

how to submit comments, *available at* [www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/how-submit-comment](http://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/how-submit-comment). General questions regarding the rule filing process or logistical questions regarding this filing should be directed to the Main Office of the Commission's Division of Trading and Markets at [tradingandmarkets@sec.gov](mailto:tradingandmarkets@sec.gov) or 202-551-5777.

FICC reserves the right not to respond to any comments received.

### 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 Act<sup>12</sup> and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.<sup>13</sup> 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.

### 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 (<https://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/self-regulatory-organization-rulemaking>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-FICC-2026-005 on the subject line.

#### *Paper Comments*

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FICC-2026-005. 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 (<https://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/self-regulatory-organization-rulemaking>). Copies of the filing will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of FICC and on DTCC's website ([www.dtcc.com/legal/sec-rule-filings](http://www.dtcc.com/legal/sec-rule-filings)).

Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FICC-2026-005 and should be submitted on or before April 15, 2026.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>14</sup>

**Vanessa A. Countryman,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2026-05758 Filed 3-24-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-105057; File No. SR-PHLX-2025-50]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq PHLX LLC; Notice of Designation of Longer Period for Commission Action on Proceedings To Determine Whether To Approve or Disapprove a Proposed Rule Change To List and Trade Nasdaq Bitcoin Index Options

March 20, 2026.

On September 23, 2025, Nasdaq PHLX LLC ("Phlx" or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission" or "SEC"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act" or the "Exchange Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> a proposal to list and trade Nasdaq Bitcoin Index options. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on September 29, 2025.<sup>3</sup> On November 3, 2025, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act,<sup>4</sup> the Commission designated a longer period within which to either approve the proposed rule change, disapprove the proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove the proposed rule change.<sup>5</sup> On December 23, 2025, the Commission

<sup>14</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>15</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104038 (Sept. 24, 2025), 90 FR 46706 ("Notice"). Comments received regarding the proposed rule change are available at <https://www.sec.gov/comments/sr-phlx-2025-50/srphlx202550.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104173 (Nov. 3, 2025), 90 FR 51424 (Nov. 17, 2025). The Commission designated December 28, 2025, as the date by which it shall approve, disapprove, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove the proposed rule change.

instituted proceedings to determine whether to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change.<sup>6</sup>

Section 19(b)(2) of the Act<sup>7</sup> provides that, after initiating proceedings, the Commission shall issue an order approving or disapproving the proposed rule change not later than 180 days after the date of publication of notice of filing of the proposed rule change. The Commission may extend the period for issuing an order approving or disapproving the proposed rule change, however, by not more than 60 days if the Commission determines that a longer period is appropriate and publishes the reasons for such determination. The proposed rule change was published for notice and comment in the **Federal Register** on September 29, 2025,<sup>8</sup> and March 28, 2026, is 180 days from that date.

The Commission finds it appropriate to designate a longer period within which to issue an order approving or disapproving the proposed rule change so that it has sufficient time to consider the proposed rule change and the issues raised therein, including the issues raised by a commenter. Accordingly, the Commission, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>9</sup> designates May 27, 2026, as the date by which the Commission shall either approve or disapprove the proposed rule change (File No SR-PHLX-2025-50).

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>10</sup>

**Vanessa A. Countryman,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2026-05759 Filed 3-24-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-105061; File No. SR-CBOE-2026-008]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe Exchange, Inc.; Suspension of and Order Instituting Proceedings To Determine Whether To Approve or Disapprove a Proposed Rule Change To Adopt Rule 8.23

March 20, 2026.

#### I. Introduction

On January 20, 2026, Cboe Exchange, Inc. ("Exchange" or "Cboe Options")

<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104506, 90 FR 61452 (Dec. 31, 2025).

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>8</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 3.

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(57).

<sup>12</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> a proposed rule change to adopt Exchange Rule (“Rule”) 8.23 to codify certain order and quote entry and trading activity that is prohibited on the Exchange. The proposed rule change was immediately effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act.<sup>3</sup> The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on February 2, 2026.<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(C) of the Act,<sup>5</sup> the Commission is hereby: (1) temporarily suspending the proposed rule change; and (2) instituting proceedings to determine whether to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change.

