

consideration of the matter raised in each docket.

2. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Paul L. Harrington is appointed to serve as officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in these proceedings.

3. Comments by interested persons in these proceedings are due no later than March 25, 2009.

4. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this order in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

**Steven W. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E9-6419 Filed 3-23-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

*Upon Written Request; Copies Available*

*From:* Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

*Extension:*

Rule 23c-1; SEC File No. 270-253; OMB Control No. 3235-0260.

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 collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 23c-1 (17 CFR 270.23c-1) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a), among other things, permits a closed-end fund to repurchase its securities for cash if in addition to the other requirements set forth in the rule: (i) Payment of the purchase price is accompanied or preceded by a written confirmation of the purchase; (ii) the asset coverage per unit of the security to be purchased is disclosed to the seller or his agent; and (iii) if the security is a stock, the fund has, within the preceding six months, informed stockholders of its intention to purchase stock. Commission staff estimates that approximately 36 closed-end funds rely on Rule 23c-1 annually to undertake 324 repurchases of their securities. Commission staff estimates that, on average, a fund spends 2.5 hours to comply with the paperwork

requirements listed above each time it undertakes a security repurchase under the rule. Commission staff thus estimates the total annual burden of the rule's paperwork requirements is 810 hours.

In addition, the fund must file with the Commission a copy of any written solicitation to purchase securities given by or on behalf of the fund to 10 or more persons. The copy must be filed as an exhibit to Form N-CSR (17 CFR 249.331 and 274.128). The burden associated with filing Form N-CSR is addressed in the submission related to that form.

The estimate of average burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act, and is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules and forms.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is 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 burden 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.

Please direct your written comments to Charles Boucher, Director/CIO, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312; or send an e-mail to:

[PRA\\_Mailbox@sec.gov](mailto:PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov).

Dated: March 18, 2009.

**Florence E. Harmon,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E9-6406 Filed 3-23-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8010-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 28650; 812-13538]

### ING Investments, LLC, et al.; Notice of Application

March 17, 2008.

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

**ACTION:** Notice of an application under section 6(c) of the Investment Company

Act of 1940 ("Act") for an exemption from rule 12d1-2(a) under the Act.

**SUMMARY OF APPLICATION:** Applicants request an order to permit funds of funds relying on rule 12d1-2 under the Act to invest in certain financial instruments.

*Applicants:* ING Investments, LLC ("IIL"), Directed Services, LLC ("DSL"), ING Investment Management Co. ("IIM"), ING Funds Distributor, LLC ("IFD") and ING Investors Trust, ING Partners, Inc., ING Mutual Funds, ING Series Funds, Inc., and ING Strategic Allocation Portfolios, Inc. (collectively, the "Trusts").

*Filing Dates:* The application was filed on June 4, 2008, and amended on March 13, 2009.

*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 Commission's Secretary 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 April 13, 2009 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 who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Commission's Secretary.

**ADDRESSES:** Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090; Applicants, c/o Huey P. Falgout, Jr., ING Investments, LLC, 7337 E. Doubletree Ranch Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85258.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lewis Reich, Senior Counsel, at (202) 551-6919, or Janet M. Grossnickle, Assistant Director, at (202) 551-6821 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee at the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1520 (telephone (202) 551-5850).

#### *Applicants' Representations*

1. ING Investors Trust is organized as a Massachusetts business trust. ING Mutual Funds is organized as a Delaware statutory trust. Each of the other Trusts is organized as a Maryland corporation. Each Trust is registered

under the Act as an open-end management investment company. Each of IIL, DSL and IIM and is registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, and currently serves as an investment adviser or sub-adviser to existing series of the Trust. IFD, a Delaware corporation, is registered as a broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Exchange Act"). IFD currently serves as the distributor of the existing series of the Trust. The Trusts and each existing or future registered open-end management investment company or series thereof that is in the same group of investment companies, as defined in section 12(d)(1)(G)(ii) of the Act, as the Trusts and that is advised by IIL, DSL or IIM or any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with IIL, DSL or IIM (the "Advisers"), together with series of the Trusts are referred to as the "Funds." Applicants request the exemption to the extent necessary to permit any Fund that may invest in other funds in reliance on Section 12(d)(1)(G) of the Act, and which is also eligible to invest in securities (as defined in section 2(a)(36) of the Act) in reliance on rule 12d1-2 under the Act, to also invest, to the extent consistent with its investment objective, policies, strategies and limitations, in financial instruments that may not be securities within the meaning of section 2(a)(36) of the Act ("Other Investments").<sup>1</sup>

