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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration on Aging

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request;

State Annual Long-Term Care Ombudsman Report and Instructions for Older

Americans Act Title VII

AGENCY: Administration on Aging, HHS.

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: The Administration on Aging (AoA) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (the PRA), Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, and to allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information collection requirements relating to State Annual Long-Term Care Ombudsman Report and Instructions for Older Americans Act Title VII.

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments on the collection of information by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Submit electronic comments on the collection of information to:

louise.ryan@aoa.hhs.gov

Submit written comments on the collection of information to:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Administration on Aging, Washington, D.C. 20201. Attention: Louise Ryan

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Louise Ryan by telephone: (202) 357-3503 or by e-mail: louise.ryan@aoa.hhs.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. "Collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes agency request or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) requires Federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, AoA is publishing notice of the proposed collection of information set forth in this document. With respect to the following collection of information, AoA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of AoA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of AoA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques when appropriate, and other forms of information technology. Under section 712(c), and section 712(h) (1)-(3) of the Older Americans Act, as amended, states are required to provide information on ombudsmen activities to AoA,

which AoA is then required to present to Congress. The reporting system, the National Ombudsman Reporting System (NORS), was developed in response to these directives and other needs pertaining to the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and approved by the Office of Management and Budget for use for the first time in FY 1995-96; it was extended a second time with slight modifications for use in FY 1997-2001 and extended for the third time with no change for use from FY 2002-2006. It was extended, with modifications, a fourth time for use from FY 2007-2008. It was extended a fifth time with no modifications. This current (sixth) request is to extend, with no modifications, use of the existing State Annual Long-Term Care Ombudsman Report (and Instructions) for use from FY 2012-2014. The current form and instructions are posted on the AoA Web site at:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Elder_Rights/Ombudsman/index.aspx

AoA estimates the burden of this collection of information as follows: Approximately one and one-half hour per respondent, with 52 State Agencies on Aging responding annually for a total of 78 hours.

Date: January 6, 2012

Kathy Greenlee

Assistant Secretary for Aging

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