## II. Background and Description of the Proposed Rule Change<sup>6</sup>

The Exchange proposes to adopt Rule 8.23, which would codify order and quote entry and trading activity that the Exchange believes is disruptive, and prohibited by the Act, the rules and regulations thereunder, and the Exchange’s Rules.<sup>7</sup> The Exchange states that Trading Permit Holders (“TPHs”) should be submitting all orders and quotes at any time for the purpose of bona fide transactions or in good faith for legitimate purposes.<sup>8</sup>

The Exchanges states that, as a national securities exchange registered pursuant to Section 6 of the Act, it is required to be organized and to have the capacity to enforce compliance by its members and persons associated with its members, with the Act, the rules and regulations thereunder, and its Rules.<sup>9</sup> The Exchange also states that its Rules are required to 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.”<sup>10</sup> In addition, the Exchange states that Section 9(a)(1) of the Act prohibits any member of a national securities exchange from engaging in certain activity for the purpose of creating a false or misleading appearance of active trading.<sup>11</sup> The Exchange further states that Rule 10b–5 under the Act prohibits any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person, in connection with the purchase or sale of any security.<sup>12</sup> Further, the Exchange states that various Exchange Rules currently prohibit disruptive order and quote entry and trading activity.<sup>13</sup>

The Exchange states that it has identified various activities that may comprise disruptive order and quote entry or trading activity in violation of its Rules and the Act, and that the proposal describes what the Exchange considers to be prohibited activity.<sup>14</sup> Specifically, proposed Rule 8.23(a) states that TPHs, on their own behalf or on behalf of customers, must submit all orders and quotes at any time for the purpose of executing bona fide transactions or in good faith for legitimate purposes. Proposed Rule 8.23(a) also provides a non-exhaustive list of non-bona fide or nonlegitimate purposes.<sup>15</sup> The Exchange views the activity identified in proposed Rule 8.23(a) as currently prohibited by Exchange rules and consistent with activity the Exchange has previously identified as being disruptive and violative of its Rules.<sup>16</sup>

Proposed Rule 8.23(b) describes various factors the Exchange may consider when assessing whether conduct constitutes disruptive or

manipulative activity that violates proposed Rule 8.23. The Exchange believes that these factors are consistent with the prohibited activity described in proposed Rule 8.23(a) that, when considered in context, supports whether there was requisite intent for the market participant’s conduct, for example, to induce another market participant to engage in market activity.<sup>17</sup> Proposed Rule 8.23(c) provides that, absent other factors or circumstances, certain activities do not constitute a violation of proposed Rule 8.23.<sup>18</sup> Finally, the Exchange proposes to adopt interpretations and policies to proposed Rule 8.23 that provide additional information relevant to the determination whether certain activity is prohibited by Rule 8.23.<sup>19</sup>

## III. Suspension of the Proposed Rule Change

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(C) of the Act,<sup>20</sup> at any time within 60 days of the date of filing of an immediately effective proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Act,<sup>21</sup> the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend the change in the rules of a self-regulatory organization (“SRO”) 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. A temporary suspension of the proposed rule changes is necessary and appropriate to allow for additional analysis of the proposed rule change’s consistency with the Act and the rules thereunder.

Section 6(b)(5) of the Act requires the rules of an exchange to be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, promote just and equitable principles of trade, perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, protect investors and the public interest, and not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers;<sup>22</sup> and Section 6(b)(8) of the Act requires that the rules of an exchange not impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.<sup>23</sup>

In temporarily suspending the Exchange’s proposed rule change, the Commission intends to further consider

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5); see Notice, *supra* note 4, 91 FR at 4646.

<sup>11</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 4, 91 FR at 4646; and 15 U.S.C. 78i(a)(1).

<sup>12</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 4, 91 FR at 4646; and 17 CFR 240.10b–5.

<sup>13</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 4, 91 FR at 4646. For example, the Exchange states that Rule 8.1 prohibits TPHs from engaging in acts or practices inconsistent with just and equitable principles of trade; Rule 8.2 prohibits TPHs from engaging in conduct in violation of the Act, the rules and regulations thereunder, and Exchange Rules; Rule 8.6 prohibits TPHs from engaging in market manipulation; and Rule 8.10 prohibits TPHs from misusing material, nonpublic information.

<sup>14</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 4, 91 FR at 4646. The Exchange states that it has issued guidance through Regulatory Circulars to identify examples of when behavior is disruptive and thus prohibited by the Act or Exchange Rules. *Id.*; see also, e.g., Cboe Regulatory Circular 22–014 (September 26, 2022), available at: RC22–014 Prearranged Trading and Signaling of Imminent Orders (*cboe.com*); and Cboe Regulatory Circular 22–008 (March 18, 2022), available at: RC22–008 Quote and Order Messaging—Prohibited Activity (*cboe.com*).

<sup>15</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 4, 91 FR at 4646–47.

