

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
VA FORM 29-1546
APPLICATION FOR CASH SURRENDER OR POLICY LOAN
2900-0012

A. Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection of information.

This form is used by the insured to apply for cash surrender value or policy loan on his/her insurance. The information on this form is required by law, 38 USC 1906 and 1944, 38 CFR 6.115, 6.116, 6.117, 8.27, 6.100, 6.101 and 8.28.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purposes the information is to be used; indicate actual use the agency has made of the information received from current collection.

The data collected on this form is used by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to indicate the processing of the insured's request for a loan or cash surrender. This form is being revised due to the change in law informing insureds they can no longer receive paper checks. The Treasury will only send payments by direct deposit. Additionally, Block 8 of the Loan portion of the form, the insured can inform us of how much he would like deducted from his compensation check or military retirement to reduce the loan. The expiration date has also been added to the form.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

VA Form 29-1546 is available on the One-VA web site in a fillable electronic format. VBA is currently hosting this form on a secure server and does not currently have the technology in place to allow for the complete submission of the form. Validation edits are performed to assure data integrity. Efforts within VA are underway to provide a mechanism to allow the information to be submitted electronically with a recognized signature technology. There currently is no utility process in place that will allow the data submitted on the form to be incorporated with an existing centralized legacy database.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why all similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.

The information is not contained in any other VA records. Similar information is not available elsewhere.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

The information does not involve any small businesses.

6. Describe the consequences to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

The form is designed for use by the insured to establish his/her eligibility to obtain a loan or cash surrender.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted more often than quarterly or require respondents to prepare written responses to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it; submit more than an original and two copies of any document; retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years; in connection with a statistical survey that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study and require the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB.

There are no special circumstances requiring that the collection of information be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR Section 1320.6.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the sponsor's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by sponsor in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

The Department notice was published in the Federal Register on March 19, 2018, Volume 83, Number 53, Page 12083. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents.

The information collected is supplied by the respondent. No remuneration is made.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

The information collection conforms with the Privacy Act of 1974 and is subject to the conditions of disclosure contained therein. The records are maintained in the system identified as 36VA29 Veterans and Uniformed Services Personnel Program of U.S. Government Life Insurance – VA” as contained in the Privacy Act Issuances, 2011 Compilation.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private; include specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimate of the hour burden of the collection of information:

- a. Number of Respondents: 29,636
- b. Frequency of Response: Upon Request
- c. Annual Burden Hours: 4,939 hours
- d. Estimated Completion Time: 10 minutes
- e. The respondent population for VA Form 29-1546, is composed of individuals gathering the necessary information needed to apply for cash surrender value or a policy loan on his/her insurance. VA cannot make further assumptions about the population of respondents because of the variability of factors such as the educational background and wage potential of respondents. Therefore, VBA used general wage data to estimate the respondents’ costs associated with completing the information collection.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) gathers information on full-time wage and salary workers. According to the latest available BLS data, the median weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers are \$954.40. Assuming a forty (40) hour work week, the mean hourly wage is \$23.86 based on the BLS wage code – “00-0000 All Occupations.” This information was taken from the following website: (http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#00-0000, May 2016).

Legally, respondents may not pay a person or business for assistance in completing the information collection. Therefore, there are no expected overhead costs for completing the information collection. VBA estimates the total cost to all respondents to be \$117,844.54 (4,939 burden hours x \$23.86 per hour).

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information.

This submission does not involve record keeping costs.

14. Provide estimates of annual cost to the Federal Government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operation expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.

Estimated Costs to the Federal Government:

Grade	Step	Burden Time	Hourly Rate	Cost Per Response	Total Responses	Total
9	3	10	\$22.42	\$ 3.74	29,636	\$110,838.64
Overhead at 100% Salary						\$110,838.64
5	3	10	\$14.79	\$ 2.47	29,636	\$73,200.92
Overhead at 100% Salary						\$73,200.92
4	3	2	\$13.22	\$.44	29,636	\$13,039.84
Overhead at 100% Salary						\$13,039.84
Overhead costs are 100% of salary and are same as the wage listed above and the amounts are included in the total.						
Processing / Analyzing Costs						\$394,158.80
Printing and Production Cost						\$900.00
Total Cost to Government						\$395,058.80

Note: the hourly wage information above is based on the hourly 2018 General Schedule (Base) Pay (https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2018/GS_h.pdf). This rate does not include any locality adjustment as applicable.

The processing time estimates above are based on the actual amount of time employees of each grade level spend to process to completion a claim received on this form. The within-grade step (3) of each employee represents the average experience of employees within each grade.

15. Explain the reason for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of OMB 83-I.

The 2018 salary increase is reflected in Item 14.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

The information is collected for insurance purposes only and there are no plans for publication.

17. If seeking approval to omit the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

We are not seeking approval to omit the expiration date for OMB approval.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, “Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions,” of OMB 83-I.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of OMB Form 83-I.

PART B

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

The Veterans Benefits Administration does not collect information employing statistical methods.

