I. Background

The Secretary of Labor has the authority, under section 502(c)(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), to assess civil penalties of up to $1,000 a day against plan administrators who fail or refuse to file complete and timely annual reports (Form 5500 Series Annual Return/Reports) as required under section 101(b)(4) of ERISA and the Secretary's regulations codified in 29 CFR part 2520. Pursuant to 29 CFR 2560.502c-2 and 2570.60 et seq., PWBA has maintained a program for the assessment of civil penalties for noncompliance with the annual reporting requirements. Under this program, plan administrators filing annual reports after the date on which the report was required to be filed may be assessed $50 per day, up to $30,000 per day, until a complete annual report is filed. Penalties are applicable to each annual report required to be filed under Title I of ERISA. The Department may, in its discretion, waive all or part of a civil penalty assessed under section 502(c)(2) upon a showing by the administrator that there was reasonable cause for the failure to file a complete and timely annual report.

The Department has determined that the possible assessment of the above described civil penalties may deter certain delinquent filers from voluntarily complying with the annual reporting requirements under Title I of ERISA. In an effort to encourage annual reporting compliance, therefore, the Department implemented the Delinquent Filer Voluntary Compliance Program. This Program is intended to encourage, through the use of reduced civil penalties, delinquent plan administrators to comply with their annual reporting obligations under Title I of ERISA. The only ICR included in the Program is the requirement of providing data necessary to identify the plan along with the penalty payment. The identifying data allows the penalty to be associated with the relevant plan. Participation of the Program has ranged from approximately 3,400 to 3,000 plans for information collection requirements of the Program are satisfied by sending a completed first page of an annual report form along with the penalty payment. The one-time statements are required to be sent to a different address within the Department. The Program is designed to allow the processing of all penalty payments at a single location within the Department.

II. Current Actions

The Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration proposes to extend the currently approved ICR included in the Delinquent Filer Voluntary Compliance Program. This Program is intended to encourage, through the use of reduced civil penalties, delinquent plan administrators to comply with their annual reporting obligations under Title I of the ERISA. The only ICR included in the Program is the requirement of providing data necessary to identify the plan along with the penalty payment. The identifying data allows the penalty to be associated with the relevant plan. Participation of the Program has ranged from approximately 3,400 to 3,000 plans in each year since the Program was implemented.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.


Title: Delinquent Filer Voluntary Compliance Program.

OMB Number: 1210-0089.

Affect: Public: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency: On occasion.

Average Burden Hours/Minutes Per Response: 21 minutes.

Number of Respondents: 3,100.

Total Annual Responses: 3,100.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,085.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB.
National Foundation for the Arts and Humanities

Proposed Collection, Comment Request

AGENCY: Institute of Museum and Library Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Institute of Museum and Library Services as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1994 (PRA 94) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

Currently the Institute of Museum and Library Services is soliciting comments concerning the proposed annual report for Library Services and Technology Act Grants to States.

A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the addressee section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the Office of Advocacy, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Room 941, Washington, D.C. 20506, or mailed to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Room 201, Washington, D.C. 20506.


Gerald B. Lindrew, Deputy Director, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Office of Policy and Research.

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BILLING CODE 4510-29-M

National Science Foundation

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Title of Collection: EHR Impact Database

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is announcing plans to request renewal of this collection, OMB control number 3145-0136, the EHR (Directorate for Education and Human Resources) Database. In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we have provided an opportunity for public comment on this action. Such a notice was published Federal Register 23810, dated April 30, 1998. No comments were received.

The materials are now being sent to OMB for review. Send any written comments to Desk Officer, OMB, 3145-0136, OIRA, OMB, Washington, D.C. 20503. Comments should be received by July 31, 1998.

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 on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Title: Library Services and Technology Act State Grants Annual Reports.

OMB Number: Agency Number: 3137.

Frequency: Once/year.

Affected Public: State Library Administrative Agencies.

Number of Respondents: 56.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 20 hours.

Total Burden Hours: 1,120.

Total Annualized capital/startup costs: 0.

Total Annual Costs: 0.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mamie Bittner, Director Public and Legislative Affairs, Institute of Museum and Library Services, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20506, telephone (202) 606-4646.

Mamie Bittner, Director, Public and Legislative Affairs.

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