

open market and a national market system, and, in general to protect investors and the public interest, by further clarifying the Exchange's Rules with respect to its members and member organizations transacting options. The Exchange believes that equally applying the rule to both options members and member organizations and PSX Participants further protects the public interest.

The Exchange believes that this proposed rule would, in part, clarify the obligations of an option member or member organization with respect to the provisions in section (a)(1) through (6) of the proposed Rule. As specified herein, the Exchange believes that option members today are subject to these requirements and the proposal merely serves to clarify these obligations in a single Rule. These requirements in section (a) of the proposed rule seek to ensure that the option members and member organizations are required to maintain certain standards to protect the integrity of the Exchange's systems, as is the case today for PSX Participants.

The Exchange believes that an options member and member organization's continuing obligation to report any noncompliance with registration requirements is inferred in the Rules today as described herein. The application of proposed Rule 911 to option members would adopt a clear Rule for option members regarding their obligation to report noncompliance with any registration requirement, as is the case today for PSX Participants. The Exchange believes this provision is instrumental in assisting the Exchange with its regulatory responsibilities.

Finally, the Exchange proposes to add a new provision, that it may impose temporary restrictions upon the automated entry or updating of orders or quotes/orders as the Exchange may determine to be necessary to protect the integrity of the Exchange's systems, for option members. This provision is applicable today to PSX Participants. The Exchange believes that this ability to impose a temporary restriction upon members and member organizations transacting options would assist the Exchange in maintaining the integrity of the market and protecting investors and the public interest.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition 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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁸ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁹ thereunder.

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:

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-Phlx-2011-100 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.

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2011-100. 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 Web site 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 the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. 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-Phlx-2011-100 and should be submitted on or before August 29, 2011.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁰

Elizabeth M. Murphy,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2011-19991 Filed 8-5-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-65015; File No. SR-MSRB-2011-08]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board; Notice of Filing of Proposed New Rule A-11, on Municipal Advisor Assessments, and New Form A-11-Interim

August 2, 2011.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the

²⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on July 26, 2011, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (“Board” or “MSRB”) 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 the MSRB. 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

The MSRB is filing with the SEC a proposed rule change consisting of (i) Proposed new Rule A–11, on municipal advisor assessments, and (ii) new Form A–11–Interim (the “proposed rule change”). The MSRB requests that the proposed rule change be made effective October 1, 2011.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the MSRB’s Web site at <http://www.msrb.org/Rules-and-Interpretations/SEC-Filings/2011-Filings.aspx>, at the MSRB’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, the MSRB 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. The Board 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

The proposed rule change consists of new Rule A–11, on municipal advisor assessments, and new Form A–11–Interim. The purpose of the proposed rule change is to levy a reasonable interim assessment to defray a portion of the costs and expenses of operating and administering the MSRB, including in particular the increased costs and expenses attributable to the regulation of municipal advisors that the MSRB began to incur upon being vested with

rulemaking authority in this area under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.³ The MSRB expects the interim assessment to remain in effect in the form proposed in the proposed rule change for a limited period of time during which the MSRB would examine the nature of the municipal advisory activities undertaken by municipal advisors as well as the manner and level of compensation received by municipal advisors for such municipal advisory activities (the “MSRB municipal advisor study”).⁴ Based on the MSRB’s findings, the MSRB would then consider whether to replace the interim assessment with a permanent form of assessment on municipal advisors that would, together with other MSRB assessments payable by municipal advisors, brokers, dealers and municipal securities dealers, provide for reasonable assessments that are fairly and equitably apportioned among all market participants subject to MSRB regulation and that do not impose an undue burden on small municipal advisors.

The interim assessment under proposed Rule A–11 would consist of an annual assessment equal to \$300 for each assessable professional reported or required to be reported by a municipal advisor to the MSRB on Form A–11–Interim for each fiscal year. Completed Form A–11–Interim and payment of the interim assessment would be due by November 30 of each year. Form A–11–Interim would be completed and submitted, and the interim assessment would be paid, in the manner set forth in the *Instructions for Interim Municipal Advisor Assessment and Form A–11–Interim*.

