collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please direct your written comments on this 60-Day Collection Notice to Austin Gerig, Director/Chief Data Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Tanya Ruttenberg via email to *PaperworkReductionAct@sec.gov* by October 23, 2026.

Dated: August 20, 2026.

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–17226 Filed 8–21–26; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[OMB Control No. 3235–0222]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 17f–1

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–2736

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the ''Commission'') is soliciting comments on the collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 17f–1 (17 CFR 270.17f–1) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the ''Act'') (15 U.S.C. 80a) is entitled: ''Custody of securities with members of national securities exchanges.'' Rule 17f–1 provides that any registered management investment company (''fund'') that wishes to place its assets in the custody of a national securities exchange member may do so only under a written contract that must be ratified initially and approved annually by a majority of the fund's board of directors. The written contract also must contain certain specified provisions. In addition, the rule requires an independent public accountant to examine the fund's assets in the custody of the exchange member at least three times during the fund's fiscal year. The rule requires the written contract and the certificate of each examination to be transmitted to the Commission. The purpose of the rule is to ensure the safekeeping of fund assets.

Commission staff estimates that each fund makes 1 response and spends an average of 3.5 hours annually in complying with the rule's requirements. Commission staff estimates that on an annual basis it takes: (i) 0.5 hours for the board of directors [1] to review and ratify the custodial contracts; and (ii) 3 hours for the fund's controller to assist the fund's independent public auditors in verifying the fund's assets. Approximately 4 funds rely on the rule annually, with a total of 4 responses.[2] Thus, the total annual internal hour burden for rule 17f–1 is approximately 14 hours.[3]

Funds that rely on rule 17f–1 generally use a lawyer to prepare the custodial contract for the board's review and to transmit the contract to the Commission. Commission staff estimates the cost of a lawyer to perform these tasks for a fund each year is $1,548.[4] Funds also must have an independent public accountant verify the fund's assets three times each year and prepare the certificate of examination. Commission staff estimates the annual cost for an independent public accountant to perform this service is $11,550.[5] Therefore, the total annual cost burden for a fund that relies on rule 17f–1 would be approximately $13,098.[6] As noted above, the staff estimates that 4 funds rely on rule 17f–1 each year, for an estimated total annualized external cost burden of $52,392.[7]

The estimate of average burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act, and is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules. Compliance with the collections of information required by rule 17f–1 is mandatory for funds that place their assets in the custody of a national securities exchange member. Responses will not be kept confidential. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Written comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please direct your written comments on this 60-Day Collection Notice to Austin Gerig, Director/Chief Data Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Tanya Ruttenberg via email to *PaperworkReductionAct@sec.gov* by October 23, 2026.

Dated: August 20, 2026.

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–17225 Filed 8–21–26; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[OMB Control No. 3235–0619]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 163

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services,

[1] Estimates of the number of hours are based on conversations with representatives of mutual funds that comply with the rule. The actual number of hours may vary significantly depending on individual fund assets. The hour burden for rule 17f–1 does not include preparing the custody contract because that would be part of customary and usual business practice.

[2] This estimate is based on a review of Form N—17f–1 filings over the last three years. In 2023 there were six unique filers, in 2024 there were three unique filers, and in 2025 there were four unique filers. (6 + 3 + 4)/3 = 4.33 funds, rounded down to an estimated 4 funds. 4 funds × 1 response per filer = 4 responses.

[3] This estimate is based on the following calculation: (4 respondents × 3.5 hours = 14 hours). The annual burden for rule 17f–1 does not include time spent preparing Form N–17f–1. The burden for Form N–17f–1 is included in a separate collection of information.

[4] This estimate is based on the following calculation: (2 hours of outside counsel time × $774 = $1,548). To calculate the occupational hourly rates used in this release, the Commission uses occupational mean hourly wage data from the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (''OEWS'') program of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (''BLS'') for ''Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other Financial Investments and Related Activities'' (''NAICS 523'').

[5] Commission staff estimates that this would require approximately 35 hours for an accountant to complete at a cost of approximately $330 per hour. 35 hours × $330 = $11,550. The occupational wage rate was derived using wage data from the OEWS program of BLS for NAICS 523.

[6] This estimate is based on the following calculation: $1,548 + $11,550 = $13,098.

[7] This estimate is based on the following calculation: 4 funds × $ 13,098 = $52,392.