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OMB APPROVAL

Page 1 o	f * 16	WASHING	EXCHANGE COMP GTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4		File No.* SR - 2011 - * 042 . (req. for Amendments *)				
Propos	Proposed Rule Change by Financial Industry Regulatory Authority								
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934									
Initial *	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2)	Section 19(b)(3)	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *				
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *	Date Expires *		✓ 19b-4(f)(2) ☐ 1	19b-4(f)(4) 19b-4(f)(5) 19b-4(f)(6)				
Exhibit 2	Sent As Paper Document	Exhibit 3 Sent As Pap	per Document						
Provide	Description Provide a brief description of the proposed rule change (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *). Proposed Rule Change Relating to Fee for the Operations Professional Examination.								
Contact Information Provide the name, telephone number and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the proposed rule change. First Name * Erika Last Name * Lazar									
Title *	Counsel								
E-mail	* erika.lazar@finra.org	J							
Teleph	none * (202) 728-8013	Fax (202) 728-826	54						
Pursua	Signature Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized officer. Date 08/19/2011								
Ву	Patrice Gliniecki		Senior Vice Presid	ent and Deputy General	Counsel				
	(Name *)								
			(Title *)						
this form	Clicking the button at right will dig n. A digital signature is as legally e, and once signed, this form cann	binding as a physical	Pa	atrice Gliniecki,					

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a Form 19b-4 Information (required) clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the Remove View proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act. The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing (required) as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Add Remove View Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments. documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall **Transcripts, Other Communications** be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Add Remove View Exhibit Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is Add Remove View referred to by the proposed rule change. Exhibit Sent As Paper Document The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies** deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which Add Remove View it has been working. The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text** changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be Add Remove View considered part of the proposed rule change. If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy **Partial Amendment** proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if View the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

1. Text of Proposed Rule Change

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), ¹ Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposed rule change to amend Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws to establish a fee for the new Operations Professional Examination ("Series 99"). Below is the text of the proposed rule change. Proposed new language is underlined.

* * * * *

Schedule A to the By-Laws of the Corporation

Assessments and fees pursuant to the provisions of Article VI of the By-Laws of the Corporation shall be determined on the following basis.

* * * * *

Section 4 — Fees

- (a) through (b) No Change.
- (c) The following fees shall be assessed to each individual who registers to take an examination as described below. These fees are in addition to the registration fee described in paragraph (b) and any other fees that the owner of an examination that FINRA administers may assess.

Registered Options Principal	\$90
Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative	\$85
General Securities Representative	\$265
General Securities Sales Supervisor — Options Module	\$70
	Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative General Securities Representative

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

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Series 10	General Securities Sales Supervisor — General Module	\$110
Series 11	Assistant Representative — Order Processing	\$70
Series 14	Compliance Official	\$320
Series 16	Supervisory Analyst	\$210
Series 17	Limited Registered Representative	\$70
Series 22	Direct Participation Programs Representative	\$85
Series 23	General Securities Principal Sales Supervisor Module	\$85
Series 24	General Securities Principal	\$105
Series 26	Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Principal	\$85
Series 27	Financial and Operations Principal	\$105
Series 28	Introducing Broker-Dealer Financial and Operations Principal	\$85
Series 37	Canada Module of S7 (Options Required)	\$160
Series 38	Canada Module of S7 (No Options Required)	\$160
Series 39	Direct Participation Programs Principal	\$80
Series 42	Registered Options Representative	\$65
Series 51	Municipal Fund Securities Limited Principal	\$85
Series 52	Municipal Securities Representative	\$95
Series 53	Municipal Securities Principal	\$95
Series 55	Limited Representative — Equity Trader	\$95
Series 62	Corporate Securities Limited Representative	\$80
Series 72	Government Securities Representative	\$95
Series 79	Investment Banking Qualification Examination	\$265
Series 82	Limited Representative — Private Securities Offering	\$80
Series 86	Research Analyst — Analysis	\$160

Series 87 Research Analyst — Regulatory \$115

Series 99 Operations Professional

<u>\$125</u>

- (1) through (3) No Change.
- (d) through (h) No Change.

* * * * *

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.

2. <u>Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

At its meeting on April 14, 2010, the FINRA Board of Governors authorized the filing of the proposed rule change with the SEC. No other action by FINRA is necessary for the filing of the proposed rule change.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. The implementation date of the proposed rule change and corresponding FINRA Rule 1230(b)(6) will be October 17, 2011.

