

DATES: Comments on this proposal should be received within 30 calendar days from the date of this publication.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to—

James K. Freiert, Deputy Assistant Director, Retirement Services Program, Center for Retirement and Insurance Services, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW., Room 3305, Washington, DC 20415–3500 and John W. Barkhamer, OPM Desk Officer, Office of Information & Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

For Information Regarding Administrative Coordination Contact: Cyrus S. Benson, Team Leader, Publications Team, RIS Support Services/Support Group, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW—Room 4H28, Washington, DC 20415, (202) 606–0623.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Kathie Ann Whipple,

Acting Director.

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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 Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension:

Rule 17Ac2–2, SEC File No. 270–298, OMB Control No. 3235–0337.

Form TA–2, SEC File No. 270–298, OMB Control No. 3235–0337.

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 for extension and approval.

- Rule 17Ac2–2 and Form TA–2 (OMB Control No. 3235–0337; SEC File No. 270–298).

Rule 17Ac2–2 (17 CFR 240.17Ac2–2) and Form TA–2 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) require transfer agents to file an annual report of their business activities with the Commission. The amount of

time needed to comply with the requirements of Rule 17Ac2–2 and Form TA–2 varies. From the total 598 registered transfer agents, approximately 30 registrants would be required to complete only Questions 1 through 4 and the signature section of amended Form TA–2, which the Commission estimates would take each registrant about 30 minutes, for a total burden of 15 hours (30 × .5 hours). Approximately 111 registrants would be required to answer Questions 1 through 5, 10, and 11 and the signature section, which the Commission estimates would take about 1 hour and 30 minutes, for a total of 166.5 hours (111 × 1.5 hours). The remaining registrants, approximately 457, would be required to complete the entire Form TA–2, which the Commission estimates would take about 6 hours, for a total of 2,742 hours (457 × 6 hours). We estimate that the total burden would be 2,923.5 hours (15 hours + 166.5 hours + 2,742 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 cost would be \$121,325.25 annually (\$41.50 × 2,923.5).

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 shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be 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.

Comments should be directed to Charles Boucher, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22312 or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: February 26, 2009.

Jill M. Peterson,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9–4816 Filed 3–6–09; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 28640; 812–13543]

Forward Funds, et al.; Notice of Application

March 3, 2009.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”).

ACTION: Notice of application for an order under section 17(d) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (“Act”) and rule 17d–1 under the Act.

SUMMARY: Applicants request an order to permit certain registered open-end investment companies in the same group of investment companies to enter into a special servicing agreement (“Special Servicing Agreement”).

Applicants: Forward Funds, on behalf of its series, Accessor Aggressive Growth Allocation Fund, Accessor Balanced Allocation Fund, Accessor Growth Fund, Accessor Growth Allocation Fund, Accessor Growth And Income Allocation Fund, Accessor High Yield Bond Fund, Accessor Income Allocation Fund, Accessor Income And Growth Allocation Fund, Accessor Intermediate Fixed-Income Fund, Accessor International Equity Fund, Accessor Mortgage Securities Fund, Accessor Short-Intermediate Fixed-Income Fund, Accessor Small To Mid Cap Fund, Accessor Strategic Alternatives Fund, Accessor U.S. Government Money Fund and Accessor Value Fund, Forward Management LLC (“Forward Management”) and each existing or future registered open-end management investment company or series thereof that is part of the same “group of investment companies” as Forward Funds (the “Trust”) under Section 12(d)(1)(G)(ii) of the Act and is advised by Forward Management or any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with Forward Management. (such investment companies or series thereof, together with the Trust and its series, the “Funds”).¹

DATES: The application was filed on July 3, 2008, and amended on December 19, 2008. Applicants have agreed to file an amendment during the notice period, the substance of which is reflected in this notice.

Hearing or Notification of Hearing: An order granting the application will be

¹ All entities that currently intend to rely on the order have been named as applicants. Any other entity that relies on the order in the future will comply with the terms and conditions of the application.