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Dated: December 20, 2006.

**R. Michelle Schroll,**

*Office of the Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 06-9868 Filed 12-21-06; 10:58 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. IC-27603; File No. 812-13320]

### Jackson National Life Insurance Company, et al.

December 19, 2006.

**AGENCY:** The Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").

**ACTION:** Notice of application for an amended order under Section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") granting exemptions from the provisions of Sections 2(a)(32), 22(c) and 27(i)(2)(A) of the Act and Rule 22c-1 thereunder to permit the recapture of contract enhancements applied to purchase payments made under certain deferred variable annuity contracts.

**APPLICANTS:** Jackson National Life Insurance Company ("Jackson National"), Jackson National Separate Account—I (the "JNL Separate Account"), and Jackson National Life Distributors LLC ("Distributor," and collectively, "Applicants").

**SUMMARY OF APPLICATION:** Applicants seek an order under Section 6(c) of the Act to amend an existing order, and exempting them from the provisions of Sections 2(a)(32), 22(c), and 27(i)(2)(A) of the Act and Rule 22c-1 thereunder, to the extent necessary to permit the recapture, under specified circumstances, of certain contract enhancements applied to purchase payments made under the deferred variable annuity contracts described herein that Jackson National will issue through the JNL Separate Account (the

"Contracts") as well as other contracts that Jackson National may issue in the future through its existing or future separate accounts ("Other Accounts") that are substantially similar in all material respects to the Contracts ("Future Contracts"). Applicants also request that the order being sought extend to any other National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") member broker-dealer controlling or controlled by, or under common control with, Jackson National, whether existing or created in the future, that serves as distributor or principal underwriter for the Contracts or Future Contracts ("Affiliated Broker-Dealers") and any successors in interest to the Applicants.

**FILING DATE:** The application was filed on June 23, 2006, and amended on December 18, 2006.

**HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING:** An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Secretary of the Commission and serving Applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on January 12, 2007, and should be accompanied by proof of service on Applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons may request notification of a hearing by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

**ADDRESSES:** Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090. Applicants: c/o Jackson National Life Insurance Company, 1 Corporate Way, Lansing, Michigan 48951, Attn: Anthony L. Dowling, Esq.; copies to Joan E. Boros, Esq., Jordan Burt LLP, 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW., Suite 400 East, Washington, DC 20007-0805.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ellen J. Sazzman, Senior Counsel, at (202) 551-6762, or Harry Eisenstein, Branch Chief, at (202) 551-6795, Office of Insurance Products, Division of Investment Management.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following is a summary of the Application. The complete Application is available for a fee from the SEC's Public Reference Branch, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549 ((202) 551-8090).

### Applicants' Representations

1. Jackson National is a stock life insurance company organized under the laws of the state of Michigan in June 1961. Its legal domicile and principal business address is 1 Corporate Way, Lansing, Michigan 48951. Jackson National is admitted to conduct life insurance and annuity business in the District of Columbia and all states except New York. Jackson National is ultimately a wholly owned subsidiary of Prudential plc (London, England).

2. The JNL Separate Account was established by Jackson National on June 14, 1993, pursuant to the provisions of Michigan law and the authority granted under a resolution of Jackson National's Board of Directors. Jackson National is the depositor of the JNL Separate Account. The JNL Separate Account meets the definition of a "separate account" under the federal securities laws and is registered with the Commission as a unit investment trust under the Act (File No. 811-8664). The JNL Separate Account will fund the variable benefits available under the Contracts. The offering of the Contracts will be registered under the Securities Act of 1933 (the "1933 Act").

3. The Distributor is a wholly owned subsidiary of Jackson National and serves as the distributor of the Contracts. The Distributor is registered with the Commission as a broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "1934 Act") and is a member of the NASD. The Distributor enters into selling group agreements with affiliated and unaffiliated broker-dealers. The Contracts are sold by licensed insurance agents, where the Contracts may be lawfully sold, who are registered representatives of broker-dealers that are registered under the 1934 Act and are members of the NASD.

4. The Contracts require a minimum initial premium payment of \$5,000 or \$10,000 under most circumstances depending on the contract (\$2,000 for a qualified plan contract). Subsequent payments may be made at any time during the accumulation phase. Each subsequent payment must be at least \$500 (\$50 under an automatic payment plan). Prior approval of Jackson National is required for aggregate premium payments of over \$1,000,000.

