

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270–034, OMB Control No. 3235–0034]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 17f–2(a)

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

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 (“Commission”) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) a request for approval of extension of the previously approved collection of information provided for in Rule 17f–2(a) (17 CFR 240.17f–2(a)), under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*).

Rule 17f–2(a) (Fingerprinting Requirements for Securities Professionals) requires that securities professionals be fingerprinted. This requirement serves to identify security-risk personnel, to allow an employer to make fully informed employment decisions, and to deter possible wrongdoers from seeking employment in the securities industry. Partners, directors, officers, and employees of exchanges, brokers, dealers, transfer agents, and clearing agencies are included.

The Commission staff estimates that approximately 4,480 respondents will submit an aggregate total of 289,780 new fingerprint cards each year or approximately 65 fingerprint cards per year per registrant. The staff estimates that the average number of hours necessary to complete a fingerprint card is one-half hour. Thus, the total estimated annual burden is 144,890 hours for all respondents (289,780 times one-half hour). The average internal cost of compliance per hour is approximately \$310. Therefore, the total estimated annual internal cost of compliance for all respondents is \$44,915,900 (144,890 times \$310).

This rule does not involve the collection of confidential information.

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.

The public may view background documentation for this information collection at the following website: www.reginfo.gov. Find this particular

information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice by December 9, 2024 to (i) www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain or MBX.OMB.OIRA.SEC_desk_officer@omb.eop.gov, and (ii) Austin Gerig, Director/Chief Data Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Tanya Ruttenberg, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, or by sending an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: November 4, 2024.

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024–25920 Filed 11–7–24; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270–199, OMB Control No. 3235–0199]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request Extension: Rule 17a–5(c)

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

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”) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) a request for approval of extension of the previously approved collection of information provided for in Rule 17a–5(c), (17 CFR 240.17a–5(c)), under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*).

Rule 17a–5(c) generally requires broker-dealers who carry customer accounts to provide statements of the broker-dealer’s financial condition to their customers. Paragraph (c)(5) of Rule 17a–5 provides a conditional exemption from this requirement. A broker-dealer that elects to take advantage of the exemption must publish its statements on its website in a prescribed manner, and must maintain a toll-free number that customers can call to request a copy of the statements.

The purpose of the Rule is to ensure that customers of broker-dealers are provided with information concerning the financial condition of the firm that may be holding the customers’ cash and securities. The Commission, when

adopting the Rule in 1972, stated that the goal was to “directly” send a customer essential information so that the customer could “judge whether his broker or dealer is financially sound.” The Commission adopted the Rule in response to the failure of several broker-dealers holding customer funds and securities in the period between 1968 and 1971.

The Commission estimates that approximately 153 broker-dealer respondents carrying approximately 272 million public customer accounts incur a burden of approximately 327,444 hours per year to comply with the Rule.

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The public may view background documentation for this information collection at the following website: www.reginfo.gov. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice by December 9, 2024 to (i) www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain or MBX.OMB.OIRA.SEC_desk_officer@omb.eop.gov, and (ii) Austin Gerig, Director/Chief Data Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Tanya Ruttenberg, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, or by sending an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: November 4, 2024.

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024–25921 Filed 11–7–24; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270–489, OMB Control No. 3235–0541]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 606 of Regulation NMS

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

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 (“Commission”) is soliciting comments on the existing collection of information

provided for in Rule 606 of Regulation NMS ("Rule 606") (17 CFR 242.606), under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*). The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") for extension and approval.

Rule 606 (formerly known as Rule 11Ac1-6) requires require disclosure by broker-dealers of, (1) pursuant to Rule 606(a)(1), a quarterly aggregated public report on the handling of orders in NMS stocks that are submitted on a held basis and orders in NMS securities that are option contracts with a market value less than \$50,000; (2) pursuant to Rule 606(b)(1), a report, upon request of a customer, on the routing of that customer's orders in NMS stocks that are submitted on a held basis; orders in NMS stocks that are submitted on a not held basis and do not qualify for two de minimis exceptions; and orders in NMS securities that are option contracts, containing certain information on the broker-dealer's routing of such orders for that customer for the prior six months; and (3) pursuant to Rule 606(b)(3), a report, upon request of a customer that places with the broker-dealer, directly or indirectly, NMS stock orders of any size that are submitted on a not held basis (subject to two de minimis exceptions), containing certain information on the broker-dealer's handling of such orders for that customer for the prior six months.

