DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
38 CFR Part 21
RIN 2900–AP65
Technical Corrections—VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Nomenclature Change for Position Title
AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.
ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs is amending its regulations by making nonsubstantive changes to ensure consistency within its regulations regarding a nomenclature change in the title of a Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment position.

DATES: Effective Date: This final rule is effective May 2, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: C.J. Riley, Policy Analyst, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service (28), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461–9600. (This is not a toll-free telephone number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In January 2000, the name of VA’s program, Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling (VRC), responsible for assisting veterans with service-connected disabilities to obtain and maintain suitable employment and achieve maximum independence in daily living was changed to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E). This change reflects the major goal of the program by focusing on employment. As outlined by VA’s Office of Field Operations (OFO) in OFO Letter 20F–11–09, a National Journey-Level Counseling Psychologist (CP)/Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) Performance Plan was implemented on December 16, 2003. The performance plan described how the job duties and qualifications for a CP and VRC were the same. As a result, the position description for CP was amended to include the synonymous title of VRC. Since this change, VA has updated several regulations to include this synonymous title. To ensure consistency within the regulations, this final rule amends VA regulations to reflect this nomenclature change in the title for this VR&E position.

VA is also correcting two spelling mistakes. In 38 CFR 21.94(b), VA corrects the misspelling of the word “statement.” The current text misspells “statement” as “staement.” In § 21.4232(a)(2)(i), VA corrects the spelling of “Rehabilitation” to read “Rehabilitation”. No substantive changes are intended by these amendments.

Administrative Procedure Act
This final rule concerns only agency organization, procedure, or practice and, therefore, is not subject to the notice and comment provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(b). See 38 U.S.C. 553(b)(A). This final rule consists of only nonsubstantive changes that will make the regulations more accurate and less confusing to readers. For this reason, VA has also determined that there is good cause to waive the 30-day delay effective date requirement under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3).

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563
Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, and other advantages; distributive impacts; and equity). Executive Order 13563 (Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review) emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, reducing costs, harmonizing rules, and promoting flexibility. Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review) defines a “significant regulatory action” requiring review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), unless OMB waives such review, as “any regulatory action that is likely to result in a rule that may: (1) Have an annual effect on the economy of $100 million or more or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities; (2) Create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency; (3) Materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or (4) Raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President’s priorities, or the principles set forth in this Executive Order.”

The economic, interagency, budgetary, legal, and policy implications of this regulatory action have been examined, and it has been determined not to be a significant regulatory action under Executive Order
12866. VA’s impact analysis can be found as a supporting document at http://www.regulations.gov, usually within 48 hours after the rulemaking document is published. Additionally, a copy of the rulemaking and its impact analysis are available on VA’s Web site at http://www.va.gov/orpm/, by following the link for “VA Regulations Published From FY 2004 Through Fiscal Year to Date.”

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Secretary hereby certifies that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612). This final rule will directly affect only individuals and will not directly affect small entities. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), this rulemaking is exempt from the regulatory flexibility analysis requirements of section 604.

Unfunded Mandates

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 requires, at 2 U.S.C. 1532, that agencies prepare an assessment of anticipated costs and benefits before issuing any rule that may result in the expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of $100 million or more (adjusted annually for inflation) in any one year. This final rule will have no such effect on State, local, and tribal governments, or on the private sector.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This final rule contains no provisions constituting a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3521).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number and title for the program affected by this final rule is 64.116, Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Veterans.

Signing Authority

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Robert D. Snyder, Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on April 21, 2016, for publication.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 21

Administrative practice and procedure, Armed forces, Civil rights, Claims, Colleges and universities, Conflict of interests, Education, Employment, Grant programs—education, Grant programs—veterans, Health care, Loan programs—education, Loan programs—veterans, Manpower training programs, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Schools, Travel and transportation expenses, Veterans, Vocational education, Vocational rehabilitation.

Dated: April 26, 2016.

William F. Russo,
Director, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Department of Veterans Affairs amends 38 CFR part 21 as follows:

PART 21—VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION

Subpart A—Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 31

1. The authority citation for part 21, subpart A, continues to read as follows:

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a), chs. 18, 31, and as noted in specific sections.

§ 21.53 [Amended]

2. Amend § 21.53 by:

a. In the first sentence of paragraph (f), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

b. In the last sentence of paragraph (f), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “CP or VRC”.

c. In paragraph (g) introductory text, removing “counseling psychologist,” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

d. In the second sentence of paragraph (e)(2), removing “‘counseling psychologist’” and adding, in its place, “‘CP or VRC’”.

e. In paragraph (d)(2), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “‘CP or VRC’”.

