

of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>26</sup> which require, among other things, that the Exchange'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, and not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers and dealer, and Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,<sup>27</sup> which requires that the Exchange's rules provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using its facilities. IEX believes that the proposed change is consistent with the Act, and that the proposed fees are reasonable, equitably allocated and not unfairly discriminatory. In particular, IEX believes that the proposed change would treat all Equity ATSS trading OTC Equity Securities in a comparable manner when calculating applicable fees. In addition, the fee structure takes into consideration distinctions in securities trading operations of CAT Reporters, including all ATSS trading OTC Equity Securities.

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

Section 6(b)(8) of the Act<sup>28</sup> require that the Exchange's rules not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate. IEX 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 previously described, IEX believes that the proposed rule change fairly and equitably allocates costs among CAT Reporters. In particular, the proposed fee schedule is structured to impose comparable fees on similarly situated CAT Reporters. IEX believes that the proposed change would treat all Equity ATSS trading OTC Equity Securities in a comparable manner when calculating applicable fees. In addition, the fee structure takes into consideration distinctions in securities trading operations of CAT Reporters, including all ATSS trading OTC Equity Securities. Moreover, the Operating Committee believes that the proposed changes address certain competitive concerns raised by commenters related to ATSS trading OTC Equity Securities.

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

IEX set forth responses to comments received regarding the Original Proposal in the First Amendment. In addition, the proposed changes set forth in this Second Amendment further respond to comments made regarding ATSS trading OTC Equity Securities.

#### **III. Solicitation of Comments**

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposal, as amended by Amendment No. 1 and Amendment No. 2, 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 email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-IEX-2017-16 on the subject line.

##### *Paper Comments*

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-IEX-2017-16. This file number should be included on the subject line if email 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 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 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. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit

personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-IEX-2017-16, and should be submitted on or before January 5, 2018.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>29</sup>

**Robert W. Errett,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2017-27019 Filed 12-14-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

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## **SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**[Disaster Declaration #15293 and #15294; U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS Disaster Number VI-00009]**

### **Presidential Declaration Amendment of a Major Disaster for the U.S. Virgin Islands**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Small Business Administration.

**ACTION:** Amendment 4.

**SUMMARY:** This is an amendment of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the U.S. Virgin Islands (FEMA-4335-DR), dated 09/07/2017.

*Incident:* Hurricane Irma.

*Incident Period:* 09/05/2017 through 09/07/2017.

**DATES:** Issued on 12/08/2017.

*Physical Loan Application Deadline Date:* 01/08/2018.

*Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date:* 06/07/2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205-6734.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The notice of the President's major disaster declaration for the U.S. Virgin Islands, dated 09/07/2017, is hereby amended to extend the deadline for filing applications for physical damages as a result of this disaster to 01/08/2018.

All other information in the original declaration remains unchanged.

<sup>29</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>26</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>27</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

<sup>28</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

**James E. Rivera,**

*Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 2017-27035 Filed 12-14-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8025-01-P**

## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**[Disaster Declaration #15320 and #15321; U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS Disaster Number VI-00011]**

### Presidential Declaration Amendment of a Major Disaster for the U.S. Virgin Islands

**AGENCY:** U.S. Small Business Administration.

**ACTION:** Amendment 4.

**SUMMARY:** This is an amendment of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (FEMA-4340-DR), dated 09/20/2017.

*Incident:* Hurricane Maria.

*Incident Period:* 09/16/2017 through 09/22/2017.

**DATES:** Issued on 12/08/2017.

*Physical Loan Application Deadline Date:* 01/08/2018.

*Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date:* 06/20/2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205-6734.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The notice of the President's major disaster declaration for the U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, dated 09/20/2017, is hereby amended to extend the deadline for filing applications for physical damages as a result of this disaster to 01/08/2018.

