Supporting Statement for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

TITLE: Direct Express Enrollment Form

STATUS: Request for approval of collection of information (OMB control number 1212-NEW)

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1. Need for collection. The Direct Express card is a prepaid debit card that federal benefit recipients can use to receive their benefits electronically and is administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury ("Treasury"). Federal benefit recipients do not need a bank account to sign up for the Direct Express card, and there is no credit check or minimum balance requirement.

Executive Order 14247 ("Modernizing Payments To and From America's Bank Account"), signed on March 25, 2025, requires the transition to electronic payments for all Federal disbursements and collections by digitizing payments to the extent permissible under the law. To comply with Executive Order 14247, PBGC is transitioning its recipients receiving paper checks to receive their benefits electronically. These recipients can do so by providing their bank or credit union information or through using a Direct Express card.

For PBGC to enroll its payees currently receiving paper checks with the Direct Express card, PBGC must collect identifying information needed to set up the account. Those wishing to enroll also must certify that the information provided can be used to establish the Direct Express card account to receive benefit payments. PBGC will use the information it receives and coordinate with Treasury to set up the accounts. Treasury will issue the card authorized to receive PBGC payments to the benefit recipient, and then PBGC will use that account number to pay benefits electronically.

PBGC is requesting that OMB approve this new collection of information for 3 years.

2. <u>Use of information.</u>

a. <u>Information required.</u> Each benefit recipient looking to enroll in the program must provide the benefit recipient's name, address, phone number, social security number, and date of birth. There is a section on the form to complete in the event that the name or address on the benefit check is incorrect to ensure that it appears correctly on the Direct Express debit card. Lastly, there is a certification the benefit recipient will sign and date authorizing PBGC to share the information with Treasury to set up the account.

b. <u>Need for information.</u> PBGC needs the required information and consent to enroll benefit recipients in the Direct Express debit card program.

3. <u>Reducing the burden and information technology.</u> PBGC will mail all benefit recipients currently receiving paper benefit checks a Direct Express enrollment form. Benefit recipients seeking to enroll in the program will complete the form and mail it to the address provided at the bottom of the form. PBGC typically collects information related to financial transactions through mail submissions for privacy-related reasons.

4. <u>Identifying duplication.</u> The inquirer must provide only identifying information necessary to enroll the inquirer in the Direct Express debit card program and consent to that information being shared with Treasury. While the identifying information may be available from other sources, the consent for this information to be shared with Treasury to enroll the inquirer in the Direct Express debit card program is not.

5. Reducing the burden on small entities. Not applicable. This information collection does not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

6. Consequences of less frequent reporting. If this information is not collected, PBGC cannot coordinate the individual's enrollment in the Direct Express debit card program to receive benefits.

7. Consistency with guidelines. The information collection is not conducted in a manner inconsistent with 5 CFR § 1320.5(d)(2).

8. Outside input. PBGC published a 60-day notice on March 18, 2026, at 91 FR 13081. No public comments were received in response.

9. Payments and gifts. PBGC provides no payments or gifts to respondents in connection with this collection of information.

10. Confidentiality. Confidentiality of information is afforded by the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act. PBGC's rules that provide and restrict access to its records are set forth in 29 CFR parts 4901 and 4902.

11. Personal questions. The information collection does not call for submission of information of a sensitive nature.

12. Hour burden on the public. PBGC estimates that it will receive enrollment forms from approximately 10,000 benefit recipients in the first year, and approximately 2,000 per year in the following years, leading to an average of 4,667 forms per year over the next 3 years. PBGC estimates that it will take 10 minutes for interested enrollees to complete this form. Therefore, the total annual burden associated with this collection of information is estimated to be 778 hours.

13. Cost burden on the public. PBGC expects that the inquirers will perform the work described above themselves and does not anticipate that inquirers will contract the work out to third parties. Therefore, the annual cost is estimated to be $0.

14. Cost to federal government. The annual cost to the federal government is estimated to be $0.

15. Explanation of burden changes. This is a new collection of information that will entail an average of 4,667 forms per year over the next 3 years and a cost burden of 10 minutes and $0 per filing.

16. Publication plans. PBGC does not intend to publish the results of this collection of information.

17. Display of expiration date. PBGC is not seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of this information collection.

18. Exceptions to certification statement. There are no exceptions to the certification statement.