among other conditions, the proposed rule requires that: (i) Before an individual’s initial designation, the individual must have been registered for a total of five years within the most recent 10-year period, including for the most recent year with the member that initially designated the individual; (ii) the waiver request must be made within seven years of the individual’s initial designation; and (iii) the individual cannot have any pending or adverse regulatory matters, or terminations, that are reportable on the Form U4 (Uniform Application for Securities Industry Registration or Transfer).140 The Commission notes that the designated individual must also comply with the Regulatory Element of the CE requirements.141 The Commission further notes that FINRA has committed to “engaging in an ongoing dialogue with industry participants to ensure that the waiver program is effective and efficient and, as needed, will provide guidance to firms.”142

FINRA states that the proposed rule change will make the qualification and registration process more effective and efficient, without affecting the proficiency required to function as a representative or principal or reducing investor protection.143 FINRA also states that the proposed rule change may enhance the pool of prospective securities industry professionals by familiarizing them with securities laws, rules, and regulations and appropriate conduct at an earlier stage of career development.144

The Exchange Act authorizes FINRA to prescribe standards of training, experience, and competence for persons associated with FINRA members.145 In accordance with that provision, FINRA has proposed to revise its registration requirements, qualification examinations, and continuing education requirements which the Commission believes are designed to establish that persons associated with FINRA members have attained specified levels of competence and knowledge, consistent with the applicable registration category. The Commission believes that FINRA has adequately addressed all comments that are within the scope of the proposed rule change.146 For the foregoing reasons, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the Exchange Act.

V. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered that, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act,147 the proposed rule change (SR–FINRA–2017–007), be and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.148

Eduardo A. Aleman,
Assistant Secretary.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
[Docket No: SSA–2017–0036]

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 and an extension 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, email, 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, Email address: OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov. (SSA), Social Security Administration, OLCA, Attn: Reports Clearance Director, 3100 West High Rise, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235, Fax: 410–966–2830, Email address: OR.Reports.Clearance@ssa.gov.

Or you may submit your comments online through www.regulations.gov, referencing Docket ID Number [SSA–2017–0036].

1. The information collections below are pending at SSA. SSA will submit them 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 September 11, 2017. Individuals can obtain copies of the collection instruments by writing to the above email address.

1 Statement of Marital Relationship (By One of the Parties)—20 CFR 404.726—0960–0038. SSA must obtain a signed statement from a spousal

140 See FINRA Response Letter.
141 See proposed Rules 1210.09 and 1240.
142 FINRA Response Letter.
143 See Notice, supra note 4.
144 See id.