

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Page 1 of \* 17

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
Form 19b-4

File No. \* SR 2021 - \* 06

Amendment No. (req. for Amendments \*)

Filing by Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board

Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Initial * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendment * <input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(A) * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(B) * <input type="checkbox"/>
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Pilot <input type="checkbox"/>	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Expires * <input type="text"/>	Rule <input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1) <input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4) <input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2) <input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5) <input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)		
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Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010

Section 806(e)(1) \*

Section 806(e)(2) \*

Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Section 3C(b)(2) \*

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document

### Description

Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked \*).

Proposed Rule Change to Further Extend the Regulatory Relief and Permit Dealers to Conduct Office Inspections Remotely until June 30, 2022 Pursuant to MSRB Rule G-27, on Supervision

### Contact Information

Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.

First Name \* Gail Last Name \* Marshall

Title \* Chief Regulatory Officer

E-mail \* gmarshall@msrb.org

Telephone \* (202) 838-1500 Fax

### Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange of 1934, Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board has duty caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duty authorized.

Date 10/26/2021

(Title \*)

By Ronald W. Smith

(Name \*)

Corporate Secretary

NOTE: Clicking the signature block at right will initiate digitally signing the form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.

rsmith@msrb.o  
rg  
Digitally signed by  
rsmith@msrb.org  
Date: 2021.10.26 09:25:00  
-04'00'

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and astericks.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.

**Form 19b-4 Information \***

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MSRB-2021-06 19b-4.docx

The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

**Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change \***

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MSRB-2021-06 Exhibit 1.docx

The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

**Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advanced Notice by Clearing Agencies \***

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

**Exhibit 2- Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications**

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Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

**Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire**

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Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

**Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies**

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The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.

**Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text**

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MSRB-2021-06 Exhibit 5.docx

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The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change

**Partial Amendment**

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If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

## **1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act or Act”),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (“MSRB” or “Board”) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) a proposed rule change to amend Supplementary Material .01, Temporary Relief for Completing Office Inspections, of MSRB Rule G-27, on supervision, to further extend the regulatory relief and permit brokers, dealers and municipal securities dealers (collectively, “dealers”) to conduct office inspections, due to be completed during calendar year 2022, remotely until June 30, 2022 (the “proposed rule change”).

The MSRB has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a “noncontroversial” rule change under Section 19(b)(3)(A)<sup>3</sup> of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>4</sup> thereunder, which renders the proposal effective upon receipt of this filing by the Commission. The MSRB proposes an operative date of January 1, 2022.

(a) The text of the proposed rule change is included as Exhibit 5. Text proposed to be added is underlined, and text proposed to be deleted is enclosed in brackets.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

## **2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization**

The Board approved the proposed rule change at its meeting on September 17, 2021. Questions concerning this filing may be directed to Gail Marshall, Chief Regulatory Officer; Bri Joiner, Director, Regulatory Compliance; or Mona Benach, Assistant Director, Market Regulation, at 202-838-1500.

## **3. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change**

(a) Purpose

The MSRB continues to closely monitor the impact on municipal market participants resulting from the coronavirus disease (“COVID-19”) pandemic. In light of the operational challenges and disruptions to normal business functions as a result of the pandemic, the MSRB

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<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> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

previously filed a proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness with the SEC in April 2020<sup>5</sup> and a second proposed rule change in December 2020<sup>6</sup> (“April relief” and “December relief”). In connection with the April relief, the MSRB provided additional time for dealers to complete certain supervisory obligations, including, among other things, that office inspections due to be conducted during calendar year 2020 could be conducted by March 31, 2021, but with the expectation that dealers would conduct their inspections on-site. The December relief allowed dealers to conduct their office inspections remotely that were due to be completed by March 31, 2021, for calendar year 2020 and those for calendar year 2021, subject to certain conditions being met.