5. The Contracts permit owners to accumulate contract values on a fixed basis through allocations to one of six fixed accounts (the "Fixed Accounts"), including four "Guaranteed Fixed Accounts" which offer guaranteed crediting rates for specified periods of time (currently, 1, 3, 5, or 7 years), and two "DCA+ Fixed Accounts" (used in

connection with dollar cost averaging transfers, each of which from time to time offers special crediting rates).

6. The Contracts also permit owners to accumulate contract values on a variable basis, through allocations to one or more of the investment divisions of the JNL Separate Accounts (the "Investment Divisions," collectively with the Fixed Accounts, the "Allocation Options"). The 67 Investment Divisions listed in Exhibit E to the Application for an Amended Order currently are expected to be offered under most of the Contracts, but additional Investment Divisions may be offered in the future and some of those listed could be eliminated or combined with other Investment Divisions in the future. Similarly, Future Contracts may offer additional or different Investment Divisions.

7. Transfers among the Investment Divisions are permitted. The first 15 transfers in a contract year are free; subsequent transfers cost \$25. Certain transfers to, from and among the Fixed Accounts are also permitted during the Contracts' accumulation phase, but are subject to certain adjustments and limitations. Dollar cost averaging and rebalancing transfers are offered at no charge and do not count against the 15 free transfers permitted each year.

8. If the owner dies during the accumulation phase of the Contracts, the beneficiary named by the owner is paid a death benefit by Jackson National. The Contracts' base death benefit, which applies unless an optional death benefit has been elected, is a payment to the beneficiary of the greater of: (i) Contract value on the date Jackson National receives proof of death and completed claim forms from the beneficiary or (ii) the total premiums paid under that Contract minus any prior withdrawals (including any applicable charges and adjustments for such withdrawals, annual contract maintenance charges, transfer charges, any applicable charges due under any optional endorsement and premium taxes).

9. The owner may also be offered certain optional endorsements (for fees described below) that can change the death benefit paid to the beneficiary. First, an "Earnings Protection Benefit Endorsement" is offered to owners who are no older than age 75 when their Contracts are issued. This endorsement would add to the death benefit otherwise payable an amount equal to a specified percentage (that varies with the owner's age at issue) of earnings under the Contract up to a cap of 250% of remaining premiums (premiums not previously withdrawn) excluding

remaining premiums paid in the 12 months prior to the date of death (other than the initial premium if the owner dies in the first contract year).

10. Second, the owner of a Contract who is age 79 or younger may be offered the following five optional death benefits (state variations may apply) that would replace the base death benefit: (i) A "4% Roll-Up" death benefit, (ii) a "5% Roll-Up" death benefit, (iii) a "Highest Anniversary Value" death benefit, (iv) a "Combination 4% Roll-Up and Highest Anniversary Value" death benefit or (v) a "Combination 5% Roll-Up and Highest Anniversary Value" death benefit.

11. The Contracts offer fixed and variable versions of the following four types of annuity payment or "income payment": Life income, joint and survivor, life annuity with 120 or 240 monthly payments guaranteed to be paid (although not guaranteed as to amount if variable), and income for a specified period of 5 to 30 years. Jackson National may also offer other income payment options. The Contracts may also offer an optional Guaranteed Minimum Income Benefit ("GMIB") endorsement.

12. In addition to the Earnings Protection Benefit, GMIB, and optional death benefit endorsements described above and the optional contract enhancement endorsements described below, additional optional endorsements are offered with the Contracts, several of which relate to withdrawals: (i) An endorsement that expands the percentage of premiums (that remain subject to a withdrawal charge) that may be withdrawn in a contract year with no withdrawal charge imposed from 10% to 20%; (ii) an endorsement that reduces the withdrawal charges applicable under the Contract and shortens the period for which withdrawal charges are imposed from seven years to five years or four years; and (iii) eight different Guaranteed Minimum Withdrawal Benefit ("GMWB") endorsements. Three variations of the GMWB generally allow, subject to specific conditions, partial withdrawals prior to the income date that, in total, equal the amount of net premium payments made (if elected after issue, the contract value, less any recapture charges will be used instead of the net premium payment at issue). The guarantee is effective if gross partial withdrawals taken within any one contract year do not exceed a specified percentage of net premium payments.