For purposes of the interim assessment, an assessable professional of a municipal advisor would, pursuant to proposed Rule A–11(b)(i), consist of any natural person who is an associated person of the municipal advisor who has received compensation or other payments from the municipal advisor (excluding reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses) includable in such person’s gross income for federal income tax purposes in the amount of \$10,000 or more during the fiscal year of the MSRB for which the municipal advisor is submitting Form A–11–

Interim and who provides services in connection with the municipal advisor’s municipal advisory activities as defined in Rule D–13. Such services include, but are not limited to:

(A) Engaging in municipal advisory business⁵ with a municipal entity or obligated person;

(B) soliciting⁶ municipal advisory business with a municipal entity or obligated person on its own behalf or soliciting third-party business;⁷

(C) providing research or analytical services to other personnel of the municipal advisor engaged in the services described in paragraph (A) or (B) above or to clients of the municipal advisor, where such research or analytical services are related to the services described in paragraph (A) or (B) above;

(D) acting as supervisor of any person described in paragraph (A), (B) or (C) above with respect to such person’s services as described in paragraph (A), (B) or (C) above;

(E) acting as supervisor of any person described in paragraph (D) above up through and including the Chief Executive Officer or similarly situated official; or

(F) serving as a member of the municipal advisor’s executive or management committee or similarly situated officials, if any.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a municipal advisor would not be required to include on Form A–11–Interim as an assessable professional any associated person (i) Who otherwise qualifies as an assessable professional if such associated person is included on Form A–11–Interim for such fiscal year as an assessable professional of another municipal advisor that controls, is

⁵ Proposed Rule A–11(b)(ii) would define municipal advisory business as the provision of advice to or on behalf of a municipal entity or an obligated person with respect to municipal financial products or the issuance of municipal securities.

⁶ Under proposed Rule A–11(b)(iii), an associated person of a municipal advisor would be viewed as soliciting municipal advisory business if the associated person undertakes any direct or indirect communication with a municipal entity or obligated person for the purpose of obtaining or retaining: (A) Municipal advisory business for such municipal advisor with a municipal entity or obligated person; or (B) third-party business.

⁷ Proposed Rule A–11(b)(iv) would define third-party business as an engagement by a municipal entity of another person that does not control, is not controlled by, or is not under common control with the person soliciting such engagement, where such other person is: (A) A broker, dealer, municipal securities dealer, or municipal advisor engaging or seeking an engagement with such municipal entity in connection with municipal financial products or the issuance of municipal securities; or (B) an investment adviser (as defined in section 202 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940) providing or seeking to provide investment advisory services to or on behalf of such municipal entity.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

³ Public Law 111–203.

⁴ Concurrent with the filing of this proposed rule change, the MSRB published for comment a draft amendment to proposed Rule A–11 and draft Form A–11–Survey pursuant to which the MSRB would collect the necessary information from municipal advisors to undertake such examination. See MSRB Notice 2011–34 (July 26, 2011). The MSRB would file the draft Rule A–11 amendment and draft Form A–11–Survey with the Commission prior to undertaking such collection of information.

controlled by, or is under common control with such municipal advisor, or (ii) whose functions are solely clerical or ministerial.

Proposed Form A-11-Interim would require that municipal advisors provide information about the number of assessable professionals who, during the fiscal year for which the assessment is calculated, were principal/supervisory personnel or other advisory personnel. Principal/supervisory personnel would consist of any assessable professional who is either described in paragraph (D), (E) or (F) of the definition of assessable professional or who is a partner or other equity owner of the municipal advisor firm having a cumulative ownership interest representing at least 2.5% of the firm. All other assessable professionals would be reported as other advisory personnel. The interim assessment would be calculated based on the sum of principal/supervisory personnel and other advisory personnel.⁸ Because of the gross income threshold in the definition of assessable professional, municipal advisors that generate revenues of less than \$10,000 in connection with their municipal advisory activities during the fiscal year typically would not have any assessable professionals to report for such fiscal year and therefore would not be required to pay the interim assessment.⁹

