

# 2023 SUPPORTING STATEMENT

## CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY OF ADVANCE PAYMENT AND ENROLLMENT

VA Form # 22-1999v - OMB Control Number 2900-0325

### Summary of Changes from the Previously Approved Collection:

- This information collection request has been entered in ROCIS as a “Revision” due to a decrease in the burden hours. The reduction in the burden hours is based on a significant reduction in the number of average annual advance payments made over the periods, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.
- Minor non-substantive edits have been made to the form that do not affect the burden hours.
- No comments were received in response to the Federal Register Notices.

### **A. Justification.**

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

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized to pay educational benefits for Veterans and to other eligible beneficiaries pursuing approved programs of education.

When certain requirements are met, VA is authorized to issue payments in advance of the beginning date of training under chapters 30, 32, 35 of title 38, U.S. Code, and chapter 1606 of title 10, U.S. Code. The schools deliver advance payments to the individual and are required by law to certify to the VA that these deliveries were made. The schools are also required to report the following to VA: the failure of a student to enroll; an interruption or termination of attendance; or a finding of unsatisfactory attendance, conduct or progress.

The following statutes and regulations require this information collection:

38 U.S.C. 3034, 3241, 3531, 3680(d), 3684, 10 U.S.C. 16136(b), 38 C.F.R. 21.4138a, 21.4203(a) and (d), 21.5135, 21.5200(d), 21.5292(e)(2), 21.7151(b), and 21.7640(d).

**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 VA uses information from the current collection at the beginning of the school term to ensure that advance payments have been delivered, and to determine whether the student has increased, reduced, or terminated training. School Certifying Officials (SCOs) completes this form and returns it to VA when delivery of the advance payment check is made to students upon registration for their period of enrollment. If this student fails to register within 30 days after the commencement date of the enrollment period, the advance payment check must be returned to the Department of the Treasury. Advance payments are not available under the Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) benefit program.

**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.**

The VA Form 22-1999v is not available electronically on the VA external Internet website (Find a Form), as it is a controlled form, available internally through VA systems, and is to be completed and submitted only by the authorized designated certifying official at the Institution of Higher Learning (IHL).

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

The information obtained through this collection is unique and is not already available for use or adaptation from another cleared source.

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

This information collection does not impose a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses or entities.

Each educational institution that accepts advance payments on behalf of students are required by statute, regardless of the size of the institution, to submit a certification of advance pay delivery. The form must be submitted for any student that requests and receives the advance payment. For that reason, the information collection cannot be reduced for small establishments.

**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.**

Collecting this information is done after the school delivers the advance payment to the student. Delivery of advance payment cannot be confirmed without a completed form. The collection of information prevents an overpayment or underpayment of benefits. If the information was not collected or collected irregularly, VA would be unable to prevent erroneous payments.

**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.**

The collection of information does not require collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the guidelines delineated in 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2).

**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 the sponsor in responses to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.**

A 60-Day Federal Register Notice (FRN) for the collection published on Monday, August 28, 2023. The 60-Day FRN citation is Volume Number 88, FRN 165, Page(s) 58636-58637. No comments were received during the 60-Day Comment Period.

A 30-Day Federal Register Notice (FRN) for the collection published on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. The 30-Day FRN citation is volume number 88, FRN 210, Page(s) 75096-75097. No comments were received during the 30-Day Comment Period.

No additional consultation apart from soliciting public comments through the Federal Register was conducted or this submission.

**9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.**

No payments or gifts are being offered to respondents as an incentive to participate in the collection.

**10. Describe any assurance of privacy, to the extent permitted by law, provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.**

The VA Form 22-1999V is retained in the individual's education folder. The VA's assurance of confidentiality is covered by 38 U.S.C. 3680 and 3684, and our Systems of Records, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Veteran Readiness and Employment Records – VA (58VA21/22/28), which is contained in the Privacy Act Issuances, 2012 Compilation.

**11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature (Information that, with a reasonable degree of medical certainty, is likely to have a serious adverse effect on an individual's mental or physical health if revealed to him or her), 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**

No questions considered sensitive are being asked in this collection.

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

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The estimate for this Information Collection burden is based on figures from 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. There was approximately a total of 253 responses received for these periods, resulting in an annual average of 63 responses received, with a burden of 23 hours.

- a. Number of Respondents: 63.
- b. Frequency of Response: On occasion.
- c. Annual Burden Hours: 23 [63 responses per year X 4.4 responses per respondent X 5min / 60min = 23].
- d. Estimated Completion Time: 5 minutes.

e. The respondent population is composed of Veterans who are students. VBA 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 mean weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers are \$1,190.40. Assuming a forty (40) hour work week, the **mean hourly wage is \$29.76 based on the BLS wage code – “00-0000 All Occupations.” (\$29.76 X 40 hours)**. This information was taken from the following website: [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_nat.htm](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm) May 2023.

Legally, respondents may not pay a person or business for assistance in completing the information collection and a person or business may not accept payment for assisting a respondent 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 \$684.48 (23 burden hours x \$29.76 per hour).

**13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in items 12 and 14).**

There are no annualized costs to respondents other than the labor burden costs addressed in Section 12 of this document to complete this collection.

**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. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.**

Estimated Costs to the Federal Government are accessible through this link: [https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2023/RUS\\_h.pdf](https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2023/RUS_h.pdf).

**Note:** The hourly wage information below is based on the hourly 2023 General Schedule (Base) Pay.

**Estimated Costs to the Federal Government:** \$651.42

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We estimate that 56.7 (90%) of the responses received will not require a change in the student's enrollment. It takes approximately 5 minutes to process forms with no change.

We estimate that 6.3 (10%) of the responses received will require a change in the student's enrollment. It takes approximately 20 minutes to process forms that indicate a change in enrollment.

The processing time estimates below are based on the actual amount of time GS-09 step 05 Veteran Claims Examiners of this grade level spend to process to completion a claim received on this form.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Burden Time Employee</u>	<u>Hourly Wage Rate</u>	<u>Cost per Response</u>	<u>Total Responses</u>	<u>Gov. Cost</u>
09	05	20min	\$31.02	\$10.34	63	\$651.42 (63 X \$31.02 X 20 / 60)
	<u>Overhead at 100%. Overhead costs are 100% of salary and are also the same as the wage listed above; and the amount is included in the total.</u>					-0-
	<u>Processing / Analyzing Cost</u>					\$651.42
	<u>Printing and Production Cost</u>					-0-
<b><u>Total Cost to Government</u></b>						<b><u>\$651.42</u></b>

**15. Explain the reason for any burden hour changes since the last submission.**

- This information collection request has been entered in ROCIS as a “Revision” due to a decrease in the burden hours. The reduction in the burden hours is based on a significant reduction in the number of average annual advance payments made over the periods, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.
- Minor non-substantive edits have been made to the form that do not affect the burden hours.

**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 results of this information collection will not be published.

**17. If seeking approval to not display 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 display of the expiration date for OMB approval on the collection instrument.

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

We are not requesting any exemptions to the provisions stated in 5 CFR 1320.9.

**B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods.**

This collection of information by the Veterans Benefits Administration does not employ statistical methods.