



SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-508, OMB Control No. 3235-0565]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Revision: Rule 482

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From:

Securities and Exchange Commission

Office of FOIA Services

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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 collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) for revision and approval.

Like most issuers of securities, when an investment company (“fund”)¹ offers its shares to the public, its promotional efforts become subject to the advertising restrictions of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77) (the “Securities Act”). In recognition of the particular problems faced by funds that continually offer securities and wish to advertise their securities, the Commission has adopted advertising safe harbor rules. The most important of these is rule 482 (17 CFR 230.482) under the Securities Act, which, under certain circumstances, permits funds to advertise investment performance data, as well as other information. Rule 482 advertisements are deemed to be “prospectuses” under Section 10(b) of the Securities Act (15 U.S.C. 77j(b)).

¹ “Investment company” refers to both investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (“Investment Company Act”) (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 *et seq.*) and business development companies.

Rule 482 contains certain requirements regarding the disclosure that funds are required to provide in qualifying advertisements. These requirements are intended to encourage the provision to investors of information that is balanced and informative, particularly in the area of investment performance. For example, a fund is required to include disclosure advising investors to consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses, and other information described in the fund's prospectus, and highlighting the availability of the fund's prospectus and, if applicable, its summary prospectus. In addition, rule 482 advertisements that include performance data of open-end funds or insurance company separate accounts offering variable annuity contracts are required to include certain standardized performance information, information about any sales loads or other nonrecurring fees, and a legend warning that past performance does not guarantee future results. Such funds including performance information in rule 482 advertisements are also required to make available to investors month-end performance figures via website disclosure or by a toll-free telephone number, and to disclose the availability of the month-end performance data in the advertisement. The rule also sets forth requirements regarding the prominence of certain disclosures, requirements regarding advertisements that make tax representations, requirements regarding advertisements used prior to the effectiveness of the fund's registration statement, requirements regarding the timeliness of performance data, and certain required disclosures by money market funds.

Rule 482 advertisements must be filed with the Commission or, in the alternative, with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA").² This information collection differs from

² See note to rule 482(h) under the Securities Act, which states that "these advertisements, unless filed with [FINRA], are required to be filed in accordance with the requirements of §230.497." See also rule 24b-3 under the Investment Company Act (17 CFR 270.24b-3), which provides that any sales material, including rule 482 advertisements, shall be deemed filed with the Commission for purposes of Section 24(b) of the Investment Company Act upon filing with FINRA.

many other federal information collections that are primarily for the use and benefit of the collecting agency.

Rule 482 contains requirements that are intended to encourage the provision to investors of information that is balanced and informative, particularly in the area of investment performance. The Commission is concerned that in the absence of such provisions fund investors may be misled by deceptive rule 482 advertisements and may rely on less-than-adequate information when determining in which funds they should invest money. As a result, the Commission believes it is beneficial for funds to provide investors with balanced information in fund advertisements in order to allow investors to make better-informed decisions.

On November 7, 2024, the Commission adopted amendments to rule 482 to correct outdated cross-references and conform the risk statements that money market funds must include in their advertisements and sales literature to the risk statements that money market funds must include in their prospectuses.³ The 2023 money market fund reform adopting release amended the risk statements that money market funds must include in their prospectuses to align with the changes to money market fund regulations adopted in that release.⁴ However, rule 482 was not included in the amendments and the statements that rule 482 required were inconsistent with the recently amended regulatory framework for money market funds. Further, the risk statements that money market funds were required to include in prospectuses and advertisements have otherwise always been identical and the risk statements should not differ based on whether an investor is reviewing a prospectus or an advertisement. As a result, rule 482 included outdated

³ Conforming Amendments to Commission Rules and Forms, Investment Company Act Release No. 35377 (Nov. 7, 2024) (the “Adopting Release”).

⁴ See Money Market Fund Reforms; Form PF Reporting Requirements for Large Liquidity Fund Advisers; Technical Amendments to Form N-CSR and Form N-1A, Investment Company Act Release No. 34959 (July 12, 2023) [88 FR 51404 (Aug. 3, 2023)].

references to concepts that have been removed or significantly modified in underlying money market fund regulations (e.g., allowing temporary suspensions of redemptions). The amendments to rule 482 correct this error, make certain other conforming edits to further align the language of the risk statements with the risk statements that money market funds must include in their prospectuses, and correct inaccurate cross references to money market fund rules.

We estimate the total annual burden to comply with amended rule 482 to be 577,896 hours, at an average time cost of \$213,154,498. 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 and forms. The provision of information under rule 482 is necessary to obtain the benefits of the safe harbor offered by the rule. The information provided under rule 482 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 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. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted by **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information under the PRA unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Please direct your written comments to: Austin Gerig, Director/Chief Data Officer,
Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Tanya Ruttenberg, 100 F Street, NE Washington, DC
20549 or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov .

Dated: January 15, 2025.

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2025-01417 Filed: 1/21/2025 8:45 am; Publication Date: 1/22/2025]