Through stakeholder engagement, the MSRB has learned that dealers have delayed their return to office plans due to the continued pandemic and are considering or have implemented hybrid work arrangements dependent on functions and regulatory requirements. To that end, in order to address ongoing industry-wide concerns regarding having to conduct in-person office inspections while safety concerns related to the pandemic persist<sup>7</sup> and to align with pandemic-related regulatory relief provided by FINRA,<sup>8</sup> the MSRB is proposing amendments to Supplementary Material .01 of MSRB Rule G-27. The proposed amendments to Supplementary Material .01 of MSRB Rule G-27 would allow dealers to satisfy their office inspection obligations by permitting dealers to conduct calendar year 2022 office inspections remotely until June 30, 2022, without the need to conduct an on-site visit to such office or location.<sup>9</sup>

The conditions required to be met for dealers to avail themselves of the option to conduct office inspections remotely remain unchanged; however, technical amendments are being proposed to paragraphs (b) and (d) to reflect the additional extension of time under the proposed

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<sup>5</sup> See Exchange Act Release No. 88694 (April 20, 2020), 85 FR 23088 (April 24, 2020) (File No. SR-MSRB-2020-01).

<sup>6</sup> See Exchange Act Release No. 90621 (December 9, 2020), 85 FR 81254 (December 15, 2020) (File No. SR-MSRB-2020-09).

<sup>7</sup> See The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), What You Need to Know about Variants (stating, in part, that “the Delta variant causes more infections and spreads faster than earlier forms of the virus that causes COVID-19”) available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html> (updated September 3, 2021).

<sup>8</sup> On September 13, 2021, FINRA made a filing with the SEC for immediate effectiveness, noting that while some firms have taken affirmative steps to develop and implement phased-in office re-entry plans based on local conditions, there are many other firms that have not. See Release No. 34-93002 (September 15, 2021), 86 FR 52508 (September 21, 2021) (File No. SR-FINRA-2021-023).

<sup>9</sup> As previously noted, a temporary location established in response to the implementation of a business continuity plan is not deemed an office for purposes of complying with the office inspection obligations, under MSRB Rule G-27. See *supra* note 5.

rule change. Pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (d) of Supplementary Material .01 of MSRB Rule G-27, for dealers that elect to conduct their office inspections remotely, such dealers must (i) amend or supplement their written supervisory procedures as appropriate to provide for remote inspections that are reasonably designed to assist in detecting and preventing violations of, and achieving compliance with, applicable securities laws and regulations, and with applicable Board rules; (ii) use remote office inspections as part of an effective supervisory system, which would include the ongoing review of activities and functions occurring at all offices and locations; and (iii) make and maintain the required records related to remote office inspections.

The regulatory relief provided for under the proposed rule change will automatically sunset on June 30, 2022. During this time, the MSRB will continue to monitor the effectiveness of remote office inspections on dealers' overall supervisory systems and will consider more long-term regulatory initiatives that align with and promote the evolving ways dealers are doing business and supervising the activities of the dealer and its associated persons.

(b) Statutory Basis

The MSRB believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 15B(b)(2)(C) of the Exchange Act,<sup>10</sup> which provides that the MSRB's rules shall:

be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in municipal securities and municipal financial products, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market in municipal securities and municipal financial products, and, in general, to protect investors, municipal entities, obligated persons, and the public interest.

The proposed rule change is designed to provide dealers additional time to comply with certain obligations under MSRB rules for a temporary period of time; it does not relieve dealers from compliance with their core regulatory obligations to establish and maintain a system to supervise the activities of each of its associated persons that is reasonably designed to achieve compliance with applicable rules and regulations, and with applicable MSRB rules, which directly serve to protect investors, municipal entities, obligated persons, and the public interest. The MSRB believes extending the relief and affording dealers the option to conduct remote inspections in calendar year 2022, until June 30, 2022, is a prudent regulatory approach while continuing to serve the important investor protection objectives of the inspection requirements under these unique circumstances.

In a time when faced with unique challenges resulting from the sustained pandemic, the proposed rule change will afford dealers the ability to safeguard the health and safety of their personnel and to more effectively allocate resources to serve and promote the protection of investors, municipal entities, obligated persons and the public interest. In addition, the proposed rule change will also alleviate some of the operational challenges dealers may be experiencing,

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<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78o-4(b)(2)(C).

which will allow them to more effectively allocate resources to the operations that facilitate transactions in municipal securities and municipal financial products, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market in municipal securities and municipal financial products.

#### **4. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition**

Section 15B(b)(2)(C) of the Act requires that MSRB rules be designed not to impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.<sup>11</sup> In fact, the MSRB does not believe the proposed rule change will have any burden on competition because the proposed rule change treats all dealers equally in that all dealers have the option to elect to conduct remote inspections remotely through June 30, 2022. The goal of the proposed rule change is to grant additional time for dealers to meet their office inspection obligations, under Supplementary Material .01 of Rule G-27, while also determining how to best implement their return to office plans in a safe and effective manner during the exigent circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. The temporary relief afforded does not alter dealers underlying obligations under the rule.

