interpersonal violence by enhancing statutes that increase accessibility to civilian protection orders for victims and mandating reciprocal information sharing between military and civilian law enforcement authorities.
- *Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction (Approved 2022)*: Military installations often process juvenile offenses through the Federal system, which has no established juvenile justice system. Adopting policies that facilitate concurrent jurisdiction between the state and military installation opens the door to the state juvenile justice system and resources, offering improved opportunities for rehabilitation tailored to address juveniles.
- *Open Enrollment Flexibility (Approved 2022)*: Military families can be disadvantaged in school enrollment options for their children due to military-directed moves. States can assist by increasing military-connected students' access to schooling options, allowing them to remain in their current school placement despite a relocation from temporary to permanent housing, and including them within existing enrollment prioritization systems.
- *Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts (Approved 2017)*: Thirty-five percent of military spouses require an

occupational license to work in their chosen profession. Licensure compacts create seamless licensure portability for all members of a profession, including military spouses and Service members. By adopting licensure compacts, states can improve military family financial readiness.

State officials consistently seek validation from senior leaders and commanders on the importance of these issues. Our approach recognizes that effective policy implementation requires the Department of War and states to build solutions that work for both military families and state governments.

These issues, along with other emeritus DoW state policy priorities, will be presented to state governments for their action even as these submissions to the **Federal Register** for 2028 are considered. For more information, please visit statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil.

As always, our team at the Defense-State Liaison Office, which oversees state government relations for the Office of the Secretary of War on personnel and readiness issues, stands ready to support state policymakers and the military community. Thank you once again for bringing these important issues to our attention.

Dated: October 8, 2026.

Stephanie J. Bost,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2026-20925 Filed 10-13-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DOD-2026-OS-2221]

Privacy Act of 1974; Matching Program

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of a new matching program.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance on computer matching, the DoD is providing notice of the establishment of a new matching program. Pursuant to the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA), DoD, including its component Defense Health Agency, is establishing a new matching program consisting of the computerized comparison of its system of records for the Military Health Benefits—Administrative program with the Do Not Pay (DNP) Working System, which is administered by Treasury's

Bureau of the Fiscal Service. This matching program will enable the DoD program to compare records maintained in its system of records with records maintained in the DNP Working System for the purposes of identifying and preventing improper payments.

DATES: Comments will be accepted on or before November 13, 2026. This proposed action will be effective the day following the end of the comment period unless comments have been received from interested members of the public that require modification and republication of the notice. This new matching program will be effective through September 10, 2029.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

* *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

* *Mail:* Department of Defense, Office of the Director of Administration and Management, Oversight and Compliance Directorate, Regulatory Division, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Attn: Mailbox 24, Suite 05F16, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Laura White, Accounting Officer, Oracle Federal Financials, DHA/SP&FO/J8, 16401 E Centretch Pkwy., Aurora, CO 80011, Phone: (303) 676-3877.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 amended the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 United States Code (U.S.C.) 552a) by establishing procedural safeguards for agencies' use of records in computerized matching. The Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (31 U.S.C. 3351 *et seq.*) provides the authority to waive the requirements for matching agreements in certain cases. Pursuant to this authority, the Secretary of the Treasury, after consulting with the OMB Director, authorized the issuance of a four-year waiver of the requirement for entering into a matching agreement for programs that meet the criteria in OMB Memorandum M-25-32. DoD has determined that the DNP matching program for the Military Health

Benefits—Administrative (PIIA Program ID: DOD-0028) is eligible for this waiver.

Participating Agencies: The DoD, through the Defense Health Agency, will match records against the DNP Working System, maintained by the Bureau of the Fiscal Service at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Authority for Conducting the Matching Program: The Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (31 U.S.C. 3351 *et seq.*) and OMB Memorandum M-25-32. The Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (31 U.S.C. 3351 *et seq.*) establishes the DNP Initiative and requires, for the purposes of identifying and preventing improper payments, each executive agency to have access to, and use of, the relevant databases in DNP to verify payment or award eligibility. Additional applicable authorities for this matching program include Executive Order 13520, Reducing Improper Payments (74 FR 62201); Executive Order 14249, Protecting America's Bank Account Against Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (90 FR 14011); and OMB Memorandum M-25-32, Preventing Improper Payments and Protecting Privacy Through Do Not Pay. Additional information regarding the authorities for the collection and maintenance of information for each of the DoD programs that will conduct matches with the DNP Working System are contained within the systems of records notices listed below.

Purpose(s): The purpose of the matching program is to identify and prevent improper payments by verifying through DNP prepayment or pre-award eligibility.

Categories of Individuals: Applicants for, or recipients of, Federal funds from the Military Health Benefits—Administrative program.

Categories of Records: Data elements to be matched include applicant's name, Social Security Number (SSN) or Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), address, date of birth, and payment/banking information. These data elements include all the records involved in the matching program.

System(s) of Records: The records contained within the DNP Working System are maintained in the Treasury system of records, Bureau of the Fiscal Service .017—Do Not Pay Payment Verification Records (85 FR 11776). The DoD records involved in this matching program are maintained in the following system of records: EDTMA 04, Medical/Dental Claim History Files (80 FR 65720), (90 FR 54312).