

According to NYSE, the Exchange received numerous requests from members and member organizations to extend the implementation date of these provisions due to the scope and difficulty required to implement the technology, systems and other changes needed to achieve compliance with the non-investment banking compensation and client disclosure provisions. Members and member organizations noted that the rule requirements necessitate that they build and test new systems and technology feeds to aggregate data across a wide range of business lines within the members. Moreover, in many instances, members and member organizations must extend that technological infrastructure to global affiliates. In addition, members and member organizations noted that the timing of the implementation date overlaps with year-end technology "freezes" that many firms impose to ensure that systems changes do not impact the accuracy of year-end information gathering related to financial reporting and taxes.

The Exchange believes that these members and member organizations have provided sufficient justification for an across-the-board extension of the effective date for the applicable provisions. Moreover, the NYSE believes the problems cited by the requesting members and member organizations are endemic to the industry and that there should be a uniform effective date for all members. Therefore, the Exchange is establishing April 26, 2004¹⁰ as the effective date for the new Disclosure Provisions. Existing provisions under Rule 472(k)(1), (2) and (3) remain in effect and are not subject to the new effective date.

Research Analyst Qualification Examination

As noted above, in the July Approval Order, the SEC approved a new Research Analyst Qualification Examination requirement for Research Analysts primarily responsible for the preparation of the substance of research reports and/or whose names appear on such reports (Rule 344.10). Accordingly, such analysts must pass a qualification examination that was scheduled for implementation on January 26, 2004.

The Exchange is establishing "not later than March 30, 2004" as the effective date for the examination. The effective date for the new Research Analyst Qualification examination pursuant to Rule 344 would also not

occur sooner than 30 days after the study outline, which NYSE believes it will file with the Commission, becomes effective. The NYSE believes that the extension is necessary to permit the Exchange to make the requisite filings regarding the study outline for the examination, certain pre-requisites to and exemptions from the examination, and fees associated with its administration.

4. NYSE's Statutory Basis

The statutory basis for the proposed rule change is section 6(b)(5) of the Exchange Act¹¹ which requires, among other things, that the rules of the Exchange are 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 interests.

B. Self-Regulatory Organizations' Statements on Burden on Competition

NASD and NYSE do not believe that the proposed rule changes will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Exchange Act, as amended.

C. Self-Regulatory Organizations' Statements on Comments on the Proposed Rule Changes Received From Members, Participants or Others

The NASD and NYSE have neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule changes.

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

The proposed rule changes have been filed by NASD and NYSE as stated policies, practices, or interpretations with respect to the meaning, administration, or enforcement of an existing rule series under Rule 19b-4(f)(1) under the Act.¹² Consequently, they have become effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A)¹³ of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(1) thereunder.¹⁴

At any time within 60 days of this filing, the Commission may summarily abrogate these proposals 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 Exchange Act.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule changes are consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Comments may also be submitted electronically at the following e-mail address: *rule-comments@sec.gov*. All comment letters should refer to File Nos. SR-NASD-2004-03, SR-NASD-2004-10, and SR-NYSE-2004-01. These file numbers should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, comments should be sent in hard copy or by e-mail but not by both methods.

Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule changes that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule changes 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 inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filings will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices of the NASD and NYSE. All submissions should refer to the file numbers SR-NASD-2004-03, SR-NASD-2004-10, and SR-NYSE-2004-01 and should be submitted by February 19, 2004.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁵

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-1918 Filed 1-28-04; 8:45 am]

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: 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 Pub. L. 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, effective October

¹⁰ Since 90 days would provide for effectiveness on April 25, 2004 (a Sunday), the actual effective date would be Monday, April 26.

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

1, 1995. The information collection packages that may be included in this notice are for new information collections, approval of existing information collections, revisions to OMB-approved information collections, and extensions (no change) of OMB-approved information collections.

