



4830-01-p

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for New Technologies in Retirement Plans.

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Internal Revenue Service, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The IRS is soliciting comments concerning new technologies in retirement plans.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]** to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Kinna Brewington, Internal Revenue Service, room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Kerry Dennis, at (202) 317-5751 or Internal Revenue Service, Room 6526, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington DC 20224, or through the internet, at Kerry.Dennis@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: New Technologies in Retirement Plans.

OMB Number: 1545-1632.

Regulation Project Number: TD 8873 / Notice 2020-42.

Abstract: Treasury Decision 8873 contains amendments to the regulations governing certain notices and consents required in connection with distributions from retirement plans. Specifically, these regulations set forth applicable standards for the transmission of those notices and consents through electronic media and modify the timing requirements for providing certain distribution-related notices. The regulations provide guidance to plan sponsors and administrators by interpreting the notice and consent requirements in the context of the electronic administration of retirement plans. The regulations affect retirement plan sponsors, administrators, and participants.

On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued an emergency declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act in response to the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, beginning March 1, 2020 (COVID-19 Emergency). In response to this unprecedented public health emergency, and the related social distancing that has been implemented, Notice 2020-42 provides temporary relief from the physical presence requirement in § 1.401(a)-21(d)(6) of the Income Tax Regulations for participant elections required to be witnessed by a plan representative or a notary public, such as a spousal consent required under § 417 of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). While this temporary relief, which covers the period from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, is intended to facilitate the use of coronavirus-related distributions and plan loans to qualified individuals, as permitted by section 2202 of the

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Pub. L. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (2020) (CARES Act), the temporary relief applies to any participant election that requires the signature of the individual making the election to be witnessed in the physical presence of a plan representative or notary.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the regulations at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 455,625.

Estimated Number of Responses: 11,700,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 477,563.

The following paragraph applies to all the collections of information covered by this notice.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained if their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the 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 collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: August 31, 2020.

Chakinna B. Clemons,

Supervisory Tax Analyst.

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