The MSRB requests that the proposed rule change be made effective October 1, 2011, which is the first day of the MSRB's fiscal year. Municipal advisors would be required to submit completed Form A-11-Interim and to make payment of the interim assessment by November 30, 2011, based on information for the period from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011. If in any subsequent fiscal year the MSRB has not yet replaced the interim assessment with a permanent form of assessment as described above, municipal advisors would be required to submit completed Form A-11-Interim and to make payment of the interim assessment by November 30 of such fiscal year based on information for the prior fiscal year.

⁸ Proposed Form A-11-Interim also would require that municipal advisors provide information about the number of personnel at the firm that are engaged solely in non-municipal advisory activities. This information would be used to better understand the extent to which municipal advisory activities represent only a portion of firms' overall activities but would not be used to calculate the interim assessment.

⁹ All municipal advisors would be required to submit completed Form A-11-Interim, even if such municipal advisors have no assessable professionals to report.

2. Statutory Basis

The MSRB believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 15B(b)(2)(J) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), which provides that the MSRB's rules shall:

provide that each municipal securities broker, municipal securities dealer, and municipal advisor shall pay to the Board such reasonable fees and charges as may be necessary or appropriate to defray the costs and expenses of operating and administering the Board.

In addition, Section 15B(b)(2)(L)(iv) of the Exchange Act requires that rules adopted by the MSRB:

not impose a regulatory burden on small municipal advisors that is not necessary or appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors, municipal entities, and obligated persons, provided that there is robust protection of investors against fraud.

The proposed rule change would establish an interim assessment on municipal advisors that would help to defray a portion of the costs and expenses of operating and administering the MSRB's regulatory and related activities in connection with municipal advisors until such time as a permanent assessment is established based on the planned MSRB municipal advisor study described above. Although the amounts raised through the interim assessment would not be sufficient to pay all on-going costs of regulation of municipal advisors and also would be insufficient to cover costs already incurred in connection with the regulation of municipal advisors since the MSRB commenced such regulatory activities on October 1, 2010, the MSRB believes that it is reasonable and appropriate to impose the interim assessment pending establishment of the final form of municipal advisor assessment.

In approving a 2010 MSRB proposal to increase the MSRB's transaction fee and to establish a new technology fee payable by brokers, dealers and municipal securities dealers,¹⁰ the Commission recognized "the concerns raised by some commenters that the increase in transaction fees and the new technology fee will be used to subsidize municipal advisor regulation" and noted that the MSRB had taken certain initial steps to assess municipal advisor fees¹¹ and expected to assess other fees

¹⁰ See Exchange Act Release No. 63621 (File No. SR-MSRB-2010-10) (December 29, 2010) (the "2010 Dealer Fee Order").

¹¹ See Exchange Act Release No. 63313 (File No. SR-MSRB-2010-14) (November 12, 2010) (the "2010 Municipal Advisor Fee Order"). Municipal advisors pay an initial fee of \$100 under MSRB Rule A-12 and an annual fee of \$500 under MSRB

on municipal advisors as appropriate. Currently, under MSRB Rule A-13, brokers, dealers and municipal securities dealers pay an underwriting fee of \$.03 per \$1000 par value of municipal securities purchased in a primary offering (with certain exceptions), a transaction fee of \$.01 per \$1000 par value of sale transactions of municipal securities (with certain exceptions), and a technology fee of \$1 for each sale transaction of municipal securities, in addition to an initial fee of \$100 under MSRB Rule A-12 and an annual fee of \$500 under MSRB Rule A-14. For the MSRB fiscal year ended September 30, 2010, the underwriting fee generated \$13,984,780 and the transaction fee generated \$6,940,551.¹² The technology fee became effective on January 1, 2011 and therefore the MSRB did not generate any revenue from this fee for the MSRB fiscal year ended September 30, 2010.¹³ In addition, for the MSRB fiscal year ended September 30, 2010, the initial fee generated \$8,500 and the annual fee generated \$1,010,321.

