

(2) Basis

NASD Regulation believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,⁶ which requires, among other things, that the Association's rules be 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 interest. The NASD believes that the proposed rule will serve the public interest by enhancing the satisfaction with the arbitration process afforded by expeditious resolution of certain disputes.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

NASD Regulation does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

NASD Regulation did not solicit comments with respect to the proposed rule change. However, the proposed rule change is based in part on written comments received in response to Notice to Members 97-59. A copy of the Notice to Members and copies of the comment letters received in response to the Notice were attached as exhibits to the rule filing.

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

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the Association consents, the Commission will:

- (A) by order approve such proposed rule change, or
- (B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposal is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission,

450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change 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 filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NASD. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-NASD-98-49 and should be submitted by October 13, 1998.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁷

Jonathan G. Katz,
Secretary.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Statement of Organization, Functions and Delegations of Authority

This statement amends Part S of the Statement of the Organization, Functions and Delegations of Authority which covers the Social Security Administration (SSA). Notice is given that Chapter S8 for the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is being amended to reflect the establishment of the Office of External Affairs (S8K). Further notice is given that Chapter S8 is being amended to reflect organizational realignments within the Office of Audit (OA) (S8C) and functional realignments within the Office of Management Services (OMS) (S8G). The changes are as follows:

Section S8.10 *The Office of the Inspector General*—(Organization):
Establish:

H. The Office of External Affairs (S8K).

Section S8.20 *The Office of the Inspector General*—(Functions):
F. The Office of Management Services (S8G). Delete from the last sentence "public affairs * * * Congressional inquiries."

Establish:
H. The Office of External Affairs (S8K).

Section S8C.20 *The Office of Audit*—(Functions):

Retitle:

D. "The Evaluations and Technical Services Division (ETSD) (S8CB) to "The Management Audits and Technical Services Division (MATSD) (S8CB)."

Amend to read as follows:

The Division performs audits and evaluations of administrative and other non-program functions performed by SSA. It monitors SSA performance in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act by performing an oversight role as well as performing audits and evaluations of SSA program and administrative functions. The Division also leads the SSA Payment Accuracy Task Force Initiative to improve SSA's benefit payment accuracy. Additionally, the Division provides Headquarters administrative support and technical support to the entire Office of Audit.

Section S8G.00 *The Office of Management Services*—(Mission):

Delete from the last sentence "public affairs * * * Congressional inquiries."

Section S8G.20 *The Office of Management Services*—(Functions):

Delete from the last sentence in item 3 "public affairs * * * Congressional inquiries."

Add Subchapter:

Subchapter S8K Office of External Affairs

S8K.00 Mission
S8K.10 Organization
S8K.20 Functions

Section S8K.00 *The Office of External Affairs*—(Mission):

The Office of External Affairs (OEA) is responsible for public affairs, interagency activities, OIG reporting requirements and publications and Congressional inquiries. OEA is also responsible for directing reviews and actions to ensure the adequacy of OIG compliance, quality assurance and internal control programs.

Section S8K.10 *The Office of External Affairs*—(Organization):

The Office of External Affairs (S8K), under the leadership of the Assistant Inspector General for External Affairs, includes:

A. The Assistant Inspector General for External Affairs (S8K).

B. The Immediate Office of the Assistant Inspector General for External Affairs (S8K).

Section S8K.20 *The Office of External Affairs*—(Functions):

A. The Assistant Inspector General for External Affairs (S8K) is directly responsible to the Inspector General for carrying out the Office of External

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Affairs mission and providing general supervision to the major components of OEA.

B. The Immediate Office of the Assistant Inspector General for External Affairs (S8K) provides the Assistant Inspector General with staff assistance on the full range of their responsibilities.

Dated: August 27, 1998.

