

mandatory in order to withdraw from registration with the Commission as a bank municipal securities dealer. The information contained in the notice will not be kept confidential.

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 will 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 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.

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

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

Dated: July 17, 2019.

Jill M. Peterson,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-15529 Filed 7-19-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-0088, OMB Control No. 3235-0083]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-2736.

Extension:

Rule 15Ba2-1 and Form MSD.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 ("PRA") (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the existing collection of information provided for in Rule 15Ba2-1 (17 CFR 240.15Ba2-1) and Form MSD (17 CFR 249.1100), under the Securities and

Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) ("Exchange Act"). The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") for extension and approval.

Rule 15Ba2-1 provides that an application for registration with the Commission by a bank municipal securities dealer must be filed on Form MSD. The Commission uses the information obtained from Form MSD filings to determine whether bank municipal securities dealers meet the standards for registration set forth in the Act, to maintain a central registry where members of the public may obtain information about particular bank municipal securities dealers, and to develop risk assessment information about bank municipal securities dealers.

Form MSD is a one-time registration form that must be amended only if it becomes inaccurate. Based upon past submissions of two initial filings and 11 amendments in 2016, zero initial filings and 22 amendments in 2017, zero initial filings and 18 amendments in 2018, and zero initial filings and zero amendments so far in 2019, the Commission estimates that on an annual basis approximately 1 respondent will utilize Form MSD for an initial registration application, and that approximately 13 respondents will utilize Form MSD for an amendment, for a total of 14 respondents per year. The time required to complete Form MSD varies with the size and complexity of the bank municipal securities dealer's proposed operations. Bank personnel that prepare Form MSD filings previously indicated that it can take up to 15 hours for a bank with a large operation and many employees to complete the form, but that smaller banks with fewer personnel can complete the form in one to two hours. We believe that most recent applications have come from smaller banks. Also, amendments to form MSD are likely to require significantly less time. We estimate that the total annual burden is currently 21 hours at an average of 1.5 hours per respondent. (14 respondents/year \times 1.5 hours/respondent = 21 hours/year). The staff estimates that the average internal compliance cost per hour is approximately \$417.¹ Therefore, the estimated total annual cost of compliance is approximately \$8,757 per

¹ The estimate of \$417 per hour is for a compliance attorney, based on the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association's Management & Professional Earnings in the Securities Industry 2013, modified by Commission staff to account for an 1800-hour work-year and inflation, and multiplied by 5.35 to account for bonuses, firm size, employee benefits and overhead.

year (21 hours/year \times \$417/hour = \$8,757/year).

Rule 15Ba2-1 does not contain an explicit recordkeeping requirement, but the rule does require the prompt correction of any information on Form MSD that becomes inaccurate, meaning that bank municipal securities dealers need to maintain a current copy of Form MSD indefinitely. In addition, the instructions for filing Form MSD state that an exact copy should be retained by the registrant. Providing the information on the application is mandatory in order to register with the Commission as a bank municipal securities dealer. The information contained in the application will not be kept confidential.

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 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.

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

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

Dated: July 17, 2019.

Jill M. Peterson,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-15530 Filed 7-19-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-176, OMB Control No. 3235-0311]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange

Commission, Office of FOIA Services,
100 F Street NE, Washington, DC
20549-2736.

Extension:

Rule 7d-1.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") is soliciting comments on the collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Section 7(d) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-7(d)) (the "Act" or "Investment Company Act") requires an investment company ("fund") organized outside the United States ("foreign fund") to obtain an order from the Commission allowing the fund to register under the Act before making a public offering of its securities through the United States mail or any means of interstate commerce. The Commission may issue an order only if it finds that it is both legally and practically feasible effectively to enforce the provisions of the Act against the foreign fund, and that the registration of the fund is consistent with the public interest and protection of investors.

Rule 7d-1 (17 CFR 270.7d-1) under the Act, which was adopted in 1954, specifies the conditions under which a Canadian management investment company ("Canadian fund") may request an order from the Commission permitting it to register under the Act. Although rule 7d-1 by its terms applies only to Canadian funds, other foreign funds generally have agreed to comply with the requirements of rule 7d-1 as a prerequisite to receiving an order permitting those foreign funds' registration under the Act.

The rule requires a Canadian fund that wishes to register to file an application with the Commission that contains various undertakings and agreements by the fund. The requirement of the Canadian fund to file an application is a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act. Certain of the undertakings and agreements, in turn, impose the following additional information collection requirements:

(1) The fund must file with the Commission agreements between the fund and its directors, officers, and service providers requiring them to comply with the fund's charter and bylaws, the Act, and certain other obligations relating to the undertakings and agreements in the application;

(2) the fund and each of its directors, officers, and investment advisers that is not a U.S. resident, must file with the Commission an irrevocable designation of the fund's custodian in the United States as agent for service of process;

(3) the fund's charter and bylaws must provide that (a) the fund will comply with certain provisions of the Act applicable to all funds, (b) the fund will maintain originals or copies of its books and records in the United States, and (c) the fund's contracts with its custodian, investment adviser, and principal underwriter, will contain certain terms, including a requirement that the adviser maintain originals or copies of pertinent records in the United States;

(4) the fund's contracts with service providers will require that the provider perform the contract in accordance with the Act, the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a), and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a), as applicable; and

(5) the fund must file, and periodically revise, a list of persons affiliated with the fund or its adviser or underwriter.

