



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Blackout Period Notice

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL) is submitting this Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)-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 THE 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: Mara Blumenthal by telephone at 202-693-8538, or by email at DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOA), enacted on July 30, 2002, amended ERISA to include a blackout period disclosure requirement in subsection 101(i). This information collection requires administrators of individual account pension plans (e.g., a profit sharing plan, 401(k) type plan or money purchase pension plan) to provide at least 30 days advance written notice to the affected participants and beneficiaries in advance of any “blackout period” during which their existing rights to direct or diversify their investments under the plan, or obtain a loan or distribution from the plan will be temporarily suspended. For additional substantive information about this ICR, see the related notice published in the *Federal Register* on March 31, 2021 (86 FR 16787).

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-EBSA.

Title of Collection: Employee Retirement Income Security Act Blackout Period Notice.

OMB Control Number: 1210-0122.

Affected Public: Private Sector— Businesses or other for-profits and not-for-profit institutions.

Total Estimated Number of Respondents: 47,250.

Total Estimated Number of Responses: 7,409,220.

Total Estimated Annual Time Burden: 88,905 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden: \$324,524.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D).

Dated: September 22, 2021.

Mara Blumenthal,

Senior PRA Analyst.

[FR Doc. 2021-21239 Filed: 9/29/2021 8:45 am; Publication Date: 9/30/2021]