

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940
Release No. 34350 / August 5, 2021

In the Matter of :
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Fidelity Beach Street Trust :
Fidelity Covington Trust :
Fidelity Management & Research Company LLC :
Fidelity Distributors Company LLC :
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245 Summer Street :
Boston, MA 02210 :
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(812-15175) :
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ORDER UNDER SECTIONS 6(c), 12(d)(1)(J) AND 17(b) OF THE INVESTMENT
COMPANY ACT OF 1940

Fidelity Beach Street Trust, Fidelity Covington Trust, Fidelity Management & Research Company LLC and Fidelity Distributors Company LLC filed an application on October 30, 2020, and amendments to the application on April 2, 2021, June 11, 2021 and June 30, 2021, requesting an order to amend a prior order under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (“Act”) for an exemption from sections 2(a)(32), 5(a)(1), 22(d), and 22(e) of the Act and rule 22c-1 thereunder; under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act granting an exemption from sections 17(a)(1) and 17(a)(2) of the Act; and under section 12(d)(1)(J) for an exemption from sections 12(d)(1)(A) and 12(d)(1)(B) of the Act¹ (“Prior Order”). The Prior Order permitted registered open-end investment companies that are actively managed exchange traded funds (each, an “ETF”) to operate without being subject to a daily portfolio transparency condition.

Under the Prior Order, ETFs are required to publish a basket of securities and cash that, while different from the ETF’s portfolio, is designed to closely track its daily performance (“Tracking Basket”). The amended order permits ETFs to use Creation Baskets (as defined in the Notice (as defined below)) that include instruments that are not included, or are included with different weightings, in the ETF’s Tracking Basket.

¹ The relief granted in the Prior Order under section 12(d)(1)(J) of the Act for an exemption from sections 12(d)(1)(A) and 12(d)(1)(B) of the 1940 Act (the “Section 12(d)(1) Relief”), and relief under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act for an exemption from sections 17(a)(1) and 17(a)(2) of the Act relating to the Section 12(d)(1) Relief, will expire one year from the effective date of rule 12d1-4 under the Act, except as necessary to allow an ETF’s receipt of Representative ETFs (as defined in the Prior Application (as defined below)) included in its Tracking Basket solely for purposes of effecting transactions in Creation Units (as defined in the Prior Application), according to the terms of the application previously submitted with the Commission (File No. 812-14364), as amended and restated, and filed with the Commission on November 8, 2019 (the “Prior Application”), and notwithstanding the limits of rule 12d1-4(b)(3). See Fund of Funds Arrangements, Investment Company Act Rel. No. 10871 (Oct. 7, 2020), at III.

On July 9, 2021, a notice of the filing of the application was issued (Investment Company Act Release No. 34326) (the “Notice”). The Notice gave interested persons an opportunity to request a hearing and stated that an order disposing of the application would be issued unless a hearing was ordered. No request for a hearing has been filed, and the Commission has not ordered a hearing.

The matter has been considered and it is found, on the basis of the information set forth in the application, as amended, that granting the requested order is appropriate in and consistent with the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act.

It is further found that the terms of the proposed transactions, including the consideration to be paid or received, are reasonable and fair and do not involve overreaching on the part of any person concerned, and that the proposed transactions are consistent with the policy of each registered investment company concerned and with the general purposes of the Act.

Accordingly, in the matter of Fidelity Beach Street Trust, Fidelity Covington Trust, Fidelity Management & Research Company LLC and Fidelity Distributors Company LLC (File No. 812-15175),

IT IS ORDERED, under section 6(c) of the Act, that the requested exemption from sections 2(a)(32), 5(a)(1), 22(d) and 22(e) of the Act and rule 22c-1 under the Act is granted, effective immediately, subject to the conditions contained in the application, as amended.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, under section 12(d)(1)(J) of the Act, that the requested exemption from sections 12(d)(1)(A) and 12(d)(1)(B) of the Act is granted, effective immediately, subject to the conditions contained in the application, as amended.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act, that the requested exemption from sections 17(a)(1) and 17(a)(2) of the Act is granted, effective immediately, subject to the conditions contained in the application, as amended.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, pursuant to delegated authority.

Jill M. Peterson
Assistant Secretary