

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: January 19, 2005.

Paul Finger,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-1739 Filed 1-28-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

[REG-120168-97]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, 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 proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, REG-120168-97 (TD 8798), Preparer Due Diligence Requirements for Determining Earned Income Credit Eligibility.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before April 1, 2005, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Paul Finger, Internal Revenue Service, room 6416, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the regulation should be directed to Allan Hopkins, at (202) 622-6665, or at Internal Revenue Service,

room 6516, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224, or through the Internet, at Allan.M.Hopkins@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Preparer Due Diligence Requirements for Determining Earned Income Credit Eligibility.

OMB Number: 1545-1570.

Regulation Project Number: REG-120168-97.

Abstract: Income tax return preparers who satisfy the due diligence requirements in this regulation will avoid the imposition of the penalty section 6695(g) of the Internal Revenue Code for returns or claims for refund due after December 31, 1997. The due diligence requirements include soliciting the information necessary to determine a taxpayer's eligibility for, and amount of, the Earned Income Tax Credit and the retention of this information.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to this existing regulation.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 100,000.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 5 hours, 4 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 507,136.

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 as long as 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: January 21, 2005.

Paul Finger,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Earned Income Tax Credit Committee of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Earned Income Tax Credit Committee of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be conducted (via teleconference). The Committee will be discussing issues pertaining to the IRS administration of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

DATES: The meeting will be held Thursday, February 17, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Audrey Y. Jenkins at 1-888-912-1227 (toll-free), or 718-488-2085 (non toll-free).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Earned Income Tax Credit Committee of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be held Thursday, February 17, 2005 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET via a telephone conference call. The public is invited to make oral comments. Individual comments will be limited to 5 minutes. Due to limited conference lines, notification of intent to participate in the telephone conference call meeting must be made in advance by contacting Audrey Y. Jenkins. To confirm attendance or for more information, Ms. Jenkins may be reached at 1-888-912-1227 or (718) 488-2085. If you would like a written statement to be considered, send written comments to Audrey Y. Jenkins, TAP Office, 10 MetroTech Center, 625 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 or post your comments to the Web site: www.improveirs.org. The agenda will include various IRS issues.