

Proposed Rule Change by Financial Industry Regulatory Authority
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(A) <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(B) <input type="checkbox"/>
			Rule		
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)	

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>
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Description
Provide a brief description of the proposed rule change (limit 250 characters).

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	<input type="text" value="James"/>	Last Name	<input type="text" value="Wrona"/>
Title	<input type="text" value="Associate Vice President and Associate General Counsel"/>		
E-mail	<input type="text" value="jim.wrona@finra.org"/>		
Telephone	<input type="text" value="(202) 728-8270"/>	Fax	<input type="text" value="(202) 728-8264"/>

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	<input type="text" value="11/05/2009"/>
By	<input type="text" value="Marc Menchel"/>
	(Name)
	<input type="text" value="Executive Vice President and General Counsel"/>
	(Title)

NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.

Form 19b-4 Information

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The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal 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)

Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.

Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

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 referred to by the proposed rule change.

Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies

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The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and 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 it has been working.

Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text

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The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed 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 considered part of the proposed rule change.

Partial Amendment

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If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy 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 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 (1) modify various time requirements regarding expedited proceedings, (2) add an expedited proceeding for failure to pay restitution, and (3) harmonize a remedy in an expedited procedure with a remedy in the FINRA By-Laws.

Below is the text of the proposed rule change. Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.

* * * * *

9550. Expedited Proceedings

* * * * *

9552. Failure to Provide Information or Keep Information Current

(a) through (g) No Change.

(h) Defaults

A member or person who is suspended under this Rule and fails to request termination of the suspension within three [six] months of issuance of the original notice of suspension will automatically be expelled or barred.

(i) No Change.

* * * * *

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

9554. Failure to Comply with an Arbitration Award or Related Settlement or an Order of Restitution or Settlement Providing for Restitution

(a) Notice of Suspension or[,] Cancellation [or Bar]

If a member, person associated with a member or person subject to FINRA's jurisdiction fails to comply with an arbitration award or a settlement agreement related to an arbitration or mediation under Article VI, Section 3 of the FINRA By-Laws or a FINRA order of restitution or FINRA settlement agreement providing for restitution, FINRA staff may provide written notice to such member or person stating that the failure to comply within 21 days of service of the notice will result in a suspension or cancellation of membership or a suspension [or bar] from associating with any member.

(b) Service of Notice of Suspension[,] or Cancellation [or Bar]

FINRA staff shall serve the member or person with such notice in accordance with Rule 9134. A copy of a notice under this Rule that is served on a person associated with a member also shall be served on such member.

(c) No Change.

(d) Effective Date of Suspension[,] or Cancellation [or Bar]

The suspension[,] or cancellation [or bar] referenced in a notice issued and served under this Rule shall become effective 21 days after service of the notice, unless stayed by a request for a hearing pursuant to Rule 9559.

(e) No Change.

(f) Failure to Request Hearing

If a member or person does not timely request a hearing, the suspension[,] or cancellation [or bar] specified in the notice shall become effective 21 days after the service of the notice and the notice shall constitute final FINRA action.

(g) through (h) No Change.

* * * * *

9559. Hearing Procedures for Expedited Proceedings Under the Rule 9550 Series

(a) through (e) No Change.

(f) Time of Hearing

(1) No Change.

(2) A hearing shall be held within 30 [60] days after a respondent subject to a notice issued under Rules 9551 through 9555 files a written request for a hearing with the Office of Hearing Officers.

(3) No Change.

(g) No Change.

(h) Transmission of Documents

(1) Not less than seven days before the hearing in an action brought under Rules 9556 through 9558 and not less than 14 [40] days before the hearing in an action brought under Rules 9551 through 9555, FINRA staff shall provide to the respondent who requested the hearing, by facsimile or overnight courier, all documents that were considered in issuing the notice unless a document meets the criteria of Rule 9251(b)(1)(A), (B) or (C). A document that meets such criteria shall not constitute part of the record, but shall be retained by FINRA until the date upon which FINRA serves a final decision or, if applicable, upon the conclusion of any review by the SEC or the federal courts.

(2) Not less than three days before the hearing in an action brought under Rules 9556 through 9558 and not less than seven [14] days before the hearing in

an action brought under Rules 9551 through 9555, the parties shall exchange proposed exhibit and witness lists. The exhibit and witness lists shall be served by facsimile or by overnight courier.

(i) through (s) No Change.

* * * * *

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

At its meeting on September 24, 2009, 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 will announce the effective date of the proposed rule change in a Regulatory Notice to be published no later than 60 days following Commission approval. The effective date will be 30 days following publication of the Regulatory Notice announcing Commission approval.