As noted above, under section 7(d) of the Act the Commission may issue an order permitting a foreign fund's registration only if the Commission finds that "by reason of special circumstances or arrangements, it is both legally and practically feasible effectively to enforce the provisions of the (Act)." The information collection requirements are necessary to assure that the substantive provisions of the Act may be enforced as a matter of contract right in the United States or Canada by the fund's shareholders or by the Commission.

Rule 7d-1 also contains certain information collection requirements that are associated with other provisions of the Act. These requirements are applicable to all registered funds and are outside the scope of this request.

The Commission believes that one foreign fund is registered under rule 7d-1 and currently active. Apart from requirements under the Act applicable to all registered funds, rule 7d-1 imposes ongoing burdens to maintain records in the United States, and to update, as necessary, certain fund agreements, designations of the fund's custodian as service agent, and the fund's list of affiliated persons. The Commission staff estimates that each year under the rule, the active registrant and its directors, officers, and service providers engage in the following collections of information and associated burden hours:

- For the fund and its investment adviser to maintain records in the United States:¹

0 hours: 0 minutes of compliance clerk time.

- For the fund to update its list of affiliated persons:

2 hours: 2 hours of support staff time.

- For new officers, directors, and service providers to enter into and file agreements requiring them to comply with the fund's charter and bylaws, the Act, and certain other obligations:

0.5 hours: 7.5 minutes of director time;
2.5 minutes of officer time; 20 minutes of support staff time.

- For new officers, directors, and investment advisers who are not residents of the United States to file irrevocable designation of the fund's custodian as agent for process of service:

0.25 hours: 5 minutes of director time;
10 minutes of support staff time.

Based on the estimates above, the Commission estimates that the total annual burden of the rule's paperwork requirements is 2.75 hours.² We estimate that directors perform 0.21 hours of these burden hours at a total cost of \$930.20,³ officers perform 0.04 of these burden hours at a total cost of \$22.08,⁴ and support staff perform 2.5 of these burden hours at a total cost of

¹ The rule requires an applicant and its investment adviser to maintain records in the United States (which, without the requirement, might be maintained in Canada or another foreign jurisdiction), which facilitates routine inspections and any special investigations of the fund by Commission staff. The registrant and its investment adviser, however, already maintain the registrant's records in the United States and in no other jurisdiction. Therefore, maintenance of the registrant's records in the United States does not impose an additional burden beyond that imposed by other provisions of the Act. Those provisions are applicable to all registered funds and the compliance burden of those provisions is outside the scope of this request.

² This estimate is based on the following calculation: $(0 + 2 + 0.5 + 0.25) = 2.75$ hours.

³ The director estimates are based on the following calculations: $(7.5 \text{ minutes} + 5 \text{ minutes}) / 60 \text{ minutes per hour} = 0.2083 \text{ hours}$; and $0.2083 \text{ hours} \times \$4,465 \text{ per hour} = \930.20 . The per hour cost estimate is based on estimated hourly compensation for each board member of \$558.125 and an average board size of 8 members. The \$4,465 per hour estimate for a fund board of directors includes a CPI inflation adjustment from the 2009 estimate.

⁴ The officer estimates are based on the following calculations: $2.5 \text{ minutes} / 60 \text{ minutes per hour} = 0.0416 \text{ hours}$; $0.0416 \text{ hours} \times \$530 \text{ per hour} = \$22.08$. The per hour cost estimate, as well as other internal time cost estimates for management and professional earnings, is based on the figure for chief compliance officers found in SIFMA's *Management & Professional Earnings in the Securities Industry 2013*, modified by Commission staff to account for an 1,800-hour work-year and multiplied by 5.35 to account for bonuses, firm size, employee benefits and overhead.

\$175.⁵ Thus, the Commission estimates the aggregate annual cost of these burden hours associated with rule 7d-1 is \$1,127.28.⁶

If a fund were to file an application under rule 7d-1 to register under the Act, the Commission estimates that the rule would impose initial information collection burdens (for filing an application, preparing the specified charter, bylaw, and contract provisions, designations of agents for service of process, and an initial list of affiliated persons, and establishing a means of keeping records in the United States) of approximately 90 hours for the fund and its associated persons. The Commission is not including these hours in its calculation of the annual burden because no fund has applied to register under the Act pursuant to rule 7d-1 in the last three years.

