

Federal Register – January 2023

[Employment Authorization for Yemeni F-1 Nonimmigrant Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship as a Direct Result of the Crisis in Yemen, 88 Federal Register 88, January 3, 2023](#)

NOTICE: This notice announces that the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) is suspending certain regulatory requirements for F-1 nonimmigrant students whose country of citizenship is Yemen, regardless of country of birth (or individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Yemen), and who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the crisis in Yemen. The Secretary is taking action to provide relief to these Yemeni students who are lawful F-1 nonimmigrant students so the students may request employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain their F-1 nonimmigrant student status. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will deem an F-1 nonimmigrant student who receives employment authorization by means of this notice to be engaged in a “full course of study” for the duration of the employment authorization, if the nonimmigrant student satisfies the minimum course load requirement described in this notice.
EFFECTIVE DATES: March 4, 2023 – September 3, 2024

[HHS Safeguarding the Rights of Conscience as Protected by Federal Statutes, 88 Federal Register 820, January 4, 2023](#)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING: The Department proposes to partially rescind the May 21, 2019, final rule entitled, “Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority” (“2019 Final Rule”), while leaving in effect the framework created by the February 23, 2011, final rule, entitled, “Regulation for the Enforcement of Federal Health Care Provider Conscience Protection Laws.” (“2011 Final Rule”). The Department also proposes to retain, with some modifications, certain provisions of the 2019 Final Rule regarding federal conscience protections but eliminate others because they are redundant or confusing, because they undermine the balance Congress struck between safeguarding conscience rights and protecting access to health care access, or because significant questions have been raised as to their legal authorization. Further, the Department seeks to determine what additional regulations, if any, are necessary to implement certain conscience protection laws. The Department is seeking public comment on the proposal to retain certain provisions of the 2019 Final Rule, including on any alternative approaches for ensuring compliance with the conscience protection laws.
COMMENTS DUE: March 6, 2023

[Improving Income-Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, 88 Federal Register 1894, January 11, 2023](#)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING: The Secretary proposes to amend the regulations governing income-contingent repayment plans by amending the Revised Pay as You Earn (REPAYE) repayment plan, and to restructure and rename the repayment plan regulations under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program, including combining the Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) and the Income-Based

	<p>Repayment (IBR) plans under the umbrella term of “Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) plans.”</p> <p>COMMENTS DUE: February 10, 2023</p>
<p>Request for Information Regarding Public Transparency for Low-Financial-Value Postsecondary Programs, 88 Federal Register 1567, January 11, 2023</p>	<p>REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: ED is requesting information in the form of written comments that may include information, research, and suggestions regarding how best to identify low-value postsecondary programs. The Office of the Under Secretary solicits these comments to identify the best ways to calculate the metrics that may be used to identify low-financial-value programs and inform technical considerations.</p> <p>COMMENTS DUE: February 10, 2023</p>
<p>Partnerships With Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations, 88 Federal Register 2395, January 13, 2023</p>	<p>NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING: The agencies listed above (the “Agencies”) propose to amend their regulations to clarify protections for beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries receiving federally funded social services and the rights and obligations of organizations providing such services. In accordance with the Executive order of February 14, 2021 (Establishment of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships), this clarification should promote maximum participation by beneficiaries and providers in the Agencies' covered programs and activities and ensure consistency in the implementation of those programs and activities.</p> <p>COMMENTS DUE: March 14, 2023</p>
<p>Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Programs; 2023-24 Award Year Deadline Dates, 88 Federal Register 2901, January 18, 2023</p>	<p>NOTICE: The Secretary announces the 2023-24 award year deadline dates for the submission of requests and documents from postsecondary institutions for the Federal Perkins Loan (Perkins Loan) Program, Federal Work-Study (FWS), and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) programs (collectively, the “Campus-Based programs”), Assistance Listing Numbers 84.038, 84.033, and 84.007.</p> <p>DEADLINE: Various (consult FR entry for details)</p>
<p>Limits on Exempted Calls Under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, 88 Federal Register 3668, January 20, 2023</p>	<p>FINAL RULE: In this document, the Commission announces the effective date for the rules implementing section 8 of the Pallone-Thune Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act (TRACED Act) per the TCPA Exemptions Order, published on February 25, 2021. Specifically, compliance is required for the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) exemptions for artificial or prerecorded voice calls made to residential telephone lines to ensure each satisfies the TRACED Act's requirements to identify who can call, who can be called, and any call limits. Compliance is also required with the limits on the number of calls that can be made under the exemptions for non-commercial calls to a residence; commercial calls to a residence that do not include an advertisement or constitute telemarketing; tax-exempt nonprofit organization calls to a residence; and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA)-related calls to a residence. Finally, callers must have mechanisms in place to allow consumers to opt out of any future calls.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE DATE: July 20, 2023</p>