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 OMB Desk Officer and the SSA Reports Clearance Officer. The information can be mailed and/or faxed to the individuals at the addresses and fax numbers listed below:

(OMB), Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, New Executive Building, Room 10235, 725 17th St., NW., Washington, DC 20503, Fax: 202-395-6974;

(SSA), Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Reports Clearance Officer, 1338 Annex Building, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235, Fax: 410-965-6400.

I. The information collections listed below are pending at SSA and will be submitted to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. Therefore, your comments should be submitted to SSA within 60 days from the date of this publication. You can obtain copies of the collection instruments by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at 410-965-0454 or by writing to the address listed above.

1. Certification of Contents of Document(s) or Record(s)—20 CFR 404.715 Subpart H—0960-NEW. SSA must secure evidence necessary for individuals to establish rights to benefits. Some of the types of evidence needed are evidence of age, relationship, citizenship, marriage, death, and military service. Form SSA-704 allows SSA employees, state record custodians, and other custodians of evidentiary documents to record information from documents and records to establish these types of evidence. SSA employees use this form but it also is used by state record custodians and other custodians of evidentiary documents.

Type of Request: Form in use without OMB clearance.

Number of Respondents: 4,200.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Estimated Annual Burden: 700.

2. Modified Benefit Formula

Questionnaire-Foreign Pension—0960-0561. The information collected on form SSA-308 is used by SSA to determine exactly how much (if any) of the foreign pension may be used to reduce the amount of the Social Security retirement or disability benefit under the modified benefit formula. The respondents are applicants for Social Security retirement/disability benefits.

Type of Request: Extension of OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Responses: 50,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 8,333 hours.

3. Beneficiary Interview and Auditor's Observations Form—0960-0630. The information collected through the Beneficiary Interview and Auditor's Observation Form, SSA-322, will be used by the SSA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to interview beneficiaries and/or their representative payees to determine whether the payees are complying with their duties and responsibilities. Respondents to this collection will be randomly selected Supplemental Security Income recipients and Social Security beneficiaries that have representative payees.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved collection.

Number of Respondents: 2,550.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 638.

4. Questionnaire for Children Claiming SSI Benefits—0960-0499. The information collected on form SSA-3881-BK is used by SSA to evaluate disability in children who are appealing an unfavorable disability decision or whose continuing disability is being reviewed. The form requests the names and addresses of non-medical sources such as schools, counselors, agencies, organizations or therapists who would have information about a child's functioning. The respondents are children or their representatives who are appealing an unfavorable decision on their claim or whose continuing disability is being reviewed.

Type of Request: Extension of OMB-approved collection.

Number of Respondents: 272,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 30 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 136,000 hours.

II. The information collection listed below has been submitted to OMB for clearance. Your comments on the information collections would be most useful if received by OMB and SSA within 30 days from the date of this publication. You can obtain a copy of the OMB clearance package by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at 410-965-0454, or by writing to the addresses listed above.

1. Child Relationship Statement—20 CFR 404.355 and 404.731—0960-0116. SSA uses the information collected on Form SSA-2519 to help determine the entitlement of children to Social Security benefits under section 216(h)(3) of the Social Security Act (Deemed Child Provision). The respondents are persons providing information about the relationship between the worker and his/her alleged biological child, in connection with the child's application for benefits.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved collection.

Number of Respondents: 50,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 12,500 hours.

2. State Mental Institution Policy Review—20 CFR, Subpart U, 404.2001-2065, Subpart F, 416.601-416.665-0960-0110. The Social Security Act provides that the Commissioner of Social Security shall establish a system of accountability monitoring for institutions in each State that serve as a representative payee for recipients of Social Security and SSI benefits. As part of this accountability process, SSA collects information on Form SSA-9584 to determine whether the institution policies and practices conform to SSA's regulations on the use of benefits and whether the institution is performing other duties and responsibilities required of a representative payee. The information also provides a basis for conducting an onsite review of the institution and is used in the preparation of the subsequent report of findings. The respondents are state mental institutions that serve as representative payees.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Number of Respondents: 125.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 60 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 125 hours.

