

Rule 9561(b)(3).³⁰ Accordingly, for consistency and clarity, FINRA proposes to modify the second sentence of Rule 9561(b)(3) to use the phrase “suspension or cancellation of membership.”

Other Technical, Non-Substantive Changes

FINRA also proposes to amend various provisions in Rule 4111 to remove the capitalization of the term “Associated Persons.”³¹ This would be consistent with how, throughout the FINRA Rulebook, the term “associated person” is generally not capitalized.³²

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the SEC waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, so FINRA can implement the proposed rule change immediately.³³

2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,³⁴ which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules must be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The proposed rule change will make non-substantive, technical amendments that FINRA

believes will provide greater clarity and consistency to its rules.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

FINRA does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change brings clarity and consistency to FINRA rules without adding any burden on firms.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act³⁵ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.³⁶

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-FINRA-2022-014 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2022-014. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of FINRA. All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2022-014 and should be submitted on or before July 1, 2022.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.³⁷

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-507, OMB Control No. 3235-0563]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 17a-10

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³⁰ See Rule 9561(b)(1), (3), (4) and (6); see also Rule 9559(n)(6).

³¹ The capitalized term “Associated Persons” is in Rule 4111(f)(3) (concerning requests by Previously Designated Restricted Firms for withdrawals from a Restricted Deposit Requirement), (i)(2) (defining “Covered Pending Arbitration Claim”), and (i)(15) (defining “Restricted Deposit Requirement”).

³² The definition of “Covered Pending Arbitration Claim” in Rule 4111(i)(2) was modeled on the definition of the same term in Rule 1011(c), which is in the Rule 1000 Series (Member Application and Associated Person Registration). See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 90527 (November 27, 2020), 85 FR 78540, 78541-42 n.10 (December 4, 2020) (Notice of Filing of SR-FINRA-2020-041). In Rule 1011(c), as well as in some other provisions in the Rule 1000 Series, the term “Associated Person” is capitalized. The Rule 1000 Series, however, has a specific definition of the term “Associated Person” that applies specifically to the Rule 1000 Series. See Rule 1011(b).

³³ FINRA notes that the proposed rule change would impact all members, including members that have elected to be treated as capital acquisition brokers (“CABs”), given that the CAB rule set incorporates the impacted FINRA rules by reference. The proposed rule change would not impact, however, member firms that are funding portals, because the Funding Portal rule set neither incorporates the impacted FINRA rules by reference nor contains parallel rule provisions. See Funding Portal Rule 900(a) (excepting FINRA Rule 9561 from the application of the FINRA Rule 9000 Series to funding portals).

³⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

³⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

³⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

³⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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

Section 17(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 *et seq.*) (the “Act”), generally prohibits affiliated persons of a registered investment company (“fund”) from borrowing money or other property from, or selling or buying securities or other property to or from, the fund or any company that the fund controls.¹ Section 2(a)(3) of the Act defines “affiliated person” of a fund to include its investment advisers.² Rule 17a-10 (17 CFR 270.17a-10) permits (i) a subadviser³ of a fund to enter into transactions with funds the subadviser does not advise but that are affiliated persons of a fund that it does advise (e.g., other funds in the fund complex), and (ii) a subadviser (and its affiliated persons) to enter into transactions and arrangements with funds the subadviser does advise, but only with respect to discrete portions of the subadvised fund for which the subadviser does not provide investment advice.

To qualify for the exemptions in rule 17a-10, the subadvisory relationship must be the sole reason why section 17(a) prohibits the transaction. In addition, the advisory contracts of the subadviser entering into the transaction, and any subadviser that is advising the purchasing portion of the fund, must prohibit the subadvisers from consulting with each other concerning securities transactions of the fund, and limit their responsibility to providing advice with respect to discrete portions of the fund’s portfolio.⁴ This requirement regarding the prohibitions and limitations in advisory contracts of subadvisers relying on the rule constitutes a collection of information under the PRA.⁵

The staff assumes that all existing funds with subadvisory contracts amended those contracts to comply with the adoption of rule 17a-10 in 2003, which conditioned certain exemptions

upon these contractual alterations, and therefore there is no continuing burden for those funds.⁶ However, the staff assumes that all newly formed subadvised funds, and funds that enter into new contracts with subadvisers, will incur the one-time burden by amending their contracts to add the terms required by the rule.

Based on an analysis of fund filings, the staff estimates that approximately 314 funds enter into new subadvisory agreements each year.⁷ Based on discussions with industry representatives, the staff estimates that it will require approximately 3 attorney hours to draft and execute additional clauses in new subadvisory contracts in order for funds and subadvisers to be able to rely on the exemptions in rule 17a-10. Because these additional clauses are identical to the clauses that a fund would need to insert in their subadvisory contracts to rely on rules 10f-3 (17 CFR 270.10f-3), 12d3-1 (17 CFR 270.12d3-1), and 17e-1 (17 CFR 270.17e-1), and because we believe that funds that use one such rule generally use all of these rules, we apportion this 3 hour time burden equally among all four rules. Therefore, we estimate that the burden allocated to rule 17a-10 for this contract change would be 0.75 hours.⁸ Assuming that all 314 funds that enter into new subadvisory contracts each year make the modification to their contract required by the rule, we estimate that the rule’s contract modification requirement will result in 236 burden hours annually, with an associated cost of approximately \$107,380.⁹

⁶ Transactions of Investment Companies With Portfolio and Subadviser Affiliates, Investment Company Act Release No. 25888 (Jan. 14, 2003) [68 FR 3153, (Jan. 22, 2003)]. We assume that funds formed after 2003 that intended to rely on rule 17a-10 would have included the required provision as a standard element in their initial subadvisory contracts.

⁷ Based on data from form N-CEN filings, as of March 2022, there are 12,468 registered funds (open-end funds, closed-end funds, and exchange-traded funds), 4,870 funds of which have subadvisory relationships (approximately 39%). Based on Form N-1A and Form N-2 filings, there were 806 new registered funds in 2020. 806 new funds \times 39% = 314 funds.

⁸ This estimate is based on the following calculation: 3 hours \div 4 rules = 0.75 hours.

⁹ These estimates are based on the following calculations: (0.75 hours \times 314 portfolios = 236 burden hours); (\$455 per hour \times 236 hours = \$107,380 total cost). The Commission’s estimates concerning the wage rates for attorney time are based on salary information for the securities industry compiled by the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association. The estimated wage figure is based on published rates for in-house attorneys, modified to account for a 1,800-hour work-year and inflation, and multiplied by 5.35 to account for bonuses, firm size, employee benefits, and overhead, yielding an effective hourly rate of

The estimate of average burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the PRA. The estimate is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules. Complying with this collection of information requirement is necessary to obtain the benefit of relying on rule 17a-10. Responses will not be kept confidential. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission’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 by August 9, 2022.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information under the PRA unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Please direct your written comments to: David Bottom, Acting Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o John Pezzullo, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: June 6, 2022.

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

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\$455. See Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, Report on Management & Professional Earnings in the Securities Industry 2013.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 80a-17(a).

² 15 U.S.C. 80a-2(a)(3)(E).

³ As defined in rule 17a-10(b)(2). 17 CFR 270.17a-10(b)(2).

⁴ 17 CFR 270.17a-10(a)(2).

⁵ 44 U.S.C. 3501.