<sup>16</sup> *Id.* See also *supra* note 14.

<sup>17</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 4, 91 FR at 4647.

<sup>18</sup> *Id.* at 4647–48.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.* at 4648.

<sup>20</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(C).

<sup>21</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>22</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>23</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

<sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104721 (January 28, 2026), 91 FR 4645 (February 2, 2026) (SR–CBOE–2026–008) (Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to Adopt Rule 8.23) (“Notice”). Comments received on the Notice are available on the Commission’s website at: <https://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/public-comments/sr-cboe-2026-008>.

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(C).

<sup>6</sup> For additional detail regarding the Exchange’s proposal, see the Notice, *supra* note 4.

<sup>7</sup> See Notice, *supra* note 4, 91 FR at 4646.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 73f(b)(1); see Notice, *supra* note 4, 91 FR at 4646.

whether the proposal is consistent with the statutory requirements applicable to a national securities exchange under the Act. In particular, the Commission will consider whether the proposed rule change satisfies the standards set forth in Sections 6(b)(5) and 6(b)(8) of the Act.<sup>24</sup> Therefore, the Commission finds that it is appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, and otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, to temporarily suspend the proposed rule change.<sup>25</sup>

#### IV. Proceedings To Determine Whether To Approve or Disapprove the Proposed Rule Change

In addition to temporarily suspending the proposal, the Commission also hereby institutes proceedings pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act<sup>26</sup> to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved. Institution of such proceedings is appropriate at this time in view of comments received, and the legal and policy issues raised by the proposed rule change. Institution of proceedings does not indicate that the Commission has reached any conclusions with respect to any of the issues involved. Rather, as described below, the Commission seeks and encourages interested persons to provide additional comment on the proposed rule change to inform the Commission's analysis of whether to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act,<sup>27</sup> the Commission is providing notice of the grounds for disapproval under consideration. As described above, the Exchange has proposed to codify certain order and quote entry and trading activity that is prohibited on the Exchange. The Commission is instituting proceedings to allow for additional analysis of, and input from commenters with respect to, the proposed rule change's consistency with the Act, and in particular, Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, which requires, among other things, that the rules of a national securities exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices; promote just and equitable principles of trade; protect investors and the public interest; and not permit unfair discrimination between customers,

issuers, brokers or dealers;<sup>28</sup> and Section 6(b)(8) of the Act, which requires that the rules of a national securities exchange not impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.<sup>29</sup>

Under the Commission's Rules of Practice, the "burden to demonstrate that a proposed rule change is consistent with the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations issued thereunder . . . is on the self-regulatory organization ['SRO'] that proposed the rule change."<sup>30</sup> The description of a proposed rule change, its purpose and operation, its effect, and a legal analysis of its consistency with applicable requirements must all be sufficiently detailed and specific to support an affirmative Commission finding,<sup>31</sup> and any failure of an SRO to provide this information may result in the Commission not having a sufficient basis to make an affirmative finding that a proposed rule change is consistent with the Exchange Act and the applicable rules and regulations.<sup>32</sup>

For these reasons, the Commission believes it is appropriate to institute proceedings pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act<sup>33</sup> to determine whether the proposal should be approved or disapproved.

#### V. Procedure: Request for Written Comments

The Commission requests that interested persons provide written submissions of their data, views, and arguments with respect to the issues identified above, as well as any other concerns they may have with the proposal. In particular, the Commission invites the written views of interested persons concerning whether the proposed rule change is consistent with Sections 6(b)(5) and 6(b)(8) of the Act<sup>34</sup> or any other provision of the Act, or the rules and regulations thereunder. Although there do not appear to be any issues relevant to approval or disapproval that would be facilitated by an oral presentation of data, views, and arguments, the Commission will consider, pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Act,<sup>35</sup> any request for an

opportunity to make an oral presentation.<sup>36</sup>

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments regarding whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved by April 15, 2026. Any person who wishes to file a rebuttal to any other person's submission must file that rebuttal by April 29, 2026. The Commission asks that commenters address the sufficiency of the Exchange's statements in support of the proposal, in addition to any other comments they may wish to submit about the proposed rule change. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

##### Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<https://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-CBOE-2026-008 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-CBOE-2026-008. 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 (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the filing will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-CBOE-2026-008 and should be submitted on or before April 15, 2026.

<sup>36</sup> Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, as amended by the Securities Acts Amendments of 1975, Public Law 94-29 (June 4, 1975), grants to the Commission flexibility to determine what type of proceeding—either oral or notice and opportunity for written comments—is appropriate for consideration of a particular proposal by a self-regulatory organization. See Securities Acts Amendments of 1975, Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs, S. Rep. No. 75, 94th Cong., 1st Sess. 30 (1975).