#### **5. 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 on the proposed rule change.

#### **6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action**

Not applicable.

#### **7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) or Section 19(b)(7)(D)**

The MSRB has designated the proposed rule change as being immediately effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Exchange Act<sup>12</sup> and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.<sup>13</sup> The proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate. 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. In accordance with Rule 19b-

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<sup>11</sup> Id.

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

<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

4(f)(6),<sup>14</sup> the MSRB provided the SEC with written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, as specified in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) under the Act.<sup>15</sup>

**8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission**

Not applicable.

**9. Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act**

Not applicable.

**10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervisions Act**

Not applicable.

**11. Exhibits**

Exhibit 1 Completed Notice of Proposed Rule Change for Publication in the Federal Register

Exhibit 5 Text of Proposed Rule Change

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<sup>14</sup> Id.

<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34-\_\_\_\_\_ ; File No. SR-MSRB-2021-06)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Further Extend the Regulatory Relief and Permit Dealers to Conduct Office Inspections Remotely until June 30, 2022 Pursuant to MSRB Rule G-27, on Supervision

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act” or “Exchange Act”)<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on \_\_\_\_\_ the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (“MSRB”) 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 the MSRB. 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

The MSRB filed with the Commission a proposed rule change to amend Supplementary Material .01, Temporary Relief for Completing Office Inspections, of MSRB Rule G-27, on supervision, to further extend the regulatory relief and permit brokers, dealers and municipal securities dealers (collectively, “dealers”) to conduct office inspections, due to be completed during calendar year 2022, remotely until June 30, 2022 (the “proposed rule change”).

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

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

The MSRB has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a “noncontroversial” rule change under Section 19(b)(3)(A)<sup>3</sup> of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>4</sup> thereunder, which renders the proposal effective upon receipt of this filing by the Commission. The MSRB proposes an operative date of January 1, 2022.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the MSRB’s website at [www.msrb.org/Rules-and-Interpretations/SEC-Filings/2021-Filings.aspx](http://www.msrb.org/Rules-and-Interpretations/SEC-Filings/2021-Filings.aspx), at the MSRB’s principal office, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the MSRB 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. The MSRB 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

The MSRB continues to closely monitor the impact on municipal market participants resulting from the coronavirus disease (“COVID-19”) pandemic. In light of the operational challenges and disruptions to normal business functions as a result of the pandemic, the MSRB

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

<sup>4</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

previously filed a proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness with the SEC in April 2020<sup>5</sup> and a second proposed rule change in December 2020<sup>6</sup> (“April relief” and “December relief”). In connection with the April relief, the MSRB provided additional time for dealers to complete certain supervisory obligations, including, among other things, that office inspections due to be conducted during calendar year 2020 could be conducted by March 31, 2021, but with the expectation that dealers would conduct their inspections on-site. The December relief allowed dealers to conduct their office inspections remotely that were due to be completed by March 31, 2021, for calendar year 2020 and those for calendar year 2021, subject to certain conditions being met.

Through stakeholder engagement, the MSRB has learned that dealers have delayed their return to office plans due to the continued pandemic and are considering or have implemented hybrid work arrangements dependent on functions and regulatory requirements. To that end, in order to address ongoing industry-wide concerns regarding having to conduct in-person office inspections while safety concerns related to the pandemic persist<sup>7</sup> and to align with pandemic-related regulatory relief provided by FINRA,<sup>8</sup> the MSRB is proposing amendments to

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<sup>5</sup> See Exchange Act Release No. 88694 (April 20, 2020), 85 FR 23088 (April 24, 2020) (File No. SR-MSRB-2020-01).

<sup>6</sup> See Exchange Act Release No. 90621 (December 9, 2020), 85 FR 81254 (December 15, 2020) (File No. SR-MSRB-2020-09).

<sup>7</sup> See The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), What You Need to Know about Variants (stating, in part, that “the Delta variant causes more infections and spreads faster than earlier forms of the virus that causes COVID-19”) available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html> (updated September 3, 2021).