Municipal advisors do not pay the underwriting, transaction or technology fee described above. The payment of the initial fee became obligatory for municipal advisors on January 1, 2011 and, as of July 22, 2011, approximately 495 municipal advisors not previously registered with the MSRB have paid the initial fee in connection with registering with the MSRB as municipal advisors, generating approximately \$49,500 from these new municipal advisor registrants.¹⁴ The payment of the annual fee also became obligatory for municipal advisors on January 1, 2011 and, as of July 22, 2011, these newly registered municipal advisors have paid the annual fee in connection with their first year as registered municipal advisors in an aggregate amount of approximately \$247,500. The MSRB expects that, together with the initial fee and annual fee, the proposed interim assessment payable by municipal advisors would

Rule A-14, both amounts being equal to the annual and initial fees paid by brokers, dealers and municipal securities dealers under those rules.

¹² The amount of the transaction fee was increased from \$.005 per \$1000 par value of sale transactions to .01 per \$1000 par value of sale transactions beginning January 1, 2011. The MSRB previously estimated that this increase in the transaction fee would generate an estimated \$7 million of additional revenue annually. See 2010 Dealer Fee Order.

¹³ The MSRB previously estimated that the new technology fee would generate an estimated \$10 million of revenue annually. See 2010 Dealer Fee Order.

¹⁴ The amount generated from the initial fee is expected to be significantly lower in future years since such fee is payable by each municipal advisor only once upon initial registration with the MSRB.

generate well under 10 percent of the MSRB's total annual revenue in the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2011.¹⁵ Thus, the MSRB believes that the burden on municipal advisors of the proposed interim assessment would be reasonable and appropriate and would be relatively small compared to the burden of fees and assessments paid by brokers, dealers and municipal securities dealers.

The amount of the interim assessment payable by each municipal advisor firm would be dependent on the number of assessable professionals of the firm and therefore would result in lower assessments for smaller municipal advisor firms and would bear a reasonable relationship with the level of municipal advisory activities undertaken by each municipal advisor firm. In addition, as noted above, because of the gross income threshold in the definition of assessable professional, municipal advisors that generate revenues of less than \$10,000 in connection with their municipal advisory activities during the fiscal year typically would not have any assessable professionals to report for such fiscal year and therefore would not be required to pay the interim assessment. Accordingly, the interim assessment would minimize the regulatory burden on small municipal advisors.

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

The MSRB does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Exchange Act since it would apply equally to all municipal advisors based on the number of assessable professionals of each firm.

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 on the proposed rule change.

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

Within 45 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 or disapprove 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-MSRB-2011-08 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-MSRB-2011-08. 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 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 Web site 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 MSRB's offices. 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-MSRB-2011-08 and should be submitted on or before August 29, 2011.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁶

Elizabeth M. Murphy,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2011-19992 Filed 8-5-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request and Comment Request

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages requiring clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Public Law 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, effective October 1, 1995. This notice includes revisions of OMB-approved information collections.

SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility, and clarity; and ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Mail, e-mail, or fax your comments and recommendations on the information collection(s) to the OMB Desk Officer and SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the following addresses or fax numbers.

(OMB), Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, Fax: 202-395-6974, E-mail address: OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov. (SSA), Social Security Administration, DCBFM, Attn: Reports Clearance Officer, 1333 Annex Building, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235, Fax: 410-965-6400, E-mail address: OPLM.RCO@ssa.gov.

I. The information collection below is pending at SSA. SSA will submit it to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. To be sure we consider your comments, we must receive them no later than October 7, 2011. Individuals can obtain copies of the collection instrument by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at 410-965-8783 or by writing to the above e-mail address.

SSI Notice of Interim Assistance Reimbursement (LAR)—0960-0546.

¹⁵ Approximately 185 brokers, dealers and municipal securities dealers previously registered with the MSRB as such have also registered with the MSRB as municipal advisors as of July 22, 2011 and such firms also would be subject to the proposed interim assessment.

¹⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).