3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u> Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

(a) Purpose

On June 16, 2011, the Commission approved FINRA Rule 1230(b)(6), which establishes a registration category and qualification examination requirement for certain operations personnel – Operations Professionals.² FINRA is expanding its registration

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64687 (June 16, 2011), 76 FR 36586 (June 22, 2011) (Order Approving File No. SR-FINRA-2011-013). In addition to adopting FINRA Rule 1230(b)(6), the rule change adopted NASD Rule 1120 (Continuing Education Requirements) as new FINRA Rule 1250 (Continuing Education Requirements) with certain changes, including expanding the scope of "covered registered persons" subject to the Firm Element to include persons

provisions to require registration of certain individuals ("covered persons") who are engaged in, responsible for or supervising certain member operations functions ("covered functions") to enhance the regulatory structure surrounding these areas.³ FINRA Rule 1230(b)(6) is intended, among other things, to increase covered persons' awareness and knowledge that they are operating in a regulated environment designed to protect investors' interests and the integrity of the operations of a broker-dealer.

FINRA has developed the Series 99 examination program to provide reasonable assurance that covered persons understand their professional responsibilities, including key regulatory and control themes, as well as the importance of identifying and escalating red flags that may harm a firm, its customers, the integrity of the marketplace or the public. The examination will test applicants on general securities industry knowledge and its associated regulations and rules.⁴ On August 19, 2011, FINRA filed with the

registered as Operations Professionals. <u>See also Regulatory Notice</u> 11-33 (July 2011).

See Regulatory Notice 11-33 (July 2011) for information regarding the implementation period for Operations Professionals subject to FINRA Rule 1230(b)(6).

FINRA Rule 1230(b)(6)(D) sets forth an exception to the Operations Professional qualification examination requirement for persons who currently hold certain registrations (each an "eligible registration") or have held one during the two years immediately prior to registering as an Operations Professional. The exception also applies to persons who do not hold an eligible registration, but prefer an alternative to taking the Operations Professional examination. Such persons may register in an eligible registration category (subject to passing the corresponding qualification examination or obtaining a waiver) and use such registration to qualify for Operations Professional registration.

Commission the Series 99 selection specifications and content outline.⁵ The examination will be implemented on October 17, 2011.⁶

The proposed rule change would amend Section 4 of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws to establish a fee of \$125 for a person to take the Series 99 examination. The fee is based on the costs to FINRA to develop and administer the exam.⁷

As noted in Item 2 of this filing, FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. The implementation date of the proposed rule change and corresponding FINRA Rule 1230(b)(6) will be October 17, 2011.

(b) Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(5) of the Act, ⁸ which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system that FINRA operates

⁵ <u>See</u> SR-FINRA-2011-041.

⁶ See Regulatory Notice 11-33 (July 2011).

Candidates for the Series 99 examination will be able to schedule and take the examination starting on October 17, 2011. Because this is a new examination for a new registration category, FINRA will be assessing the effectiveness of the examination by, in part, evaluating the candidates' performance during the first 60 days of the administration of the examination. Therefore, candidates who take the examination within the first 60 days (between October 17, 2011 and December 16, 2011) will not receive their test results on the day that they take the examination. Instead, such candidates' firms will be notified of test results (i.e., the candidate's score and whether the candidate has passed or failed the examination) on or shortly after December 16, 2011. The test results will be posted to the Central Registration Depository system ("CRD® system") at that time. Candidates who fail the examination during the initial 60-day rollout will be provided an opportunity to retake the examination at no additional cost.

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 780–3(b)(5).

or controls. FINRA believes the proposed rule change is designed to accomplish these ends by equitably assessing by means of a reasonable examination fee the costs associated with developing and administering the examination program.

4. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

FINRA 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.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

6. <u>Extension of Time Period for Commission Action</u>

Not applicable.

7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for</u> Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

The proposed rule change is effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act⁹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder, ¹⁰ in that the proposed rule change is establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-regulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission

Not applicable.

9. Exhibits

Exhibit 1. Completed notice of proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register.