The Commission estimates that out of the currently 3,399 broker-dealers that are subject to the collection of information obligations of Rule 606(a)(1), clearing brokers bear a substantial portion of the burden of complying with the reporting and recordkeeping requirements of Rule 606 on behalf of small to mid-sized introducing firms. There currently are approximately 179 clearing brokers. In addition, there are approximately 61 introducing brokers that receive funds or securities from their customers. Because at least some of these firms also may have greater involvement in determining where customer orders are routed for execution, they have been included, along with clearing brokers, in estimating the total burden of Rule 606(a)(1).

As described in more detail, below, the total annual time burden associated with rule 606 is approximately 183,000 hours per year and the total annual cost burden is approximately \$1,300,000 per year.

The Commission staff estimates that each firm significantly involved in order routing practices incurs an average burden of 40 hours to prepare and

disseminate the quarterly report required by Rule 606(a)(1), or a burden of 160 hours per year. With an estimated 240 broker-dealers significantly involved in order routing practices, the total industry-wide burden per year to comply with the quarterly reporting requirement in Rule 606 is estimated to be 38,400 hours (160 × 240).

Additionally, for each of the 240 broker-dealers subject to disclosure requirements of Rule 606(a)(1), the Commission estimates the annual burden under Rule 606(a)(1)(iv) to monitor payment for order flow and profit-sharing relationships and potential self-regulatory organization rule changes that could impact their order routing decisions and incorporate any new information into their reports to be 10 hours and the annual burden for each broker-dealers to describe and update any terms of payment for order flow arrangements and profit-sharing relationships with a Specified Venue that may influence their order routing decisions to be 15 hours, for a total annual burden of 6,000 hours (25 × 240). Therefore, the estimated total annual burden to comply with Rule 606(a)(1) is 44,400 hours.

Clearing brokers generally bear the burden of responding to individual customer requests under Rule 606(b)(1) for order handling information. The Commission staff estimates that an average clearing broker incurs an annual burden of 400 hours (2000 responses × 0.2 hours/response) to prepare, disseminate, and retain responses to customers required by Rule 606. With an estimated 179 clearing brokers subject to Rule 606(b)(1), the total industry-wide burden per year to comply with the customer response requirement in Rule 606 is estimated to be 71,600 hours (179 × 400).

The Commission estimates that approximately 200 broker-dealers are involved in routing orders subject to the disclosure requirements of Rule 606(b)(3). The Commission believes that some such broker-dealers will respond to requests for customer-specific reports in house, while others will engage a third-party service provider to do so. The Commission estimates that approximately 135 broker-dealers will respond in-house to individual customer requests for information on order handling under Rule 606(b)(3), and that for each, the individual annual burden will be 400 hours (200 responses × 2 hours/response), with a total annual burden of 54,000 hours (400 × 135).

The Commission estimates that approximately 65 broker-dealers will engage a third party to respond to individual customer requests, and that

for each, the individual annual burden will be 200 hours (200 responses × 1 hour/response), with a total annual burden of 13,000 hours (200 × 65). The total annual cost burden associated with engaging such third parties is approximately \$1,300,000 (65 × 200 annual requests × \$100 per request to engage a third-party service provider). Therefore, the estimated total annual burden to comply with Rule 606(b)(3) is 67,000 hours and \$1,300,000.

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 estimates of the burden of the proposed 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 January 7, 2025.

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: Austin Gerig, Director/Chief Data Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Tanya Ruttenberg, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: November 4, 2024.

Vanessa A. Countryman,
Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-098, OMB Control No. 3235-0081]

**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request; Extension: Rule
12d2-1**

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

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