

“materially supported” by an executive officer or director.³⁰ The Commission requests comment on whether the proposed spinning restrictions should also apply to “immediate family members” who do not live in the same household and do not receive more than 25% of their “income” from the officer or director, as is the case with the Voluntary Initiative and the IPO Report.³¹ Should the proposed spinning restrictions also prohibit investment banking personnel from participating in the member firm’s allocation of IPO shares to specific individual customers, as in the Voluntary Initiative?

In addition, the Commission specifically solicits comment on whether the proposals concerning “returned shares” in NYSE Rule 470(D)(3) and NASD Rule 2712(e)(3) should clarify any possible implications under Regulation M, particularly with respect to continuation of the distribution.³²

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 also may be submitted electronically at the following e-mail address: rule-comments@sec.gov. All comment letters should refer to File Nos. SR-NYSE-2004-12 and SR-NASD-2003-140. These file numbers should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help us process and review comments more efficiently, comments should be sent in hardcopy 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

³⁰The SROs proposed to define “material support” to mean “directly or indirectly providing more than 25% of a person’s income in the prior calendar year. Persons living in the same household are deemed to be providing each other with material support.” See NYSE Rule 470(F)(3) and NASD Rule 2712(d)(3).

³¹“Material support” is defined to include persons living in the same household or who receive more than 25% of their “income” from the officer or director. However, it may exclude close relations—such as a son or daughter—who do not live in the same household and do not receive more than 25% of their “income” from the officer or director.

³²See Rule 100 of Regulation M for definition of “completion of participation in a distribution.” 17 CFR 242.100. In order to comply with Regulation M, an underwriter or other distribution participant generally cannot commence trading in IPO securities in the secondary market unless they have completed their participation in the offering.

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 NYSE and NASD. All submissions should refer to File Nos. SR-NYSE-2004-12 and SR-NASD-2003-140 and should be submitted by January 18, 2005.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.³³

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Interest Rates

The Small Business Administration publishes an interest rate called the optional “peg” rate (13 CFR 120.214) on a quarterly basis. This rate is a weighted average cost of money to the government for maturities similar to the average SBA direct loan. This rate may be used as a base rate for guaranteed fluctuating interest rate SBA loans. This rate will be 4.5 (4½) percent for the January-March quarter of FY 2005.

James E. Rivera,

Associate Administrator for Financial Assistance.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Privacy Act of 1974, as Amended; New System of Records and New Routine Use Disclosures

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Proposed new system of records and proposed routine uses.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(4) and (e)(11)), we are issuing public notice of our intent to establish a new system of records entitled *Medicare Part D and Part D Subsidy File, 60-0321*, and routine uses applicable to the system of records. We also are issuing notice that we may disclose personally identifiable information from the *Medicare Part D and Part D Subsidy File* to consumer reporting agencies in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(12) and 31 U.S.C.

3711(e). We invite public comment on this proposal.

DATES: We filed a report of the proposed *Medicare Part D and Part D Subsidy File* and the applicable routine uses with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, the Chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform, and the Director, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on December 16, 2004. The proposed *Medicare Part D and Part D Subsidy File* system of records and the proposed routine uses will become effective on January 25, 2005, unless we receive comments warranting that they not be effective.

ADDRESSES: Interested individuals may comment on this publication by writing to the Executive Director, Office of Public Disclosure, Office of the General Counsel, Social Security Administration, Room 3-A-6 Operations Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235-6401. All comments received will be available for public inspection at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Christine W. Johnson, Strategic Issues Team, Office of Public Disclosure, Office of the General Counsel, Social Security Administration, Room 3-C-1 Operations Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235-6401, e-mail address at chris.w.johnson@ssa.gov, or by telephone at (410) 965-8563.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background and Purpose of the Proposed New Medicare Part D and Part D Subsidy File System of Records

A. General Background

On December 8, 2003, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003, was signed into law (Public Law 108-173). The MMA creates a voluntary prescription drug benefit program under new Part D of Medicare for all individuals eligible for Medicare Part A or Part B under which a monthly premium is required to assist in the purchase of prescription drugs. The new coverage, which is effective January 1, 2006, will assist Medicare-eligible seniors, people with disabilities and persons with end-stage renal disease with their prescription drug costs. In 2006, almost all of the 43 million Medicare beneficiaries will have a chance to enroll in the subsidized drug cost program.

The MMA also created a premium subsidy program for Medicare

³³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).