13. If one of the optional contract enhancement endorsements is elected, each time an owner makes a premium payment during the first contract year,

Jackson National will add an additional amount to the owner's contract value (a "Contract Enhancement"). All Contract Enhancements are paid from Jackson National's general account assets. The Contract Enhancement is equal to 2%, 3%, 4%, or 5% of the premium payment. At issue, a Contract owner can choose only one of the Contract Enhancement endorsements. An owner may not elect the 3%, 4%, or 5% Contract Enhancements if the 20% additional free withdrawal endorsement is elected. Jackson National will allocate the Contract Enhancement to the Fixed Accounts and/or Investment Divisions in the same proportion as the premium payment allocation. The Contract Enhancement is not credited to any premiums received after the first contract year. If the 5% Contract Enhancement is elected, no premiums will be accepted after the first year.

14. There is an asset-based charge for each of the Contract Enhancements. The 2% Contract enhancement has a 0.395% charge that applies for five years. The asset-based charges for the other Contract Enhancements apply for seven years and are 0.42%, 0.56%, and 0.695%, respectively, for the 3%, 4%, and 5% Contract Enhancements. These charges will also be assessed against any amounts an owner has allocated to the Fixed Accounts, resulting in a lower annual credited interest rate that would apply to the Fixed Account if the Contract Enhancement had not been elected.

15. Jackson National will recapture all or a portion of any Contract Enhancements by imposing a recapture charge whenever an owner: (i) Makes a total withdrawal within the recapture charge period (five years after a first year payment in the case of the 2% Contract Enhancement and seven years after a first year payment in the case of the other Contract Enhancements) or a partial withdrawal of corresponding premiums within the recapture charge period in excess of those permitted under the Contracts' free withdrawal provisions (including free withdrawals permitted by a 20% additional free withdrawal endorsement), unless the withdrawal is made for certain health-related emergencies specified in the Contracts; (ii) elects to receive payments under an income option within the recapture charge period; or (iii) returns the Contract during the free-look period.

16. The amount of the recapture charge varies, depending upon which Contract Enhancement is elected and when the charge is imposed, as follows:

## CONTRACT ENHANCEMENT RECAPTURE CHARGE

[As a percentage of first year premium payments]

Completed Years Since Receipt of Premium ..	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
Recapture Charge (2% Credit) .....	2%	2%	1.25%	1.25%	0.5%	0	0	0
Recapture Charge (3% Credit) .....	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0
Recapture Charge (4% Credit) .....	4%	4%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	1.25%	1.25%	0
Recapture Charge (5% Credit) .....	4.5%	3.75%	3.25%	2.75%	2%	1.25%	1%	0

17. The recapture charge percentage will be applied to the corresponding premium reflected in the amount withdrawn or the amount applied to income payments that remain subject to a withdrawal charge. The amount recaptured will be taken from the Investment Divisions and the Fixed Accounts in the same proportion as the withdrawal charge.

18. Recapture charges will be waived upon death, but will be applied upon electing to commence income payments, even in a situation where the withdrawal charge is waived. Partial withdrawals will be deemed to remove premium payments on a first-in first-out basis (the order that entails payment of the lowest withdrawal and recapture charges).

19. Jackson National does not assess the recapture charge on any payments paid out as: Death benefits; withdrawals taken under free withdrawal provisions; withdrawals necessary to satisfy the required minimum distribution of the Internal Revenue Code; if permitted by the owner's state, withdrawals of up to \$250,000 from the JNL Separate Account or from the Fixed Accounts in connection with the owner's terminal illness or if the owner needs extended hospital or nursing home care as provided in the Contract; or if permitted by the owner's state, withdrawals of up to 25% of contract value (12.5% for each of two joint owners) from the JNL Separate Account or from the Fixed Accounts in connection with certain serious medical conditions specified in the Contract.

20. The contract value will reflect any gains or losses attributable to a Contract Enhancement described above. Contract Enhancements, and any gains or losses attributable to a Contract Enhancement, distributed under the Contracts will be considered earnings under the Contract for tax purposes and for purposes of calculating free withdrawal amounts.

21. The Contracts have a "free-look" period of ten days after the owner receives the Contract (or any longer period required by state law). Contract value is returned upon exercise of free-look rights by an owner unless state law requires the return of premiums paid.