Dated: January 22, 2004.

Elizabeth A. Davidson,

Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-1929 Filed 1-28-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4594]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Vienna: Jews and the City of Music 1870-1938"

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999, as amended, and Delegation of Authority No. 257 of April 15, 2003 [68 FR 19875], I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibition "Vienna: Jews and the City of Music 1870-1938," imported from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, are of cultural significance. The objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with the foreign owners. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the Yeshiva University Museum, New York, NY, from on or about February 3, 2004 until on or about June 30, 2004, and at possible additional venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of the exhibit objects, contact the Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State, (telephone: 202/619-6982). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: January 21, 2004.

C. Miller Crouch,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 04-1930 Filed 1-28-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4595]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Study of the United States Institutes for Undergraduate Student Leaders

ACTION: Request for Grant Proposals (RFGP).

SUMMARY: The Study of the U.S. Branch, Office of Academic Exchange Programs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, announces an open competition for public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) to develop and implement one (1) of two "Middle East Partnership Initiative Study of the United States Institutes for Undergraduate Student Leaders," designed for exemplary first and second year undergraduate students from the Middle East and North Africa. Funding for these institutes is being provided by the Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). Pending availability of funding and subject to the quality of proposals received, it is the Bureau's intention to award up to two grants for this project for undergraduate student leaders. An organization may only submit one proposal for one assistance award. Please note that the Bureau is also currently publishing a separate RFGP soliciting proposals for one "Middle East Partnership Initiative Study of the United States Institute for Graduating High School Seniors." *Important Note:* This Request for Grant Proposals contains language in the "Shipment and Deadline for Proposals" section that is significantly different from that used in the past. Please pay special attention to procedural changes as outlined.

The "Middle East Partnership Initiative Study of the United States Institutes for Undergraduate Student Leaders" are intended to provide groups of 21 highly motivated first and second year undergraduate students from the Middle East and North Africa with a five-week academic seminar and domestic travel component that will give them a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, values and institutions, past and present. The grant award will also partially support a follow-on workshop to be held at a site in the Middle East or North Africa. Program participants will be identified and nominated by U.S. embassies and consulates and drawn from the following countries/entities: Algeria; Bahrain; Egypt; Iraq; Israel; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Morocco; Oman;

Qatar; Saudi Arabia; United Arab Emirates; Syria; Tunisia; West Bank/Gaza; Yemen. [Note: Israeli participants will be Arab-Israelis only.]

Each program will be five weeks in length and will be conducted during the summer of 2004. The follow-on workshop will be conducted approximately six to twelve months after the U.S.-based program. Grant awards will be for up to two years.

The Bureau is seeking detailed proposals from U.S. colleges, universities, consortia of colleges and universities, and other not-for-profit academic organizations that have an established reputation in one or more of the following fields: political science, international relations, law, history, sociology, American studies, and/or other disciplines or sub-disciplines related to the program theme.

The project director or one of the key program staff responsible for the academic program must have an advanced degree in one of the fields listed above. Staff escorts traveling under the cooperative agreement must have demonstrated qualifications for this service. U.S. student mentors, if proposed, must be mature and must have some international experience or knowledge of the region. Programs must conform with Bureau requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. Bureau programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Applicant institutions must demonstrate expertise in conducting academic programs for foreign students, and must have a minimum of four years experience in conducting international exchange programs. Bureau guidelines stipulate that grants to organizations with less than four years experience in conducting international exchanges are limited to \$60,000. As it is expected that the budget for these programs will exceed \$60,000, organizations that can not demonstrate at least four years experience will not be eligible to apply under this competition.

Program Information

Overview and Objectives

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' (ECA) "Study of the United States Institutes" are academic seminars designed to provide multinational groups of foreign participants with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and institutions. Their ultimate objective is to promote a better appreciation of U.S. culture, values and the American people. The Middle East Partnership Initiative Study of the United States Institutes are specifically designed to