

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-60640; File No. SR-FINRA-2009-056)

September 9, 2009

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Fee for Investment Banking Representative 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 August 26, 2009, 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. 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. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

FINRA is proposing to amend Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws to establish a fee for the new Investment Banking Representative Examination (“Series 79”).

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.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

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

On April 13, 2009, the Commission approved NASD Rule 1032(i), which establishes a new limited representative category – Limited Representative-Investment Banking – for persons whose activities are limited to investment banking and those who supervise such activities.⁵ FINRA has developed the Series 79 program to ensure that persons associated with FINRA members seeking to register as investment banking representatives have attained specified levels of competence and knowledge. On July 28, 2009, FINRA filed with the Commission the Series 79 selection specifications and content outline.⁶ The examination will be implemented on November 2, 2009.⁷

The proposed rule change would amend Section 4 of Schedule A to FINRA By-Laws to establish a fee of \$265 for an associated person to take the Series 79 exam. The fee is the same

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59757 (April 13, 2009), 74 FR 18268 (April 21, 2009) (Order Approving File No. SR-FINRA-2009-006).

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60424 (August 4, 2009), 74 FR 39984 (August 10, 2009) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness; File No. SR-FINRA-2009-049).

⁷ See Regulatory Notice 09-41 (July 2009).

as that for the General Securities Representative exam (“Series 7”)⁸ and is based on the costs to FINRA to develop and administer the exam.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. The implementation date will be November 2, 2009, to coincide with the implementation date of NASD Rule 1032(i).

2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act, including Section 15A(b)(5) of the Act,⁹ 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 the costs associated with developing and administering the examination program.

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.

⁸ Within the six-month period following the implementation of Rule 1032(i), individuals who are registered as a General Securities Representative and function in a member’s investment banking business line as described in Rule 1032(i) may opt in to the Limited Representative-Investment Banking registration category. After the six-month opt-in period, individuals who perform the job functions set out in Rule 1032(i) will be required to pass the Series 79 exam in lieu of the General Securities Representative (“Series 7”) exam (or equivalent exams), unless subject to an exception in the Rule.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78q-3(b)(5).

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁰ and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹¹ At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate 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.

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-2009-056 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-2009-056. 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

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹¹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

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 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 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 publicly available. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2009-056 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.¹²

Florence E. Harmon
Deputy Secretary

¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).