DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Fair Labor Standards Act Special Employment Provisions

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL) is submitting this Wage and Hour Division (WHD)-sponsored information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). Public comments on the ICR are invited.

DATES: The OMB will consider all written comments that agency receives on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

Comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) if the information will be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (4) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (5) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Crystal Rennie by telephone at 202-693-0456 or by email at DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This information collection pertains to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), 29 U.S.C. 201, et seq., special employment provisions. These provisions relate to restrictions on industrial homework and to the use of special certificates that allow for the employment of categories of workers who may be paid less than the general Federal statutory minimum wage to the extent necessary to prevent curtailment of their employment opportunities. For this revision request specifically, the Department proposes to revise forms WH-226 (Application for Authority to Employ Workers with Disabilities at Special Minimum Wages) and WH-226A (Supplemental Data Sheet for Application for Authority to Employ Workers with Disabilities at Special Minimum Wages). The proposed change is to provide an electronic form for the public’s use when completing the WH-226 and/or WH-226A forms. An online platform has been created so the WH-226 and WH-226A forms may be submitted electronically. The substance of the proposed electronic forms is substantially the same with minor word changes to accommodate the type of submission (electronic versus paper). For additional substantive information about this ICR, see the related notice published in the Federal Register on March 17, 2021 (86 FR 14648)

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless the OMB approves it and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid OMB Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.
DOL seeks PRA authorization for this information collection for three (3) years. OMB authorization for an ICR cannot be for more than three (3) years without renewal. The DOL notes that information collection requirements submitted to the OMB for existing ICRs receive a month-to-month extension while they undergo review.

Agency: DOL-WHD.


OMB Control Number: 1235-0001.

Affected Public: Private Sector, Businesses or other for-profits, Not-for-profit.

Total Estimated Number of Respondents: 335,271.

Total Estimated Number of Responses: 1,329,967.

Total Estimated Annual Time Burden: 684,595 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden: $1,085.


Crystal Rennie,

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