<sup>28</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>29</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

<sup>30</sup> Rule 700(b)(3), Commission Rules of Practice, 17 CFR 201.700(b)(3).

<sup>31</sup> *Id.*

<sup>32</sup> *Id.*

<sup>33</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

<sup>34</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5); 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

<sup>35</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>24</sup> See 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5) and (8), respectively.

<sup>25</sup> For purposes of temporarily suspending the proposed rule change, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>26</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>37</sup>

**Vanessa A. Countryman,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05762 Filed 3–24–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice:12975]

### Notice of Determinations; Culturally Significant Object Being Imported for Exhibition—Determinations: Exhibition of Jean Siméon Chardin’s “The Water Cistern” Object

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: I hereby determine that a certain object being imported from abroad pursuant to an agreement with its foreign owner or custodian for temporary exhibition or display in the European Paintings galleries of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York, and at possible additional exhibitions or venues yet to be determined, is of cultural significance, and, further, that its temporary exhibition or display within the United States as aforementioned is in the national interest. I have ordered that Public Notice of these determinations be published in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Reed Liriano, Program Coordinator, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202–632–6471; email: [section2459@state.gov](mailto:section2459@state.gov)). The mailing address is U.S. Department of State, L/PPD, 2200 C Street NW (SA–5), Suite 5H03, Washington, DC 20522–0505.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The foregoing determinations were made pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236–3 of August 28, 2000, and Delegation of Authority No. 523 of December 22, 2021.

**Sherry C. Keneson-Hall,**

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2026–05774 Filed 3–24–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–05–P

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 12965]

### 60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Passport Demand Forecasting Survey

**ACTION:** Notice of request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are requesting comments on this collection from all interested individuals and organizations. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** The Department will accept comments from the public up to May 26, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- **Web:** Persons with access to the internet may comment on this notice by going to [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov). You can search for the document by entering “Docket Number: DOS–2026–0298” in the Search field. Then click the “Comment Now” button and complete the comment form.

- **Email:** [passportstudy@state.gov](mailto:passportstudy@state.gov).
- **Regular Mail:** Send written comments to: U.S. Department of State, attn.: Division Chief, CA/PPT/S/PPS/SP, 44132 Mercure Circle, P.O. Box 1227, Sterling, VA 20166–1227

You must include the DS form number (if applicable), information collection title, and the OMB control number in any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Direct requests for additional information regarding the collection listed in this notice, including requests for copies of the proposed collection instrument and supporting documents, to the Office of Passport Services, who may be reached at [passportstudy@state.gov](mailto:passportstudy@state.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- **Title of Information Collection:** Passport Demand Forecasting Survey.
- **OMB Control Number:** 1405–0177.
- **Type of Request:** Extension of a Currently Approved Collection.
- **Originating Office:** Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Passport Services.
- **Form Number:** SV2012–0006.
- **Respondents:** A national

representative sample of U.S. citizens, nationals, and any other categories of individuals who are entitled to a U.S. passport product.

- **Estimated Number of Respondents:** 24,000 survey respondents annually.
- **Estimated Number of Responses:** 24,000 survey respondents annually.
- **Average Time per Response:** 10 minutes.
- **Total Estimated Burden Time:** 4,000 hours.

- **Frequency:** Monthly.
- **Obligation to Respond:** Voluntary.

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department.
- Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that comments submitted in response to this Notice are public record. Before including any detailed personal information, you should be aware that your comments as submitted, including your personal information, will be available for public review.

**Abstract of proposed collection:** The Secretary of State is authorized to issue U.S. passports under 22 U.S.C. 211a. The Department of State, Passport Services Directorate in the Bureau of Consular Affairs administers the U.S. passport issuance program and operates passport agencies and application adjudication centers throughout the United States. As part of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative required the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State to implement a plan to require all U.S. citizen and non-citizen nationals to present a passport and/or other sufficient documentation when entering the U.S. from abroad. This resulted in an increase in demand for U.S. passports.

The Passport Demand Forecasting Survey requests information from the general public about the demand for U.S. passports, anticipated travel, and the demographic profile of the respondent. This voluntary survey is conducted on a monthly basis using responses from a randomly selected but nationally representative sample of the U.S. population, ages 18 and older. The information obtained from the survey is used to monitor and project the demand for U.S. passport books and U.S.

<sup>37</sup> 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(57) and (58).