

approximately 332, would be required to complete the entire Form TA-2, which the Commission estimates would take about 6 hours, for a total of 1,992 hours (332 × 6 hours). The aggregate annual burden on all 473 transfer agents registered with the Commission as of November 1, 2011, is thus approximately 2,174 hours (15 hours + 166.5 hours + 1,992 hours).

We estimate that the total cost of reviewing and entering the information reported on the Forms TA-2 for respondents is \$41.50 per hour. The Commission estimates that the total internal labor cost of complying with the rule and form requirements would be \$90,221 annually (\$41.50 × 2,174). This, however, is solely a monetization of the hour burden and is not a separate cost burden.

This rule does not involve the collection of confidential information.

The Commission may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act that does not display a valid OMB control number.

Background documentation for this information collection may be viewed at the following Web site, www.reginfo.gov. Comments should be directed to: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, or by sending an email to: Shagufta_Ahmed@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Thomas Bayer, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: March 23, 2012.

Kevin M. O'Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

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Education and Advocacy,
Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension:

Rules 8b-1 to 8b-33, SEC File No. 270-135, OMB Control No. 3235-0176.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) for extension and approval.

Rules 8b-1 to 8b-33 (17 CFR 270.8b-1 to 8b-33) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 *et seq.*) (“Investment Company Act”) were adopted to standardize the mechanics of registration under the Investment Company Act and to provide more specific guidance for persons registering under the Investment Company Act than the information contained in the statute. For the most part, these procedural rules do not require the disclosure of information. Two of the rules, however, require limited disclosure of information.¹ The information required by the rules is necessary to ensure that investors have clear and complete information upon which to base an investment decision. The Commission uses the information that investment companies provide on registration statements in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection and policy-making roles. The respondents to the collection of information are investment companies filing registration statements under the Investment Company Act.

The Commission does not estimate separately the total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden associated with rules 8b-1 to 8b-33 because the burden associated with these rules are included in the burden estimates the Commission submits for the investment company registration statement forms (e.g., Form N-1A (17 CFR 239.15A and 274.11A), Form N-2 (17 CFR 239.14 and 274.11a-1), Form N-3 (17 CFR 239.17a and 274.11b), Form N-4 (17 CFR 239.17b and 274.11c), and Form N-6 (17 CFR 239.17c and 274.11d)). For example, a mutual fund that prepares a registration statement on Form N-1A must comply

with the rules under Section 8(b), including rules on riders, amendments, the form of the registration statement, and the number of copies to be submitted. Because the fund only incurs a burden from the Section 8(b) rules when preparing a registration statement, it would be impractical to measure the compliance burden of these rules separately. The Commission believes that including the burden of the Section 8(b) rules with the burden estimates for the investment company registration statement forms provides a more accurate and complete estimate of the total burdens associated with the registration process. For administrative purposes, however, we are requesting approval for an information collection burden of one hour per year. This estimate of burden hours is not derived from a comprehensive or necessarily even representative study of the cost of the Commission’s rules and forms.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will 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 collected; and (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. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Thomas Bayer, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312; or send an email to PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: March 23, 2012.

Kevin M. O'Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available
From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor

¹ Rule 8b-3 (17 CFR 270.8b-3) provides that whenever a registration form requires the title of securities to be stated, the registrant must indicate the type and general character of the securities to be issued. Rule 8b-22 (17 CFR 270.8b-22) provides that if the existence of control is open to reasonable doubt, the registrant may disclaim the existence of control, but it must state the material facts pertinent to the possible existence of control.