

the departments and agencies of any such change and coordinate with OMB on the paperwork and rulemaking aspects of the revision.

The Office of Government Ethics will continue to make the OGE Form 450 available to departments and agencies and their reporting employees in paper and through the Forms, Publications & Other Ethics Documents section of OGE's Internet Web site (address: <http://www.usoge.gov>). The latter method allows employees two different options for preparing their report on a computer, although a printout and manual signature of the form are still required unless specifically approved otherwise by OGE. Moreover, OGE also permits departments and agencies to develop or utilize their own electronic versions of the OGE Form 450 provided they precisely duplicate the paper original to the extent technically possible. While OGE sees no legal bar to electronic filing and electronic signatures for the OGE Form 450, agencies must meet the requirements of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) and other applicable laws and issues such as security, verification, non-repudiation, etc. Those agencies seeking to develop or utilize an electronic version of the OGE Form 450, and who have not so informed OGE, are asked to advise OGE's Deputy Director for Administration and Information Management of their intentions to do so and to provide assurance of their adherence to the previously mentioned requirements.

Since 1992 various departments and agencies have developed, with OGE review/approval, alternative reporting formats, such as certificates of no conflict, for certain classes of employees. Other agencies provide for additional disclosures pursuant to independent organic statutes and in certain other circumstances when authorized by OGE. In 1997, OGE itself developed the new OGE Optional Form 450-A (Confidential Certificate of No New Interests (Executive Branch)) for possible agency and employee use in certain years, if applicable. That optional form continues in use at various agencies. However, the OGE Form 450 remains the uniform executive branch report form for most of those executive branch employees who are required by their agencies to report confidentially on their financial interests. The OGE Form 450 is to be filed by each reporting individual with the designated agency ethics official at the executive department or agency where he or she is or will be employed.

Reporting individuals are regular employees whose positions have been

designated by their agency under 5 CFR 2634.904 as requiring confidential financial disclosure in order to help avoid conflicts with their assigned responsibilities; under that section, all special Government employees (SGE) are also generally required to file. Agencies may, if appropriate under the OGE regulation, exclude certain regular employees or SGEs as provided in 5 CFR 2634.905. Reports are normally required to be filed within 30 days of entering a covered position (or earlier if required by the agency concerned), and again annually in the fall if the employee serves for more than 60 days in the position. As indicated in § 2634.907 of the OGE regulation, the information required to be collected includes assets and sources of income, liabilities, outside positions, employment agreements and arrangements, and gifts and travel reimbursements, subject to certain thresholds and exclusions.

Most of the persons who file this report form are current executive branch Government employees at the time they complete their report. However, some filers are private citizens who are asked by their prospective agency to file a new entrant report prior to entering Government service in order to permit advance checking for any potential conflicts of interest and resolution thereof by agreement to recuse or divest, obtaining of a waiver, etc. Based on OGE's annual agency ethics program questionnaire responses for 1999 and 2000 (the 2001 responses have not yet been fully tabulated), OGE estimates that an average of approximately 268,450 OGE Form 450 report forms will be filed each year for the next three years throughout the executive branch. This estimate is based on average number of report forms filed branchwide for 1999 and 2000 as indicated in the Questionnaire responses, some 271,834 in 1999 and 265,053 in 2000, for a total of 536,887, with that number then divided in half and rounded to give the projected annual average of 268,450 reports. Of these reports, OGE estimates that no more than between 5% and 10%, or some 13,422 to 26,845 per year at most, will be filed by private citizens, those potential (incoming) regular employees whose positions are designated for confidential disclosure filing as well as potential special Government employees whose agencies require that they file their new entrant reports prior to assuming Government responsibilities. No termination reports are required for the OGE Form 450.

Each filing is estimated to take an average of one and one-half hours. The

number of private citizens whose reports are filed each year with OGE itself is less than 10, but pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.3(c)(4)(i), the lower limit for this general regulatory-based requirement is set at 10 private persons (OGE-processed reports). This yields an annual reporting burden of 15 hours, the same as in OGE's current OMB inventory for this information collection. The remainder of the private citizen reports are filed with other departments and agencies throughout the executive branch.

Public comment is invited on the unrevised OGE Form 450 as set forth in this notice, including specifically views on the need for and practical utility of this proposed unmodified collection of information, the accuracy of OGE's burden estimate, the enhancement of quality, utility and clarity of the information collected, and the minimization of burden (including the use of information technology).

Comments received in response to this notice will be summarized for, and may be included with, OGE's future request for OMB paperwork approval for the proposed slightly revised OGE Form 450. Any comments received will also become a matter of public record. After reviewing any comments and deciding on the proposed revisions to the form, OGE will publish a second paperwork notice in the **Federal Register** to inform the agencies and the public at the time it submitted the request for OMB paperwork approval.

Approved: March 12, 2002.

Amy L. Comstock,

Director, Office of Government Ethics.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Program Support Center

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collections; Comment Request

The Department of Health and Human Services, Program Support Center (PSC) will periodically publish summaries of proposed information collection projects and solicit public comments in compliance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. To request more information on the project or to obtain a copy of the information collection plans and instruments, call the PSC Reports Clearance Officer on (301) 443-1494.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

1. *Proposed Project:* Application to the Board for Correction of Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps Records (PSC-54)—(OMB 0937-0095)—Extension.

An application is submitted by commissioned officers of the PHS Commissioned Corps, former officers, their spouses or heirs who appeal to the Board for Correction to request removal of an alleged error or injustice in an officer's record. The information submitted is used by the Board for Correction to determine if an error or injustice has occurred and to rectify such error or injustice. An appeal cannot be considered without the information furnished on this form. *Respondents:* Individuals or households and Federal employees. *Total Number of Respondents:* ten per calendar year. *Number of Responses per Respondent:* one response per request. *Average Burden per Response:* four hours. *Estimated Annual Burden:* 40 hours.

Send comments to Irene S. West, PSC Reports Clearance Officer, Room 17A39, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: March 7, 2002.

Curtis L. Coy,

Director, Program Support Center.

[FR Doc. 02-6420 Filed 3-15-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

[CMS-R-284]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (formerly known as the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA)), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Title of Information Collection: Medicaid Statistical Information System (MMIS).

Form No.: HCFA-R-0284 (OMB# 0938-0345).

Use: State data are reported by a Federally mandated process known as MSIS. These data are the basis for: Medicaid actuarial forecasts for service utilization and costs; Medicaid legislative analysis and cost savings estimates; and responding to requests for information from CMS components, the Department, Congress, and other customers. The national MSIS database will contain details that will allow constructive or predictive analysis of today's Medicaid issues (e.g., pregnant women, and infants).

Frequency: Quarterly and Annually.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 53.

Total Annual Responses: 212.

Total Annual Hours: 2,120.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access CMS's Web Site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.htm>, or e-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the CMS Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following

address: CMS, Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of CMS Enterprise Standards, Attention: Julie Brown, CMS-R-284, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: March 1, 2002.

Julie Brown,

Acting Reports Clearance Officer, Security and Standards Group, Division of CMS Enterprise Standards.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

[CMS-R-211]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (formerly known as the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA)), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Title of Information Collection: Model Application Template for State Child Health Plan Under Title XXI of the Social Security Act, State Children's Health Insurance Program, and Model Application Template and Instructions.

Form No.: CMS-R-211 (OMB# 0938-0707).

Use: States are required to submit Title XXI plans and amendments for approval by the Secretary pursuant to