2. Consistent with its fiduciary obligations under the Act, each Fund's board of trustees or directors will review the advisory fees charged by the Fund's investment adviser to ensure that they are based on services provided that are in addition to, rather than duplicative of, services provided pursuant to the advisory agreement of any investment company in which the Fund may invest.

#### *Applicants' Legal Analysis*

1. Section 12(d)(1)(A) of the Act provides that no registered investment company ("acquiring company") may acquire securities of another investment company ("acquired company") if such securities represent more than 3% of the acquired company's outstanding voting stock or more than 5% of the acquiring company's total assets, or if such securities, together with the securities of other investment companies, represent more than 10% of the acquiring

company's total assets. Section 12(d)(1)(B) of the Act provides that no registered open-end investment company may sell its securities to another investment company if the sale will cause the acquiring company to own more than 3% of the acquired company's voting stock, or cause more than 10% of the acquired company's voting stock to be owned by investment companies.

2. Section 12(d)(1)(G) of the Act provides that section 12(d)(1) will not apply to securities of an acquired company purchased by an acquiring company if: (i) the acquiring company and acquired company are part of the same group of investment companies; (ii) the acquiring company holds only securities of acquired companies that are part of the same group of investment companies, government securities, and short-term paper; (iii) the aggregate sales loads and distribution-related fees of the acquiring company and the acquired company are not excessive under rules adopted pursuant to section 22(b) or section 22(c) of the Act by a securities association registered under section 15A of the Exchange Act or by the Commission; and (iv) the acquired company has a policy that prohibits it from acquiring securities of registered open-end management investment companies or registered unit investment trusts in reliance on section 12(d)(1)(F) or (G) of the Act.

3. Rule 12d1-2 under the Act permits a registered open-end investment company or a registered unit investment trust that relies on section 12(d)(1)(G) of the Act to acquire, in addition to securities issued by another registered investment company in the same group of investment companies, government securities, and short-term paper: (1) Securities issued by an investment company that is not in the same group of investment companies, when the acquisition is in reliance on section 12(d)(1)(A) or 12(d)(1)(F) of the Act; (2) securities (other than securities issued by an investment company); and (3) securities issued by a money market fund, when the investment is in reliance on rule 12d1-1 under the Act. For the purposes of rule 12d1-2, "securities" means any security as defined in section 2(a)(36) of the Act.

4. Section 6(c) of the Act provides that the Commission may exempt any person, security, or transaction from any provision of the Act, or from any rule under the Act, if such exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policies and provisions of the Act.

5. Applicants state that the proposed arrangement would comply with the provisions of rule 12d1-2 under the Act, but for the fact that the Funds may invest a portion of their assets in Other Investments. Applicants request an order under section 6(c) of the Act for an exemption from rule 12d1-2(a) to allow the Funds to invest in Other Investments. Applicants assert that permitting the Funds to invest in Other Investments as described in the application would not raise any of the concerns that the requirements of section 12(d)(1) were designed to address.

#### *Applicants' Condition*

Applicants agree that the order granting the requested relief will be subject to the following condition:

Applicants will comply with all provisions of rule 12d1-2 under the Act, except for paragraph (a)(2) to the extent that it restricts any Fund from investing in Other Investments as described in the application.

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

**Florence E. Harmon,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 8010-01-P**

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## **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34-59589; File No. SR-BX-2009-016]

### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to the \$1 Strike Price Program on the Boston Options Exchange Facility**

March 17, 2009.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on March 16, 2009, NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. (the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule from interested persons.

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Every existing entity that currently intends to rely on the requested order is named as an applicant. Any existing or future entity that relies on the order in the future will do so only in accordance with the terms and condition in the application.