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

(a) Purpose

In March 2004, the SEC approved a rule change that created the NASD Rule 9550 Series to consolidate, clarify, and streamline most procedural rules that had an expedited proceeding component.² Having used the procedures for five years and having

² See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 49380 (March 9, 2004), 69 FR 12386 (March 16, 2004) (Order Approving File No. SR-NASD-2003-110); Notice to Members 04-36 (May 2004). Expedited proceedings in this context refer to fast-tracked matters that take place outside the ordinary FINRA disciplinary process.

conducted a recent analysis of their effectiveness, FINRA is proposing a few modifications that will strengthen investor protection and improve administrative efficiency. The proposed changes are discussed separately below.

Shortening Time Periods

The Rule 9550 Series provides a procedural mechanism for FINRA to address certain types of misconduct more quickly than would be possible using the ordinary disciplinary process. At the same time, the Rule 9550 Series provides firms and associated persons with numerous procedural protections, including the ability to request a hearing that often results in a stay of the action. FINRA proposes shortening the time within which a hearing must be held from the current 60 days after a hearing request to 30 days after the request in relation to the following FINRA rules:

- Rule 9551 (Failure to Comply with Public Communication Standards);
- Rule 9552 (Failure to Provide Information or Keep Information Current);
- Rule 9553 (Failure to Pay FINRA Dues, Fees and Other Charges);
- Rule 9554 (Failure to Comply with an Arbitration Award or Related Settlement); and
- Rule 9555 (Failure to Meet the Eligibility or Qualification Standards or Prerequisites for Access to Services).

In September 2008, the SEC approved the adoption of the NASD Rule 9550 Series as the FINRA Rule 9550 Series, subject to non-material changes. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 58643 (September 25, 2008), 73 FR 57174 (October 1, 2008) (Order Approving File Nos. SR-FINRA-2008-021; SR-FINRA-2008-022; SR-FINRA-2008-026; SR-FINRA-2008-028 and SR-FINRA-2008-029); Regulatory Notice 08-57 (October 2008).

The proposed change³ strengthens investor protection while maintaining procedural safeguards for respondents, makes the timing of the hearings more consistent with other hearings in the rule series, and reflects FINRA's experience over the past five years in resolving these matters. The change would increase investor protection by limiting the period during which a wrongdoer could continue doing business while the matter is pending. Moreover, the issues involved in these cases usually are straightforward (e.g., whether the respondent paid an arbitration award or FINRA fee or provided required information) and do not require lengthy preparation time. The change also would bring these hearing provisions more in line with the other expedited actions in the Rule 9550 Series, which require hearings to be held within 14 days of the respondent's request for a hearing. Finally, five years' experience has established that hearings can be held much more quickly than the current scheme contemplates.

In addition to modifying the timing of hearings, FINRA proposes amending Rule 9552 to shorten the period before a suspension automatically turns into an expulsion or bar. Rule 9552 allows FINRA to suspend a member or associated person for failure to provide any information requested or required to be filed pursuant to the FINRA By-Laws or rules, such as FOCUS reports or annual audits. Under the rule, FINRA may provide written notice to such member or person specifying the nature of the failure and stating that failure to take corrective action within 21 days after service of the notice will result in suspension. The rule also provides that a member or person suspended under the rule who fails to request termination of the suspension within six months is automatically

³ FINRA would implement the proposed change by amending Rule 9559, which contains the hearing provisions for the Rule 9550 Series. FINRA also would make conforming changes to Rule 9559 regarding the pre-hearing exchange of documents between the parties to the expedited proceeding.

expelled or barred. FINRA proposes shortening that timeframe from six months to three months. Three months provides sufficient time for respondents to seek to lift the suspension while moving the process forward at a more efficient and reasonable pace.

Adding an Expedited Procedure for Failure to Pay Restitution

FINRA proposes amending Rule 9554, which contains expedited procedures for failure to pay FINRA arbitration awards, to also permit FINRA to take expedited action for failure to comply with a FINRA order of restitution or a FINRA settlement providing for restitution. Restitution is an equitable remedy used to restore victims to their position before the wrongful conduct occurred and to compensate them for unjust losses or injury suffered as the result of another's wrongdoing.⁴ The SEC and FINRA have long stressed the importance of imposing restitution where an "identifiable person ... has suffered a quantifiable loss as a result of a respondent's misconduct."⁵

Although FINRA can take expedited action against a member firm or associated person for failure to pay fines, dues, and fees to FINRA and for failure to pay an arbitration award to a third party, FINRA currently does not have explicit authority to take expedited action against firms or associated persons who fail to pay restitution to a third party (usually investors who have been harmed). FINRA's only recourse is to initiate an ordinary disciplinary action, which can take several months to conclude. FINRA believes that firms and associated persons should not be permitted to continue

⁴ See David Joseph Dambro, 51 S.E.C. 513, 518 (1993).

