

particular, the requirements of Section 6 of the Act.⁵ Specifically, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁶ in that it is designed to facilitate securities transactions and to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market.⁷

The Commission recognizes the extent to which the proposed rule change may facilitate the practice of market makers offering incentives such as payment for order flow to firms that agree to direct their order flow to the Exchange. Specifically, by providing market makers with firm-specific volume breakdowns, the reports will permit market makers to identify firms that have not historically provided significant order flow to the Exchange. Market makers may in turn seek to attract new orders from these firms by offering payment in exchange for the new order flow. Such arrangements, standing alone, are not inconsistent with the purposes of the Act as long as price competition remains vigorous and brokers vigilantly pursue their best execution obligation.

Accordingly, the Commission does not believe the proposal's potential to facilitate payment for order flow arrangements constitutes a barrier to approval. We will, however, monitor the manner in which the reports are used, to ensure that they are used in a manner consistent with the purposes of the Act.

IV. Conclusion

For the above reasons, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of the Act, and in particular with Section 6(b)(5).

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁸ that the proposed rule change (SR-PCX-99-38), as amended, is approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁷ In approving this rule change, the Commission has considered the proposal's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation, consistent with Section 3 of the Act. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region I—SBA Providence District Office, Rhode Island SBA Advisory Council; Notice of Public Meeting

The Rhode Island SBA Advisory Council located in Providence, Rhode Island, will hold a public meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, April 28, at the ToKalon Club, 26 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860, to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or others present.

For further information write or call Mark S. Hayward, Acting District Director, 380 Westminster Street, Room 511, Providence, Rhode Island 02903 or telephone at (401) 528-4561.

Bettie Baca,

Counselor to the Administrator/Public Liaison.

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region I—SBA Providence District Office Rhode Island SBA Advisory Council; Notice of Public Meeting

The Rhode Island SBA Advisory Council located in Providence, Rhode Island, will hold a public meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, May 19, 2000, at the ToKalon Club, 26 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860, to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or others present.

For further information write or call Mark S. Hayward, Acting District Director, 380 Westminster Street, Room 511, Providence, Rhode Island 02903 or telephone at (401) 528-4561.

Bettie Baca,

Counselor to the Administrator/Public Liaison.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Emergency Review, Proposed Request and Comment Request

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages that will require clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with P.L. 104-13 effective October 1, 1995,

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Written comments and recommendations regarding the information collection(s) should be submitted to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer and to the OMB Desk Officer at the following addresses:

(OMB) Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, New Executive Office Building, Room 10230, 725 17th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20503

(SSA) Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W. Brickenkamp, 1-A-21 Operations Bldg., 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235

I. The information collection listed below has been submitted to OMB for emergency clearance. OMB approval has been requested by April 7, 2000. Comments will be most useful if submitted to OMB and SSA by this date.

Medicare Part B Buy-in Screening Project—0960-0601. Public Law (Pub. L.) 105-277 authorized SSA to conduct a Medicare buy-in demonstration project to evaluate means to promote the Medicare buy-in programs targeted to elderly and disabled individuals under titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act. P.L. 106-113 extends the authority established for fiscal year (FY) 1999 and allows SSA to use money still available to continue exploring the Medicare buy-in program in FY 2000. A lack of awareness about the Medicare buy-in programs appears to be one of the major obstacles to enrollment. Other obstacles to enrollment include the confusion of potential eligibles as to how to apply for these programs and a preference for dealing with SSA field offices rather than with local Medicaid offices.

SSA will screen respondents voluntarily for potential Medicare Part B buy-in eligibility using a screening guide developed for this purpose. The screening guide will collect information from SSA beneficiaries regarding income, resources, marital status, and living arrangements and also ask questions about how they became aware of Medicare Part B buy-in programs. SSA will gather this information to identify and overcome obstacles to Medicare Part B buy-in enrollments and to determine potential eligibility for Medicare Part B benefits.