

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR
PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION**

**Petition to Classify Special Immigrant Under INA 203(b)(4) as an
Employee or Former Employee of the U.S Government Abroad
OMB-1405-0082
DS-1884**

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. An alien who qualifies as a special immigrant described in INA Section 101(a)(27)(D) meets the requirements for employment-based immigrant visa preference under section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Section 101(a)(27)(D) requires, for special immigrant qualification, that the alien be an employee or honorably retired former employee of the United States government abroad, or of the American Institute in Taiwan, who has performed faithful service for a total of fifteen years or more, that the Principal Officer of a Foreign Service establishment, or the Director of the American Institute in Taiwan, recommend the alien for such status in exceptional circumstances, and that the Secretary of State approve such recommendation and find it to be in the national interest to grant such status. Pursuant to INA section 204(a)(1)(G)(ii), an alien claiming such status may file a petition only with the Secretary of State and only after notification by the Secretary that the recommendation has been approved. Once the Secretary has approved the recommendation, the alien has one year in which to file a petition for special immigrant status.
2. Consular officers use Form DS-1884 (Petition to Classify Special Immigrant Under INA section 203(b)(4) as an Employee or Former Employee of the U.S. Government Abroad) to fulfill the legal requirements specified in paragraph 1. The information requested on the form is limited to that which is necessary for consular officers to process the petitioner's application for a special immigrant visa.
3. This form can be obtained from posts abroad or through the Department's eForms intranet site. The application available through eForms allows the applicant to complete the application online and then print the application. Most applicants are current federal government employees abroad and have access to the intranet system. Once the form is printed, it is submitted to post.
4. The information collected on this form is not otherwise available to consular officers and is necessary to process the alien's petition.
5. This information collection does not impact small businesses or other small entities.
6. Consular officers would be unable to process petitions for special immigrant status without the information collected on this form.
7. No such special circumstances exist.
8. The Department of State (Visa Services, Bureau of Consular Affairs) published a 60 day notice in the Federal Register seeking public comment (77 FR 28922, May 16, 2012). No comments were received. Visa Services meets regularly with immigration experts from the

Department of Homeland Security to coordinate policy. Visa Services also meets with student groups, business groups, immigration attorneys, and other interested parties to discuss their opinions and suggestions regarding visas procedures and operations.

9. No payment or gift is provided to respondents.
10. Although no assurances of confidentiality are expressly stated on the form, in accordance with section 222(f) of the INA, information obtained from applicants in the immigrant visa process is considered confidential and is to be used only for the formulation, amendment, administration, or enforcement of the immigration statutes, and other laws of the United States.
11. No questions of a sensitive nature are asked on this information collection.
12. Approximately 300 respondents will complete this form each year. Each petitioner for classification under INA section 203(b)(4) as a special immigrant described in INA section 101(a)(27)(D) completes this form. The information collected relates to the petitioner's biographical information, U.S. government employment history, and information concerning the petitioner's spouse and children, if any. It takes approximately 10 minutes to fill out the form. Therefore, the annual hour burden to respondents is estimated to be 50 hours (300 x 10 minutes).
13. There is no cost burden imposed on respondents.
14. The Department estimates that this information collection costs the Federal Government \$600 annually. It takes approximately 10 minutes to process the form. Since 300 respondents each year will complete the form, 50 hours annually will be dedicated to processing the form. Based on an average hourly wage of \$12 for a visa clerk, we estimate the annual cost to process the form is \$600.
15. There are no program changes associated with this reauthorization.
16. A quantitative summary of all Department of State visa activities is published in the annual Report on the Visa Office. The Report of the Visa Office is an annual report providing statistical information on immigrant and non-immigrant visa issuances by consular offices, as well as information on the use of visa numbers in numerically limited categories. The Visa Office currently has annual reports available from 2000 to 2011. The link to the site is: http://travel.state.gov/visa/statistics/statistics_1476.html.
17. The Department will display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection.
18. No exceptions are requested.

B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.