

RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES." It removes VA regulations that in essence restate Government-wide standards contained in 5 CFR Part 735 and Chapter XVI. It also amends the VA regulations to refer VA employees to the Government-wide standards. The intended effect of this final rule is to delete unnecessary and repetitive material in VA regulations and to refer VA employees to the Government-wide standards.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 20, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Walter A. Hall, Assistant General Counsel (023), Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-6334.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This final rule involves nonsubstantive changes. Accordingly, it is promulgated without regard to the notice-and-comment and effective-date provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553.

Because no notice of proposed rulemaking was required in connection with the adoption of this final rule, no regulatory flexibility analysis is required under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). Nevertheless, the Secretary hereby certifies that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601-612, since the final rule is nonsubstantive and does not concern small entities.

There is no Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance program number.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 0

Employee ethics and related responsibilities.

Approved: February 21, 1996.

Jesse Brown,
Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 38 CFR part 0 is amended as set forth below:

PART 0—STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT AND RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The authority citation for Part 0 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 38 U.S.C. 501; see sections 201, 301, and 502 (a) of E.O. 12674, 54 CFR 15159, 3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 215 as modified by E.O. 12731, 55 CFR 42547, 3 CFR, 1990 Comp., p. 306.

§§ 0.735-1, 0.735-2, 0.735-5, 0.735-6, 0.735-7, 0.735-8 [Removed]

2. Sections 0.735-1, 0.735-2, 0.735-5, 0.735-6, 0.735-7, and 0.735-8 are removed.

§§ 0.735-3 and 0.735-4 [Redesignated as 0.735-1 and 0.735-2]

3. Sections 0.735-3 and 0.735-4 are redesignated as 0.735-1 and 0.735-2, respectively.

4. A new § 0.735-3 is added to read as follows:

§ 0.735-3 Government-wide standards.

For government-wide standards of ethical conduct and related responsibilities for Federal employees, see 5 CFR Part 735 and Chapter XVI.

[FR Doc. 96-6495 Filed 3-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

38 CFR Part 1

RIN 2900-AH84

Rulemaking Procedures

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document amends the "General Provisions" in 38 CFR Part 1 by removing §§ 1.12 and 1.551. The regulatory history of § 1.12 indicates that, despite a statutory exemption, VA intended to self-impose the notice-and-comment provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553 on VA rulemaking concerning public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts (see 37 FR 3552, Feb. 17, 1972). Subsequent to the promulgation of § 1.12, statutory provisions were established that specifically applied the public notice-and-comment provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553 to VA rulemaking concerning "loans, grants, or benefits" (see 38 U.S.C. 501(d)). These statutory provisions did not impose the same notice-and-comment provisions for rulemaking concerning public property or contracts. In our view, notice-and-comment requirements for rulemaking concerning public property and contracts should only be those imposed by statute. Also, there is no need to retain the provisions of § 1.551. In large part § 1.551 merely contained restatements of 5 U.S.C. 552. In addition, § 1.551 contained internal instructions to agency components which were not required to be promulgated as rules.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 20, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas O. Gessel, Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 565-7625.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This final rule merely reflects VA policy. Accordingly, it is promulgated without

regard to the notice-and-comment and effective-date provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553.

Because no notice of proposed rulemaking was required in connection with the adoption of this final rule, no regulatory flexibility analysis is required under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*).

There is no Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance program number.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 1

Administrative practice and procedure, Claims, Freedom of information, Government contracts, Government employees, Government property, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Approved: March 8, 1996.

Jesse Brown,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 38 CFR part 1 is amended as set forth below:

PART 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The authority citation for part 1 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a), unless otherwise noted.

§§ 1.12 and 1.55 [Removed]

2. Sections 1.12 and 1.551 are removed.

[FR Doc. 96-6496 Filed 3-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

38 CFR Part 3

RIN 2900-AH85

Lump-Sum Payment Under Public Law 93-177

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document amends the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adjudication regulations to remove a provision for making lump-sum payments based on the service of veterans who were dishonorably discharged from the United States Army as the result of an incident that occurred in Brownsville, Texas, on August 13, 1906. The law required that applications for the lump-sum payment be filed within 5 years after December 6, 1973. Since the time limit for filing for the lump-sum payment has expired, the rule is obsolete.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This amendment is effective March 20, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Trowbridge, Consultant, Regulations Staff, Compensation and Pension