The Contract Enhancement recapture charge reduces the amount returned.

22. The JNL Separate Account consists of sub-accounts, each of which will be available under the JNL Separate Account. The sub-accounts are referred to as "Investment Divisions." The JNL Separate Account currently consists of 67 Investment Divisions, and each Investment Division will invest in shares of a corresponding series ("Series") of JNL Series Trust ("Trust"), or JNL Variable Fund LLC ("Fund") (collectively the "Trust and Fund"). Not all Investment Divisions may be available.

23. The Trust and Fund are open-end management investment companies registered under the Act and their shares are registered under the 1933 Act. Jackson National Asset Management, LLC ("JNAM") serves as the investment adviser for all of the Series of the Trust and Fund. JNAM has retained sub-advisers for each Series. Jackson National, at a later date, may determine to create additional Investment Divisions of the JNL Separate Account to invest in any additional Series, or other such underlying portfolios or other investments as may now or in the future be available. Similarly, Investment Division(s) of the JNL Separate Account may be combined or eliminated from time to time. Any changes to the Investment Divisions offered will be effected in compliance with the terms of the Contracts and with applicable state and federal laws.

24. In addition to the Contract Enhancement charges and the Contract Enhancement recapture charges, the JNL Contracts may have the following charges: Mortality and expense risk charge of 1.00%–1.45% depending on the version of the Contract (as an annual percentage of average daily account value); administration charge of 0.15% (as an annual percentage of average daily account value); contract maintenance charge of \$35 per year (waived if contract value is \$50,000 or more at the time the charge is imposed); Earnings Protection Benefit charge of 0.30% (as an annual percentage of daily account value—only applies if related

optional endorsement is elected); GMIB charge of 0.60% per year (0.15% per quarter) of the "GMIB Benefit Base"; GMWB charge ranging from 0.20% to 1.71% per year (0.1000% to 0.4250% per quarter) of the "Guaranteed Withdrawal Balance" depending upon age at election and upon which (if any) GMWB endorsement is elected; 20% additional free withdrawal benefit charge of 0.30% or 0.40% depending on the Contract (as an annual percentage of daily account value—only applies if related optional endorsement is elected); five-year withdrawal charge period charge of 0.30% (as an annual percentage of daily account value—only applies if related optional endorsement is elected); four-year withdrawal charge period charge of 0.40% (as an annual percentage of daily account value—only applies if related optional endorsement is elected); optional death benefit charge ranging from 0.25% to 0.55% (as an annual percentage of daily account value—only applies if related optional endorsement is elected) depending upon which (if any) optional death benefit endorsement is elected; transfer fee of \$25 for each transfer in excess of 15 in a contract year (for purposes of which dollar cost averaging and rebalancing transfers are excluded); commutation fee that applies only upon withdrawals from income payments for a fixed period, measured by the difference in values paid upon such a withdrawal due to using a discount rate of 1% greater than the assumed investment rate used in computing the amounts of income payments; and a withdrawal charge that applies to total withdrawals, partial withdrawals in excess of amounts permitted to be withdrawn under the Contract's free withdrawal provisions (or the 20% additional free withdrawal endorsement) and on the income date (the date income payments commence) if the income date is within a year of the date the Contract was issued.

25. The withdrawal charges shown in the table below apply to differing versions of Contracts. The amount of the withdrawal charge depends upon the contribution year of the premium withdrawn as follows:

## WITHDRAWAL CHARGE

[As a percentage of premium payments]

Completed Years Since Receipt of Premium ..	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
Withdrawal Charge (Base Schedule for Offerings under File Nos. 333-70472 and 333-132128) .....	8.5%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	2%	0
Withdrawal Charge (Base Schedule for Offering under File No. 333-119656) .....	8%	8%	7%	6%	0	0	0	0
Withdrawal Charge if Five-Year Period is elected (Optional Schedule for Offerings under File No. 333-70472) .....	8%	7%	6%	4%	2%	0	0	0
Withdrawal Charge if Four-Year Period is elected (Optional Schedule for Offering under File No. 333-132128) .....	8%	7%	5.5%	3.5%	0	0	0	0

26. The withdrawal charge is waived upon withdrawals to satisfy the required minimum distribution of the Internal Revenue Code (if the withdrawal requested exceeds the required minimum distribution, the withdrawal charge will not be waived on the required minimum distribution) and, to the extent permitted by state law, the withdrawal fee is waived in connection with withdrawals of: (i) Up to \$250,000 from the Investment Divisions or the Fixed Accounts of the Contracts in connection with the terminal illness of the owner of a Contract, or in connection with extended hospital or nursing home care for the owner; and (ii) up to 25% (12.5% each for two joint owners) of contract value in connection with certain serious medical conditions specified in the Contract.