⁵ FINRA Sanction Guidelines, at 4; see also Dambro, 51 S.E.C. at 518 (emphasizing importance of getting money back to investors who were harmed by broker's misconduct).

doing business for prolonged periods when they have failed to pay restitution to third parties. The proposal would close this loophole.

Harmonizing Remedies

FINRA proposes harmonizing the remedy for an individual's failure to pay an arbitration award in Rule 9554 with the remedy for the same misconduct in the FINRA By-Laws. At present, Rule 9554 states that FINRA may suspend or cancel the membership of a firm and may suspend *or bar an individual* for failure to pay an arbitration award. Article VI, Section 3(b) of the FINRA By-Laws, however, limits the remedy regarding an *individual's* failure to pay an arbitration award to a suspension. To make the rule consistent with the By-Laws, the proposed change would limit the remedy against individuals in such cases to suspension and would eliminate any reference to barring individuals.

As noted in Item 2 of this filing, FINRA will announce the effective date of the proposed rule change in a Regulatory Notice to be published no later than 60 days following Commission approval. The effective date will be 30 days following publication of the Regulatory Notice announcing Commission approval.

(b) Statutory Basis

The proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,⁶ which requires, among other things, that FINRA's rules must 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

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78q-3(b)(6).

proposal also is consistent with Section 15A(b)(7) of the Act,⁷ which provides that FINRA members and associated persons must be appropriately disciplined for violations of any provisions of the Act or FINRA rules. The proposed rule change is consistent with these purposes because it promotes a fair and efficient disciplinary process and provides a mechanism to take expedited action when a member or associated person fails to pay restitution.

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

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. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(7).

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-2009-076)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to Amend the FINRA Rule 9550 Series (Expedited Proceedings)

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, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by FINRA. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

FINRA is proposing to (1) modify various time requirements regarding expedited proceedings, (2) add an expedited proceeding for failure to pay restitution, and (3) harmonize a remedy in an expedited procedure with a remedy in the FINRA By-Laws.

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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

1. Purpose

In March 2004, the SEC approved a rule change that created the NASD Rule 9550 Series to consolidate, clarify, and streamline most procedural rules that had an expedited proceeding component.³ Having used the procedures for five years and having conducted a recent analysis of their effectiveness, FINRA is proposing a few modifications that will strengthen investor protection and improve administrative efficiency. The proposed changes are discussed separately below.

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disciplinary process. At the same time, the Rule 9550 Series provides firms and associated persons with numerous procedural protections, including the ability to request a hearing that often results in a stay of the action. FINRA proposes shortening the time within which a hearing must be held from the current 60 days after a hearing request to 30 days after the request in relation to the following FINRA rules:

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- Rule 9555 (Failure to Meet the Eligibility or Qualification Standards or Prerequisites for Access to Services).

The proposed change⁴ strengthens investor protection while maintaining procedural safeguards for respondents, makes the timing of the hearings more consistent with other hearings in the rule series, and reflects FINRA's experience over the past five years in resolving these matters. The change would increase investor protection by limiting the period during which a wrongdoer could continue doing business while the matter is pending. Moreover, the issues involved in these cases usually are straightforward (e.g., whether the respondent paid an arbitration award or FINRA fee or provided required information) and do not require lengthy preparation time. The change also would bring these hearing provisions more in line with the other expedited actions in

⁴ FINRA would implement the proposed change by amending Rule 9559, which contains the hearing provisions for the Rule 9550 Series. FINRA also would make conforming changes to Rule 9559 regarding the pre-hearing exchange of documents between the parties to the expedited proceeding.

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2. Statutory Basis

The proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,⁷ which requires, among other things, that FINRA's rules must 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 proposal also is consistent with Section 15A(b)(7) of the Act,⁸ which provides that FINRA members and associated persons must be appropriately disciplined for violations of any provisions of the Act or FINRA rules. The proposed rule change is consistent with these purposes because it promotes a fair and efficient disciplinary process and provides a mechanism to take expedited action when a member or associated person fails to pay restitution.

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

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. 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.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(7).

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 self-regulatory organization 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 proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-FINRA-2009-076 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Florence E. Harmon, Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2009-076. 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 Web site (<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 inspection and copying 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 should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2009-076 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Florence E. Harmon
Deputy Secretary

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).