James G. Huse,

Acting Inspector General for Social Security.
[FR Doc. 98-25215 Filed 9-21-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 2893]

Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law (ACPIL) Study Group on Judgments Meeting Notice

There will be a public meeting of the Study Group on Judgments of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law on Friday, October 2, 1998, from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM in Room 1105 of the main building of the U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

The purpose of the meeting is to review various legal issues related to the project of the Hague Conference on Private International Law to prepare by 2000 a multilateral convention on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters. The October 2 Study Group meeting and the advice provided by attending persons and organizations will assist the Department of State and the U.S. delegation to prepare for the November 10-20, 1998, third session of the Hague Conference's Special Commission that is charged with preparing a draft convention on this topic.

Specifically, at the November Special Commission session at The Hague will discuss and reach decisions on various proposals made by country delegations at previous meetings in June 1997 and March 1998. Such decisions will make it possible for the Special Commission and its drafting committee to prepare a first draft of the convention. The draft provisions prepared as a result of the November 1998 session will then be reviewed and refined at the fourth session of the Special Commission in June 1999. There will be a diplomatic session of the Hague Conference in 2000 to adopt the final text of the convention.

Among the issues on which at least preliminary decisions may be made in November are the scope of the

convention, excluded areas of law, required and prohibited bases of jurisdiction for actions in contract, tort and product liability, choice of court and exclusive bases of jurisdiction, the structure of the convention, forum non conveniens, lis pendens, provisional and protective measures, notification, irreconcilable decisions, recognition/enforcement procedures and the role of the court addressed, public policy exceptions to recognition and enforcement, uniform interpretation, and how the convention should operate in federal states.

Persons interested in attending the October 2 Study Group meeting may request the report on the March 1998 Special Commission session and the compilation that is in preparation by the Hague Conference's Permanent Bureau of delegation proposals for dealing with various issues, which will be the basic working document for the November session at The Hague. Requests for documents may be sent to Ms. Rosie Gonzales by fax at (202) 776-8482, by phone at (202) 776-8420 (you may leave your request, name, phone number and address on the answering machine) or by email to <pilddb@his.com>.

The Study Group meeting is open to the public up to the capacity of the meeting room. As access to the State Department building is controlled, any person wishing to attend should by no later than Wednesday, September 30 provide Ms. Gonzales with his or her name, Social Security number and birth date to facilitate admission to the building. It would also be helpful to include affiliation, address, fax and phone numbers, and email addresses for purposes of updating the Department's address list. Participants should be sure to use only the C Street ("diplomatic") entrance of the State Department, on C Street, N.W. between 21st and 23rd Streets, where someone will be present to assist them.

Those unable to attend but wishing to have their views considered may send their views to Ms. Gonzales at the above fax number or email address, or to the following address: L/PIL, Room 357 South Building, 2430 "E" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-2800.

Jeffrey D. Kovar,

Assistant Legal Adviser for Private International Law.

[FR Doc. 98-25272 Filed 9-21-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for extension of a currently approved collections. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on July 1, 1998 (63 FR, 36010).

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before October 22, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Rita Daguillard, Office of the Chief Counsel at (202) 366-1936 and refer to the OMB Control Number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Title: Charter Service Operations.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

OMB Control Number: 2132-0543.

Form(s): N/A

Affected Public: State and local government, business or other-for-profit government institutions, and non-profit institutions).

Abstract: Section 5323(d) of the Federal Transit Laws (FT Laws) requires all applicants for financial assistance from FTA to enter into a charter bus agreement with the Secretary of Transportation (delegated to the Administrator of FTA in 49 CFR 1.51(a)). Section 5323(d) of the FT Laws provides protections for private intercity charter bus operators from unfair competition by FTA recipients. Section 5302(a)(7) of the FT Laws as interpreted by the Comptroller General permits FTA recipients, but does not state that recipients have a right, to provide charter bus service with FTA funded facilities and equipment only if it is incidental to the provision of mass transportation service. These statutory requirements have been implemented in FTA's charter regulation, 49 CFR part 604. 49 CFR 604.7 requires all