§ 21.74 [Amended]

6. Amend § 21.74 by:

a. In paragraph (c)(1), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

b. In paragraphs (c)(2) and (c)(3), removing all references to “counseling psychologist” and adding, in each place, “CP or VRC”.

§ 21.76 [Amended]

7. Amend the first sentence of § 21.76(b) by removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

§ 21.78 [Amended]

8. Amend the first sentence of § 21.78(d) by removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

§ 21.92 [Amended]

9. Amend § 21.92 by:

a. In paragraph (b), removing “counseling psychologist,” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

b. In paragraph (c), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “CP or VRC”.

c. In paragraph (d), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “CP or VRC”.

§ 21.94 [Amended]

10. Amend § 21.94 by:

a. In paragraph (a), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP), Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

b. In the first sentence of paragraph (b) introductory text, removing “statement” and adding, in its place, “statement”, and removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “CP or VRC”.

§ 21.72 [Amended]

5. Amend § 21.72 by:

a. In the first sentence of paragraph (c)(1), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

b. In the second sentence of paragraph (e)(2), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “CP or VRC”.

c. In paragraph (d)(2), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “CP or VRC”.

PART 21—VETERANS BENEFITS
§ 21.98 [Amended]

11. Amend § 21.98(b) introductory text by removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP), the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

§ 21.100 [Amended]

12. Amend § 21.100 by:

a. In paragraph (d)(1), removing “counseling psychologists” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologists (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (VRC)”.

b. In paragraph (d)(3)(ii), removing “counseling psychologists” and adding, in its place, “a CP or VRC”.

§ 21.180 [Amended]

13. Amend the second sentence of § 21.180(c) by removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP), Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

§ 21.274 [Amended]

14. Amend § 21.274(e)(1) by removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP), Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

§ 21.299 [Amended]

15. Amend the second sentence of § 21.299(a) by removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

§ 21.364 [Amended]

16. Amend the second sentence of § 21.364(a) introductory text by removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

§ 21.380 [Amended]

17. Amend § 21.380(a)(1) by removing “Counseling psychologists” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologists (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (VRC)”.

Subpart C—Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 35

18. The authority citation for part 21, subpart C, continues to read as follows:

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a), 512, 3500–3566, and as noted in specific sections.

§ 21.3102 [Amended]

19. Amend § 21.3102(a) by removing “VA counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

§ 21.3301 [Amended]

20. Amend § 21.3301(e) by removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

Subpart D—Administration of Educational Assistance Programs

21. The authority citation for part 21, subpart D, continues to read as follows:

Authority: 10 U.S.C. 2141 note, ch. 1606; 38 U.S.C. 501(a), chs. 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, and as noted in specific sections.

§ 21.4232 [Amended]

22. Amend § 21.4232 by:

a. In paragraph (a)(2) introductory text, removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

b. In paragraph (a)(2)(i), removing “Rehabilation” and adding, in its place, “Rehabilitation”.

c. In paragraphs (a)(3) and (d), removing all references to “counseling psychologist” and adding, in each place, “CP or VRC”.

Subpart I—Temporary Program of Vocational Training for Certain New Pension Recipients

23. The authority citation for part 21, subpart I, continues to read as follows:


24. Amend § 21.6005 by adding a paragraph (j)(10) to read as follows:

§ 21.6005 Definitions.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

(j) * * * * * * *

(10) Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

§ 21.6052 [Amended]

25. Amend § 21.6052 by:

a. In paragraph (b)(1), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

b. In paragraph (c), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “CP or VRC”.

§ 21.6056 [Amended]

26. Amend § 21.6056 by:

a. In the last sentence of paragraph (a), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

b. In the first sentence in paragraph (b), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “CP or VRC”.

c. In the first sentence in paragraph (c), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “CP or VRC”.

§ 21.6059 [Amended]

27. Amend § 21.6059 by:

a. In paragraph (b)(1), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

b. In paragraph (b)(2), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “CP or VRC”.

§ 21.6070 [Amended]

28. Amend § 21.6070 by:

a. In the first sentence in paragraph (b), removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

b. In paragraph (e) introductory text, removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “CP or VRC”.

§ 21.6072 [Amended]

29. Amend § 21.6072(d)(2) by removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

§ 21.6080 [Amended]

30. Amend § 21.6080(d) introductory text by removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

Subpart J—Temporary Program of Vocational Training and Rehabilitation

31. The authority citation for part 21, subpart J, continues to read as follows:


§ 21.6509 [Amended]

32. Amend § 21.6509(d) by removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place, “Counseling Psychologist (CP) or Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC)”.