**Applicants' Legal Analysis**

1. Applicants state that Section 6(c) of the Act authorizes the Commission to exempt any person, security or transaction, or any class or classes of persons, securities or transactions from the provisions of the Act and the rules promulgated thereunder if and to the extent that such exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act. Applicants request that the Commission, pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Act, grant the exemptions requested below with respect to the Contracts and any Future Contracts funded by the JNL Separate Account or Other Accounts that are issued by Jackson National and underwritten or distributed by the Distributor or Affiliated Broker-Dealers. Applicants undertake that Future Contracts funded by the Separate Account or Other Accounts, in the future, will be substantially similar in all material respects to the Contracts. Applicants believe that the requested exemptions are appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the

protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act.

2. Applicants state that Subsection (i) of Section 27 of the Act provides that Section 27 does not apply to any registered separate account funding variable insurance contracts, or to the sponsoring insurance company and principal underwriter of such account, except as provided in paragraph (2) of the subsection. Paragraph (2) provides that it shall be unlawful for such a separate account or sponsoring insurance company to sell a contract funded by the registered separate account unless such contract is a redeemable security. Section 2(a)(32) defines "redeemable security" as any security, other than short-term paper, under the terms of which the holder, upon presentation to the issuer, is entitled to receive approximately his proportionate share of the issuer's current net assets, or the cash equivalent thereof.

3. Applicants submit that the recapture of the Contract Enhancement in the circumstances set forth in its Application would not deprive an owner of his or her proportionate share of the issuer's current net assets. A Contract owner's interest in the amount of the Contract Enhancement allocated to his or her contract value upon receipt of a premium payment is not fully vested until five or seven complete years following a premium. Until or unless the amount of any Contract Enhancement is vested, Jackson National retains the right and interest in the Contract Enhancement amount, although not in the earnings attributable to that amount. Thus, Applicants urge that when Jackson National recaptures any Contract Enhancement it is simply retrieving its own assets, and because a Contract owner's interest in the Contract Enhancement is not vested, the Contract owner has not been deprived of a proportionate share of the JNL Separate Account's assets, *i.e.*, a share of the JNL

Separate Account's assets proportionate to the Contract owner's contract value.

4. In addition, Applicants represent that it would be patently unfair to allow a Contract owner exercising the free-look privilege to retain the Contract Enhancement amount under a Contract that has been returned for a refund after a period of only a few days. If Jackson National could not recapture the Contract Enhancement, individuals could purchase a Contract with no intention of retaining it and simply return it for a quick profit. Furthermore, Applicants state that the recapture of the Contract Enhancement relating to withdrawals or receiving income payments within the first five or seven years of a premium contribution is designed to protect Jackson National against Contract owners not holding the Contract for a sufficient time period. It would provide Jackson National with insufficient time to recover the cost of the Contract Enhancement, to its financial detriment.

5. Applicants represent that it is not administratively feasible to track the Contract Enhancement amount in the JNL Separate Account after the Contract Enhancement(s) is applied. Accordingly, the asset-based charges applicable to the JNL Separate Account will be assessed against the entire amounts held in the JNL Separate Account, including any Contract Enhancement amounts. As a result, the aggregate asset-based charges assessed will be higher than those that would be charged if the Contract owner's contract value did not include any Contract Enhancement.

6. Applicants submit that the provisions for recapture of any Contract Enhancement under the Contracts do not violate Sections 2(a)(32) and 27(i)(2)(A) of the Act. Sections 26(e) and 27(i) were added to the Act to implement the purposes of the National Securities Markets Improvement Act of 1996 and Congressional intent. The application of a Contract Enhancement

to premium payments made under the Contracts should not raise any questions as to compliance by Jackson National with the provisions of Section 27(i). However, to avoid any uncertainty as to full compliance with the Act, Applicants request an Amended Order providing exemption from Section 2(a)(32) and 27(i)(2)(A), to the extent deemed necessary, to permit the recapture of the Contract Enhancements, including the 5% Contract Enhancement under the circumstances described herein and in the Application, without the loss of relief from Section 27 provided by Section 27(i).