<p>Limits on Exempted Calls Under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, 88 Federal Register 3668, January 20, 2023</p>	<p>FINAL RULE: In this document, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) amends its rules to allow callers the option of obtaining either oral or written consent if they wish to make more calls than the numerical limits on exempted artificial or prerecorded voice message calls to residential telephone lines and affirms the numerical limits and opt-out requirements on such calls.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE DATE: July 20, 2023</p>
<p>IRS Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project, 88 Federal Register 4076, January 24, 2023</p>	<p>NOTICE: This regulation clarifies when the allocation of bond proceeds to reimburse expenditures previously made by an issuer of the bond is treated as an expenditure of the bond proceeds. The issuer must express a reasonable official intent, on or prior to the date of payment, to reimburse the expenditure in order to assure that the reimbursement is not a device to evade requirements imposed by the Internal Revenue Code with respect to tax exempt bonds.</p> <p>COMMENTS DUE: March 24, 2023</p>
<p>Employment Authorization for Haitian F-1 Nonimmigrant Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship as a Direct Result of the Current Crisis in Haiti, 88 Federal Register 5016, January 26, 2023</p>	<p>NOTICE: This notice announces that the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) is suspending certain regulatory requirements for F-1 nonimmigrant students whose country of citizenship is Haiti, regardless of country of birth (or individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Haiti), and who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the current crisis in Haiti. The Secretary is taking action to provide relief to these Haitian students who are in lawful F-1 nonimmigrant student status so the students may request employment authorization on the date of publication of this notice, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain their F-1 nonimmigrant student status. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will deem an F-1 nonimmigrant student granted employment authorization by means of this notice to be engaged in a “full course of study” for the duration of the employment authorization, if the nonimmigrant student satisfies the minimum course load requirement described in this notice.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE DATES: February 4, 2023 – August 3, 2024</p>
<p>New Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Build America, Buy America (BABA) Waiver Data Collection, 88 Federal Register 6223, January 31, 2023</p>	<p>NOTICE: In accordance with section 70914 of the Build America, Buy America Act (Pub. L. 117-58 sections 70901-70952) (BABAA), recipients and subrecipients funded under USDA's Federal financial assistance programs that allow funds to be used for infrastructure projects, i.e., construction and broadband infrastructure, may not use their funds for these infrastructure projects unless they comply with the following BABAA sourcing requirements: (1) All iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States; (2) All manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States; and (3) All construction materials are manufactured in the United States. USDA is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection.... This will be a common form available for other Federal Agencies to adopt.</p> <p>COMMENTS DUE: April 3, 2023</p>

Virginia Register – January 2023

[6VAC15-26. Regulations for Human Subject Research \(repealing 6VAC15-26-10 through 6VAC15-26-130\), Volume 39, Issue 10, Virginia Register of Regulations, January 2, 2023](#)

FAST-TRACK REGULATION: The regulation is for the protection of a group of individuals who may be part of a research project. These projects are prevalent in agencies responsible for services and supervision, as well as universities. The regulation protects those involved in the research and provides those conducting the research with clarity and guidance. Having the regulation at 6VAC15-26 under the State Board of Local and Regional Jails, which no longer has regulatory authority to enforce the regulation, creates a problem for the public seeking to conduct research and for the individuals who may be subject to such research. To place the regulation under the Department of Corrections at 6VAC16-20 requires 6VAC15-26 be repealed. This action repeals 6VAC15-26 in entirety so that the regulation may be promulgated under the Department of Corrections at 6VAC16-20. As there will be no substantive changes to the content of the regulation, and the agency has no discretion in the action, the regulatory action will likely be noncontroversial.