All other information in the original declaration remains unchanged.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

**James E. Rivera,**

*Associate Administrator, for Disaster Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 2017-27036 Filed 12-14-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8025-01-P**

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

**[Docket No. SSA-2017-0053]**

### Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2018

**AGENCY:** Social Security Administration.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are republishing the Cost-of-Living Increase and Other Determinations for 2018 with revisions to the average wage index and certain related dollar amounts. Under title II of the Social Security Act (Act), there will be a 2.0 percent cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits effective December 2017. In addition, the national average wage index for 2016 is \$48,642.15. The cost-of-living increase and national average wage index affect other program parameters as described below.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan C. Kunkel, Office of the Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235, (410) 965-3000. Information relating to this announcement is available on our internet site at [www.socialsecurity.gov/oact/cola/index.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/oact/cola/index.html). For information on eligibility or claiming benefits, call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), or visit our internet site at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Because of the 2.0 percent cost-of-living increase, the following items will increase for 2018:

- (1) The maximum Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) monthly payment amounts for 2018 under title XVI of the Act will be \$750 for an eligible individual, \$1,125 for an eligible individual with an eligible spouse, and \$376 for an essential person;
- (2) The special benefit amount under title VIII of the Act for certain World War II veterans will be \$562.50 for 2018;
- (3) The student earned income exclusion under title XVI of the Act will be \$1,820 per month in 2018, but not more than \$7,350 for all of 2018;
- (4) The dollar fee limit for services performed as a representative payee will be \$42 per month (\$80 per month in the case of a beneficiary who is disabled and has an alcoholism or drug addiction condition that leaves him or her incapable of managing benefits) in 2018; and
- (5) The dollar limit on the administrative-cost fee assessment charged to an appointed representative such as an attorney, agent, or other

person who represents claimants will be \$93 beginning in December 2017.

The national average wage index for 2016 is \$48,642.15. This index affects the following amounts:

- (1) The Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) contribution and benefit base will be \$128,400 for remuneration paid in 2018 and self-employment income earned in taxable years beginning in 2018;
  - (2) The monthly exempt amounts under the OASDI retirement earnings test for taxable years ending in calendar year 2018 will be \$1,420 for beneficiaries who will attain their Normal Retirement Age (NRA) (defined in the *Retirement Earnings Test Exempt Amounts* section below) after 2018 and \$3,780 for those who attain NRA in 2018;
  - (3) The dollar amounts ("bend points") used in the primary insurance amount (PIA) formula for workers who become eligible for benefits, or who die before becoming eligible, in 2018 will be \$895 and \$5,397;
  - (4) The bend points used in the formula for computing maximum family benefits for workers who become eligible for benefits, or who die before becoming eligible, in 2018 will be \$1,144, \$1,651, and \$2,154;
  - (5) The taxable earnings a person must have to be credited with a quarter of coverage in 2018 will be \$1,320;
  - (6) The "old-law" contribution and benefit base under title II of the Act will be \$95,400 for 2018;
  - (7) The monthly amount deemed to constitute substantial gainful activity (SGA) for statutorily blind persons in 2018 will be \$1,970. The corresponding amount for non-blind disabled persons will be \$1,180;
  - (8) The earnings threshold establishing a month as a part of a trial work period will be \$850 for 2018; and
  - (9) Coverage thresholds for 2018 will be \$2,100 for domestic workers and \$1,800 for election officials and election workers.
- According to section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Act, we must publish the benefit increase percentage and the revised table of "special minimum" benefits within 45 days after the close of the third calendar quarter of 2017. We must also publish the following by November 1: The national average wage index for 2016 (215(a)(1)(D)), the OASDI fund ratio for 2017 (section 215(i)(2)(C)(ii)), the OASDI contribution and benefit base for 2018 (section 230(a)), the earnings required to be credited with a quarter of coverage in 2018 (section 213(d)(2)), the monthly exempt amounts under the Social Security retirement earnings test for 2018 (section 203(f)(8)(A)), the