As noted above, after registration, a Canadian fund may file a supplemental application seeking special relief designed for the fund's particular circumstances. Rule 7d-1 does not mandate these applications. For purposes of this PRA we are assuming one registrant has filed a substantive supplemental application within the past three years. The Commission staff estimates that the rule would impose an additional information collection burden of 5 hours on a fund to comply with the Commission's application process at a cost of \$6,136.50.⁷ The staff understands that funds also obtain assistance from outside counsel to comply with the Commission's application process and the cost burden of using outside counsel is discussed in Item 13 below.

Therefore, the Commission staff estimates the aggregate annual burden hours of the collection of information associated with rule 7d-1 is 13.25

hours, at a cost of \$9,518.34.⁸ Amortized over three years we estimate an annual cost burden of \$3,172.78 based on an hourly annual burden of 4.42 hours.⁹ These estimates of average burden hours are made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The estimate is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of Commission rules.

If a Canadian or other foreign fund in the future applied to register under the Act under rule 7d-1, the fund initially might have capital and start-up costs (not including hourly burdens) of an estimated \$20,000 to comply with the rule's initial information collection requirements. These costs include legal and processing-related fees for preparing the required documentation (such as the application, charter, bylaw, and contract provisions, designations for service of process, and the list of affiliated persons). Other related costs would include fees for establishing arrangements with a custodian or other agent for maintaining records in the United States, copying and transportation costs for records, and the costs of purchasing or leasing computer equipment, software, or other record storage equipment for records maintained in electronic or photographic form.

The Commission expects that a fund and its sponsors would incur these costs immediately, and that the annualized cost of the expenditures would be \$20,000 in the first year. Some expenditures might involve capital improvements, such as computer equipment, having expected useful lives for which annualized figures beyond the first year would be meaningful.

These annualized figures are not provided, however, because, in most cases, the expenses would be incurred immediately rather than on an annual basis. The Commission is not including these costs in its calculation of the annualized capital/start-up costs because no fund has applied under rule 7d-1 to register under the Act pursuant to rule 7d-1 in the last three years.

As indicated above, a Canadian or fund may file a supplemental

application seeking special relief designed for the fund's particular circumstances. Rule 7d-1 does not mandate these applications. The active registrant filed a substantive supplemental application in the past three years. As noted above, the staff understands that funds generally use outside counsel to prepare the application. The staff estimates that outside counsel spends 10 hours preparing a supplemental application, including 8 hours by an associate and 2 hours by a partner. Outside counsel billing arrangements and rates vary based on numerous factors, but the staff has estimated the average cost of outside counsel as \$400 per hour, based on information received from funds, intermediaries and their counsel. The Commission staff therefore estimates that the fund would obtain assistance from outside counsel at a cost of \$4,000.¹⁰

We request written comment on: (a) Whether the collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimate of the burdens 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.

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 OMB control number.

Please direct your written comments to Charles Riddle, Acting Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Candace Kenner, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549; or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: July 17, 2019.

Jill M. Peterson,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-15532 Filed 7-19-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

⁵ The support staff estimates are based on the following calculations: 2 hours + 20 minutes + 10 minutes = 2.5 hours; and 2.5 hours × \$70 per hour = \$175. The per hour cost estimate, as well as other internal time cost estimates for office salaries, is based on the figure for compliance clerks found in SIFMA's *Office Salaries in the Securities Industry 2013*, modified by Commission staff to account for an 1800-hour work-year and multiplied by 2.93 to account for bonuses, firm size, employee benefits and overhead.

⁶ This estimate is based on the following calculation: \$1,127.28 = \$930.20 + \$22.08 + \$175.

⁷ The staff estimates that, on average, the fund's investment adviser spends approximately 4 hours to review an application, including 3.5 hours by an assistant general counsel at a cost of \$466 per hour, 0.5 hours by an administrative assistant, at a cost of \$81 per hour, and the fund's board of directors spends an additional 1 hour at a cost of \$4,465 per hour for a total of 5 hours, at a total cost of \$6,136.50. This estimate is based on the following calculation: (3.5 hours × \$466 per hour) + (0.5 hours × \$81 per hour) + (1 hour × \$4,465 per hour) = \$6,136.50.

⁸ These estimates are based on the following calculations: 2.75 hours year 1 + 5 hours year 1 + 2.75 hours year 2 + 2.75 hours year 3 = 13.25 hours; \$1,127.28 year 1 + \$6,136.50 year 1 + \$1,127.28 year 2 + \$1,127.28 year 3 = \$9,518.34. As discussed above, the ongoing compliance burdens for an active fund require updates each year, whereas we estimate to receive one supplemental application each three year period.

⁹ The estimates are based on the following calculations: 4.42 hours = 13.25 cumulative burden hours/3 years. Likewise, the amortized cost burden is based on the following calculations: \$9,518.34 cumulative 3-year cost burden/3 years = \$3,172.78 average annual cost burden.

¹⁰ This estimate is based on the following calculation: 10 hours × \$400 per hour = \$4,000.