COMMENTS DUE: February 1, 2023

[12VAC5-431. Sanitary Regulations for Hotels \(adding 12VAC5-431-490\), Volume 39, Issue 10, Virginia Register of Regulations, January 2, 2023](#)

FINAL REGULATION: Pursuant to Chapter 751 of the 2022 Acts of Assembly, the amendments add a new section that requires hotel employees to complete an approved training course, no later than June 30, 2023, on recognizing and reporting instances of suspected human trafficking. The Department of Criminal Justice shall develop and administer the approved training course, and the Virginia Department of Health shall enforce the new requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 2023

[14VAC5-120. Rules Governing the Implementation of the Individual Accident and Sickness Insurance Minimum Standards Act with Respect to Specified Disease Policies \(repealing 14VAC5-120-10 through 14VAC5-120-100\).](#)

FINAL REGULATION: The amendments implement the provisions of Chapters 34 (§ 38.2-3400 et seq.) and 35 (§ 38.2-3500 et seq.) of Title 38.2 of the Code of Virginia by repealing 14VAC5-120 and 14VAC5-140 and adding two new chapters, Rules Governing Individual and Small Group Market Health Benefit Plans (14VAC5-135) and Rules Governing Accident and Sickness Excepted Benefits Policies; Short-Term Limited Duration Insurance (14VAC5-141). The new, separate chapters distinguish between two major categories of accident and sickness insurance to clearly identify the requirements for each category.

[14VAC5-135. Rules Governing Individual and Small Group Market Health Benefit Plans \(adding 14VAC5-135-10 through 14VAC5-135-60\).](#)

14VAC5-135 outlines minimum standards for those individual and small group market health benefit plans that are filed in accordance with Affordable Care Act, including general policy and form requirements and certain prohibitions, limitations, and disclosures as well as standards for student health insurance coverage. 14VAC5-141 outlines minimum standards for the types of accident and sickness "excepted benefits" policies that may be filed in Virginia, including accident, disability income, limited scope benefits, specified disease, hospital, or other fixed indemnity and similar supplemental coverage as well as standards for short-term limited-duration insurance, including general policy provisions, prohibitions, limitations and disclosures, and requirements for replacement of coverage.

[14VAC5-140. Rules Governing the Implementation of the Individual Accident and Sickness Insurance Minimum Standards Act \(repealing 14VAC5-140-10 through 14VAC5-140-100\).](#)

[14VAC5-141. Rules Governing Accident and Sickness Excepted Benefits Policies; Short-Term Limited Duration Insurance \(adding 14VAC5-141-10 through 14VAC5-141-160\). Volume 39, Issue 10, Virginia Register of Regulations, January 2, 2023](#)

	<p>Changes to the proposed regulation include (i) in 14VAC5-135, removing the requirement for policies to cover medically necessary services that arise from complications of contractually excluded services; and (ii) in 14VAC5-141, clarifying four definitions, clarifying language for some general policy provisions and requiring coverage for complications that arise from pregnancy, adding details on waiting periods for certain limited scope dental benefits, and clarifying payment of individual or group benefits for fixed indemnity policies.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2023</p>
<p>EXECUTIVE ORDER 24, Banning the Use of Certain Applications and Websites on State Government Technology, Volume 39, Issue 10, Virginia Register of Regulations, January 2, 2023</p>	<p>EXECUTIVE ORDER 24: I hereby direct and order that no employee of any agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia shall download or use TikTok or WeChat applications or any other applications developed by ByteDance Limited or Tencent Holdings Limited or visit the TikTok or WeChat website on any government-issued devices, including state-issued cell phones, laptops, or other devices capable of connecting to the internet except for public safety purposes.</p> <p>Further, no person or entity contracting with the Commonwealth, including but not limited to all agencies, boards, commissions, institutions of higher education, or authorities, or agents thereof, may download or use TikTok or WeChat applications or any other application developed by ByteDance Limited or Tencent Holdings Limited, or visit the TikTok or WeChat websites on state-owned or leased equipment.</p> <p>Any employee of the Commonwealth, or person or entity contracting with the Commonwealth, who has already downloaded TikTok or WeChat applications or any other applications developed by ByteDance Limited or Tencent Holdings Limited to any government-issued devices as listed above are hereby directed to remove, delete, and uninstall these applications by December 31, 2022.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE DATE: December 16, 2022</p>