

Retaliation against a USDOT employee or applicant for making a protected disclosure is prohibited (5 U.S.C. 2302(b)(8)). If you believe you are a victim of whistleblower retaliation, you may file a written complaint with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel using Form OSC-14. While the Federal Government is on maximum telework, OSC is accepting Form OSC-14 only electronically. When the Federal Government is no longer on maximum telework, you may choose to submit the form electronically or complete Form OSC-14 and mail it to the Complaints Examining Unit, U.S. Office of Special Counsel at 1730 M Street NW, Suite 218, Washington, DC 20036-4505. You may also contact the USDOT Office of Inspector General Hotline by phone at 1-800-424-8071, by email at [hotline@oig.dot.gov](mailto:hotline@oig.dot.gov), or online at <https://www.oig.dot.gov/hotline>. In addition, when the Federal Government is no longer on maximum telework, you may also contact the USDOT Office of Inspector General by mail at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Bldg 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20590.

#### Retaliation for Engaging in Protected Activity

A Federal agency cannot retaliate against an employee or applicant because that individual exercises his or her rights under any of the Federal antidiscrimination or whistleblower protection laws listed above. If you believe that you are the victim of retaliation for engaging in protected activity, you must follow, as appropriate, the procedures described in the Antidiscrimination Laws and Whistleblower Protection Laws sections or, if applicable, the administrative or negotiated grievance procedures in order to pursue any legal remedy.

#### Disciplinary Actions

Under existing laws, USDOT retains the right, where appropriate, to discipline a USDOT employee who engages in conduct that is inconsistent with Federal Antidiscrimination and Whistleblower Protection laws up to and including removal from Federal service. If USDOT takes an adverse action under 5 U.S.C. 7512 against an employee for a discriminatory act, it must include a notation of the adverse action and the reason for the action in the employee's personnel record. If OSC initiates an investigation under 5 U.S.C. 1214, USDOT must seek approval from the Special Counsel to discipline employees for, among other activities, engaging in prohibited retaliation (5 U.S.C. 1214). Nothing in the No FEAR Act alters existing laws or permits an

agency to take unfounded disciplinary action against a USDOT employee, or to violate the procedural rights of a USDOT employee accused of discrimination.

#### Additional Information

For more information regarding the No FEAR Act regulations, refer to 5 CFR part 724, as well as the appropriate office(s) within your agency (e.g., EEO/civil rights offices, human resources offices, or legal offices). You can find additional information regarding Federal antidiscrimination, whistleblower protection, and retaliation laws at the EEOC website at <http://www.eeoc.gov> and the OSC website at <http://www.osc.gov>.

#### Existing Rights Unchanged

Pursuant to section 205 of the No FEAR Act, neither the No FEAR Act nor this notice creates, expands, or reduces any rights otherwise available to any employee, former employee, or applicant under the laws of the United States, including the provisions of law specified in 5 U.S.C. 2302(d).

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 26, 2021.

**Irene Marion,**

*Director, Departmental Office of Civil Rights,  
U.S. Department of Transportation.*

[FR Doc. 2021-23814 Filed 11-1-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-9X-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0666]

#### Agency Information Collection Activity: Information Regarding Apportionment of Beneficiary's Award; Withdrawn

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice; withdrawal.

**SUMMARY:** On Wednesday, October 27, 2021, the Veterans Benefits Administration published a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection Information Regarding Apportionment of Beneficiary's Award (VA Form 21-0788). This notice was published in error; therefore, this document corrects that error by withdrawing this FR notice, document number 2021-23380.

**DATES:** As of October 27, 2021, the FR notice published at 86 FR 59449 on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, is withdrawn.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Maribel Aponte, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics (008), 1717 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 266-4688 or email [maribel.aponte@va.gov](mailto:maribel.aponte@va.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** FR Doc. 2021-23380, published on October 27, 2021 (86 FR 59449), is withdrawn by this notice.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Maribel Aponte,**

*VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Enterprise and Integration/Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2021-23797 Filed 11-1-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0618]

#### Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Application by Insured Terminally Ill Person for Accelerated Benefit

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** 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](http://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. Refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0618."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Maribel Aponte, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics (008), 1717 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 266-4688 or email [maribel.aponte@va.gov](mailto:maribel.aponte@va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0618" in any correspondence.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Authority:* Public Law 104–13; 44 U.S.C. 3501–3521.

*Title:* Application by Insured Terminally Ill Person for Accelerated Benefit, SGLV 8284.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900–0618.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* VA has amended regulations for the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) programs to add accelerated death benefit (Accelerated Benefit) provisions that permit terminally ill policyholders access to the death benefits of their policies before they die. Traditionally, an individual purchases life insurance in order to safeguard his or her dependents against major financial loss due to his or her death. Life insurance serves to replace the lost income of an insured and to provide for his or her final expenses. In recent years, the insurance industry has recognized the financial needs of terminally ill policyholders and has begun offering policies with accelerated benefit provisions. A recent statutory amendment (Section 302 of the Veterans Programs Enhancement Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105–368, 112 Stat. 3315, 3332–3333) added section 1980 to Title 38, United States Code, which extends and accelerated benefit option to terminally ill persons insured in the SGLI and VGLI programs.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at 86 FR 161 on August 24, 2021, pages 47374 and 47375.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or Households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 40 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 12 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Once.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 200.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Maribel Aponte,**

*VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2021–23854 Filed 11–1–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0161]

### Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Medical Expense Report

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** 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](http://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. Refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–0161.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Maribel Aponte, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics (008), 1717 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 266–4688 or email [maribel.aponte@va.gov](mailto:maribel.aponte@va.gov). Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–0161” in any correspondence.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Authority:* 38 U.S.C. 1503; 38 CFR 3.262, 3.271 & 3.272.

*Title:* Medical Expense Report (VA Form 21P–8416).

*OMB Control Number:* 2900–0161.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a previously approved collection.

*Abstract:* A claimant's eligibility for needs-based pension programs are determined in part by countable family income and certain deductible expenses. When a claimant is awarded compensation by another entity or government agency based on personal injury or death, the compensation is usually countable income for VA purposes (38 CFR 3.262(i)). However, medical, legal or other expenses incident to the injury or death, or incident to the collection or recovery of compensation, may be deducted from the amount of the award or settlement (38 CFR 3.271(g) and 3.272(g)). In these situations, VBA uses VA Form 21P–8416 *Medical Expense Report*, to gather information that is necessary to determine eligibility for income-based benefits and the rate payable; without this information, determination of eligibility would not be possible. This is an extension only with no substantive changes. The burden remains the same.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at 86 FR 161 on August 24, 2021, page 47375.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or Households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 30,000.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 30 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Once.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 60,000.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Maribel Aponte,**

*VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2021–23665 Filed 11–1–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–P**