§ 21.6515 [Amended]

33. Amend the first sentence of § 21.6515(a) by removing “counseling psychologist” and adding, in its place,
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52


Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; State Board Requirements

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking direct final action to approve revisions to the Maryland State Implementation Plan (SIP). The SIP revision removes the current SIP approved state board requirements and replaces them with an updated version of the requirements. The new provisions continue to address state board requirements for all the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The revision is being done because the Maryland legislature revised Maryland’s statutory requirements related to state boards and the State wants the most recent version in its SIP. EPA is approving these revisions to state board requirements in accordance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

DATES: This rule is effective on July 1, 2016 without further notice, unless EPA receives adverse written comment by June 1, 2016. If EPA receives such comments, it will publish a timely withdrawal of the direct final rule in the Federal Register and inform the public that the rule will not take effect.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–R03–OAR–2016–0127 at http://www.regulations.gov, or via email to fernandez.cristina@epa.gov. For comments submitted at Regulations.gov, follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from Regulations.gov. For either manner of submission, the EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be confidential business information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. The EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (i.e. on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, please contact the person identified in the “For Further Information Contact” section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Knapp, (215) 814–2191, or by email at knapp.ruth@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 128 of the CAA requires SIPs to comply with requirements for state boards. Section 128(a) requires SIPs to contain provisions that: (1) Any board or body which approves permits or enforcement orders under the CAA shall have at least a majority of its members represent the public interest and not derive any significant portion of their income from persons subject to permits or enforcement orders under the CAA; and (2) any potential conflict of interest by members of such board or body or the head of an executive agency with similar powers be adequately disclosed. The requirements of section 128(a)(1) are not applicable to Maryland because it does not have any board or body which approves air quality permits or enforcement orders. The requirements of section 128(a)(2), however, are applicable because the heads of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) or their designees approve permits or enforcement orders.

II. Summary of SIP Revision

On February 17, 2016, the State of Maryland submitted a formal revision (#16–03) to its SIP. The SIP revision submitted requests EPA to remove the currently approved state board statutory provisions and replace them in the Maryland SIP with the updated statutory provisions so that the SIP includes the most recent state statutes that are applicable to the section 128 CAA requirements pertaining to state boards.

On December 6, 2013 (78 FR 73442), EPA approved a Maryland SIP revision which addressed the requirements of section 128 of the CAA. The 2013 revision incorporated portions of the Annotated Code of Maryland Title 15 (Public Ethics) into the Maryland SIP. Subsequently, Maryland made revisions to its Annotated Code which included relocating the ethics provisions from Title 15 to Title 5, as well as minor wording changes. Maryland is requesting that EPA remove the previously approved portions of Title 15 from its SIP and replace those provisions with the most recent portions of the Annotated Code of Maryland Title 5 (Maryland Public Ethics Laws) which address CAA section 128 requirements. The Secretary of MDE and the state employees subordinate to that position, as well as state employees at the PSC are subject to the requirements of Title 5. EPA is removing the previously approved portions of Title 15, including these portions of: Subtitle 1, sections 15–102 and 15–103; and subtitle 6, sections 15–601, 15–602, 15–607, and 15–608. In order to continue to meet the requirements of CAA section 128, EPA is incorporating as requested by Maryland the relevant ethics provisions of Title 5 (Maryland Public Ethics Laws) including portions of: Subtitle 1, sections 5–101, 5–103; Subtitle 2, section 5–208; Subtitle 5, section 5–501; and Subtitle 6, sections 5–601, 5–602, 5–606, 5–607, and 5–608. The State effective date for all these provisions in Title 5 of the Maryland Annotated Code subsections is October 1, 2014.

III. EPA’s Analysis of Maryland’s SIP Revision

Section 128(a)(2) requires that each state SIP demonstrate that the head of all boards, bodies or heads of executive agencies which approve CAA permits or enforcement orders disclose any potential conflicts of interest. The Secretary of MDE or his/her designee approves all CAA permits or enforcement orders in Maryland with the exception of pre-construction permits for electric generating stations that receive a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) from the PSC. MDE is an executive agency that acts through its Secretary or a delegated subordinate employee. The PSC also acts through its Commissioners or delegated subordinates to approve permits. In the February 17, 2016 SIP revision submittal, Maryland requested removal of outdated provisions of Title 15 of the Annotated Code which address disclosure of conflicts of interest as required by section 128 of the CAA and submitted recently revised provisions of Title 5 of the Annotated Code of Maryland for inclusion into the SIP as required to continue to address...