

upon whether the veteran's eligibility is based upon active or reservist duty and upon the amount of down-payment, if any, paid by a veteran.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households and Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 58,333 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 30 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Generally one-time.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 350,000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Ron Taylor, VA Clearance Officer (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, Telephone (202) 565-4412 or FAX (202) 565-8267.

Dated: November 9, 1995.

By direction of the Secretary:

Donald L. Neilson,

*Director, Information Management Service.*

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**Proposed Information Collection Activity; Public Comment Request: Escrow Agreement for Postponed Exterior Onsite Improvements, VA Form 26-1849**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent

burden, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this information collection. This request for comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Comments should address the accuracy of the burden estimates and ways to minimize the burden including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology, as well as other relevant aspects of the information collection.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be received on or before January 29, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M30), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. All comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the VBA request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. In this document VBA is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0320.

*Title and Form Number:* Escrow Agreement for Postponed Exterior Onsite Improvements, VA Form 26-1849.

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

*Need and Uses:* The form is a legal agreement between builder/seller, lender, and escrow agent covering escrow of funds for unfinished exterior onsite improvements of newly constructed housing proposed for VA guaranteed financing.

*Current Actions:* Title 38, U.S. Code, Section 501(a) authorizes the Secretary to make necessary rules and regulations appropriate to carry out the laws administered by VA. Accordingly, escrow procedures were originally developed so that the Loan Guaranty Program could carry practices similar to those of the private mortgage lending industry. The escrow procedures and VA Form 26-1849 were developed for the benefit of the veteran who may gain occupancy of the property when specified exterior onsite improvements must be postponed because of delays.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households and Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* Because escrow agreements, such as VA Form 26-1849, are common practices in the building and lending industry, only 1 hour is being requested.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 30 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Generally one-time.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 32,000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Ron Taylor, VA Clearance Officer (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, Telephone (202) 565-4412 or FAX (202) 565-8267.

Dated: November 9, 1995.

By direction of the Secretary:

Donald L. Neilson,

*Director, Information Management Service.*

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