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-FINRA-2011-042)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Fee for the Operations Professional Examination

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on , Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") 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 prepared by FINRA. FINRA has designated the proposed rule change as "establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge" under Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder,⁴ which renders the proposal effective upon receipt of this filing by the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the</u> Proposed Rule Change

FINRA is proposing to amend Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws to establish a fee for the new Operations Professional Examination ("Series 99"). Specifically, the proposed rule change would amend Section 4 of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws to

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

establish a fee of \$125 for a person to take the Series 99 examination. The fee is based on the costs to FINRA to develop and administer the exam.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on FINRA's website at http://www.finra.org, at the principal office of FINRA and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

In its filing with the Commission, FINRA 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 IV below. FINRA has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

- A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u>
 <u>Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>
- 1. Purpose

On June 16, 2011, the Commission approved FINRA Rule 1230(b)(6), which establishes a registration category and qualification examination requirement for certain operations personnel – Operations Professionals.⁵ FINRA is expanding its registration provisions to require registration of certain individuals ("covered persons") who are

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64687 (June 16, 2011), 76 FR 36586 (June 22, 2011) (Order Approving File No. SR-FINRA-2011-013). In addition to adopting FINRA Rule 1230(b)(6), the rule change adopted NASD Rule 1120 (Continuing Education Requirements) as new FINRA Rule 1250 (Continuing Education Requirements) with certain changes, including expanding the scope of "covered registered persons" subject to the Firm Element to include persons registered as Operations Professionals. See also Regulatory Notice 11-33 (July 2011).

engaged in, responsible for or supervising certain member operations functions ("covered functions") to enhance the regulatory structure surrounding these areas. FINRA Rule 1230(b)(6) is intended, among other things, to increase covered persons' awareness and knowledge that they are operating in a regulated environment designed to protect investors' interests and the integrity of the operations of a broker-dealer.

FINRA has developed the Series 99 examination program to provide reasonable assurance that covered persons understand their professional responsibilities, including key regulatory and control themes, as well as the importance of identifying and escalating red flags that may harm a firm, its customers, the integrity of the marketplace or the public. The examination will test applicants on general securities industry knowledge and its associated regulations and rules. On August 19, 2011, FINRA filed with the Commission the Series 99 selection specifications and content outline. The examination will be implemented on October 17, 2011.

See <u>Regulatory Notice</u> 11-33 (July 2011) for information regarding the implementation period for Operations Professionals subject to FINRA Rule 1230(b)(6).

FINRA Rule 1230(b)(6)(D) sets forth an exception to the Operations Professional qualification examination requirement for persons who currently hold certain registrations (each an "eligible registration") or have held one during the two years immediately prior to registering as an Operations Professional. The exception also applies to persons who do not hold an eligible registration, but prefer an alternative to taking the Operations Professional examination. Such persons may register in an eligible registration category (subject to passing the corresponding qualification examination or obtaining a waiver) and use such registration to qualify for Operations Professional registration.

⁸ See SR-FINRA-2011-041.

See Regulatory Notice 11-33 (July 2011).

The proposed rule change would amend Section 4 of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws to establish a fee of \$125 for a person to take the Series 99 examination. The fee is based on the costs to FINRA to develop and administer the exam. ¹⁰

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. The implementation date of the proposed rule change and corresponding FINRA Rule 1230(b)(6) will be October 17, 2011.

2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(5) of the Act, ¹¹ which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system that FINRA operates or controls. FINRA believes the proposed rule change is designed to accomplish these ends by equitably assessing by means of a reasonable examination fee the costs associated with developing and administering the examination program.

Candidates for the Series 99 examination will be able to schedule and take the examination starting on October 17, 2011. Because this is a new examination for a new registration category, FINRA will be assessing the effectiveness of the examination by, in part, evaluating the candidates' performance during the first 60 days of the administration of the examination. Therefore, candidates who take the examination within the first 60 days (between October 17, 2011 and December 16, 2011) will not receive their test results on the day that they take the examination. Instead, such candidates' firms will be notified of test results (i.e., the candidate's score and whether the candidate has passed or failed the examination) on or shortly after December 16, 2011. The test results will be posted to the Central Registration Depository system ("CRD® system") at that time. Candidates who fail the examination during the initial 60-day rollout will be provided an opportunity to retake the examination at no additional cost.

¹⁵ U.S.C. 780–3(b)(5).

B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

FINRA 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.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action</u>

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹² and paragraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹³ At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change 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 Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number
 SR-FINRA-2011-042 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary,
 Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2011-042. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet website (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). 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 website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of FINRA. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You

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should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2011-042 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. 14

Elizabeth M. Murphy

Secretary

¹⁷ CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).