7. Applicants state that Section 22(c) of the Act authorizes the Commission to make rules and regulations applicable to registered investment companies and to principal underwriters of, and dealers in, the redeemable securities of any registered investment company to accomplish the same purposes as contemplated by Section 22(a). Rule 22c-1 under the Act prohibits a registered investment company issuing any redeemable security, a person designated in such issuer's prospectus as authorized to consummate transactions in any such security, and a principal underwriter of, or dealer in, such security, from selling, redeeming, or repurchasing any such security except at a price based on the current net asset value of such security which is next computed after receipt of a tender of such security for redemption or of an order to purchase or sell such security.

8. Applicants state that it is possible that someone might view Jackson National's recapture of the Contract Enhancements as resulting in the redemption of redeemable securities for a price other than one based on the current net asset value of the JNL Separate Account. Applicants contend, however, that the recapture of the Contract Enhancement does not violate Rule 22c-1. The recapture of some or all of the Contract Enhancement does not involve either of the evils that Section 22(c) and Rule 22c-1 were intended to eliminate or reduce as far as reasonably practicable, namely: (i) The dilution of the value of outstanding redeemable securities of registered investment companies through their sale at a price below net asset value or repurchase at a price above it, and (ii) other unfair results, including speculative trading practices. To effect a recapture of a Contract Enhancement, Jackson National will redeem interests in a Contract owner's contract value at a price determined on the basis of the current net asset value of the JNL Separate Account. The amount

recaptured will be less than or equal to the amount of the Contract Enhancement that Jackson National paid out of its general account assets. Although Contract owners will be entitled to retain any investment gains attributable to the Contract Enhancement and to bear any investment losses attributable to the Contract Enhancement, the amount of such gains or losses will be determined on the basis of the current net asset values of the JNL Separate Account. Thus, no dilution will occur upon the recapture of the Contract Enhancement. Applicants also submit that the second harm that Rule 22c-1 was designed to address, namely, speculatively trading practices calculated to take advantage of backward pricing, will not occur as a result of the recapture of the Contract Enhancement. Because neither of the harms that Rule 22c-1 was meant to address is found in the recapture of the Contract Enhancement, Rule 22c-1 should not apply to any Contract Enhancement. However, to avoid any uncertainty as to full compliance with Rule 22c-1, Applicants request an Amended Order granting an exemption from the provisions of Rule 22c-1 to the extent deemed necessary to permit them to recapture the Contract Enhancement under the Contracts.

9. Applicants submit that extending the requested relief to encompass Future Contracts and Other Accounts is appropriate in the public interest because it promotes competitiveness in the variable annuity market by eliminating the need to file redundant exemptive applications prior to introducing new variable annuity contracts. Investors would receive no benefit or additional protection by requiring Applicants to repeatedly seek exemptive relief that would present no issues under the Act not already addressed in the Application.

Applicants submit, for the reasons stated herein, that their exemptive request meets the standards set out in Section 6(c) of the Act, namely, that the exemptions requested are appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act and that, therefore, the Commission should grant the requested order.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, pursuant to delegated authority.

**Nancy M. Morris,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-22009 Filed 12-22-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-54943; File No. SR-Amex-2006-90]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; American Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change as Revised by Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 Thereto Relating to the Listing and Trading of Notes Linked to the Performance of the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index

December 15, 2006.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on September 22, 2006, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been substantially prepared by Amex. On November 15, 2006, Amex submitted Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change.<sup>3</sup> On December 12, 2006, Amex submitted Amendment No. 2 to the proposed rule change.<sup>4</sup> The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change, as amended, from interested persons.

#### I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to list and trade notes linked to the performance of the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index ("Index"). The text of the proposed rule change (including Appendix A) is available on Amex's Web site at <http://www.amex.com>, at Amex's principal office, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

#### II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, Amex included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item III below. Amex has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B,

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3</sup> Amendment No. 1 supersedes and replaces the original rule filing in its entirety.

<sup>4</sup> Amendment No. 2 supersedes and replaces the original rule filing and Amendment No. 1 in their entirety.