<sup>8</sup> On September 13, 2021, FINRA made a filing with the SEC for immediate effectiveness, noting that while some firms have taken affirmative steps to develop and implement phased-in office re-entry plans based on local conditions, there are many other firms that

Supplementary Material .01 of MSRB Rule G-27. The proposed amendments to Supplementary Material .01 of MSRB Rule G-27 would allow dealers to satisfy their office inspection obligations by permitting dealers to conduct calendar year 2022 office inspections remotely until June 30, 2022, without the need to conduct an on-site visit to such office or location.<sup>9</sup>

The conditions required to be met for dealers to avail themselves of the option to conduct office inspections remotely remain unchanged; however, technical amendments are being proposed to paragraphs (b) and (d) to reflect the additional extension of time under the proposed rule change. Pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (d) of Supplementary Material .01 of MSRB Rule G-27, for dealers that elect to conduct their office inspections remotely, such dealers must (i) amend or supplement their written supervisory procedures as appropriate to provide for remote inspections that are reasonably designed to assist in detecting and preventing violations of, and achieving compliance with, applicable securities laws and regulations, and with applicable Board rules; (ii) use remote office inspections as part of an effective supervisory system, which would include the ongoing review of activities and functions occurring at all offices and locations; and (iii) make and maintain the required records related to remote office inspections.

The regulatory relief provided for under the proposed rule change will automatically sunset on June 30, 2022. During this time, the MSRB will continue to monitor the effectiveness of remote office inspections on dealers' overall supervisory systems and will consider more long-term regulatory initiatives that align with and promote the evolving ways dealers are doing business and supervising the activities of the dealer and its associated persons.

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have not. See Release No. 34-93002 (September 15, 2021), 86 FR 52508 (September 21, 2021) (File No. SR-FINRA-2021-023).

<sup>9</sup> As previously noted, a temporary location established in response to the implementation of a business continuity plan is not deemed an office for purposes of complying with the office inspection obligations, under MSRB Rule G-27. See supra note 5.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The MSRB believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 15B(b)(2)(C) of the Exchange Act,<sup>10</sup> which provides that the MSRB's rules shall:

be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in municipal securities and municipal financial products, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market in municipal securities and municipal financial products, and, in general, to protect investors, municipal entities, obligated persons, and the public interest.

The proposed rule change is designed to provide dealers additional time to comply with certain obligations under MSRB rules for a temporary period of time; it does not relieve dealers from compliance with their core regulatory obligations to establish and maintain a system to supervise the activities of each of its associated persons that is reasonably designed to achieve compliance with applicable rules and regulations, and with applicable MSRB rules, which directly serve to protect investors, municipal entities, obligated persons, and the public interest. The MSRB believes extending the relief and affording dealers the option to conduct remote inspections in calendar year 2022, until June 30, 2022, is a prudent regulatory approach while continuing to serve the important investor protection objectives of the inspection requirements under these unique circumstances.

In a time when faced with unique challenges resulting from the sustained pandemic, the proposed rule change will afford dealers the ability to safeguard the health and safety of their personnel and to more effectively allocate resources to serve and promote the protection of investors, municipal entities, obligated persons and the public interest. In addition, the proposed rule change will also alleviate some of the operational challenges dealers may be experiencing,

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<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78o-4(b)(2)(C).

which will allow them to more effectively allocate resources to the operations that facilitate transactions in municipal securities and municipal financial products, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market in municipal securities and municipal financial products.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

Section 15B(b)(2)(C) of the Act requires that MSRB rules be designed not to impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.<sup>11</sup> In fact, the MSRB does not believe the proposed rule change will have any burden on competition because the proposed rule change treats all dealers equally in that all dealers have the option to elect to conduct remote inspections remotely through June 30, 2022. The goal of the proposed rule change is to grant additional time for dealers to meet their office inspection obligations, under Supplementary Material .01 of Rule G-27, while also determining how to best implement their return to office plans in a safe and effective manner during the exigent circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. The temporary relief afforded does not alter dealers underlying obligations under the rule.

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 on the proposed rule change.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time

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<sup>11</sup> Id.

as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>12</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>13</sup> thereunder. 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 (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-MSRB-2021-06 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-MSRB-2021-06. 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 website (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed

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

<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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 website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549 on official business days between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the MSRB. All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-MSRB-2021-06 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>14</sup>

Secretary

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

**Rule G-27: Supervision**

(a) – (g) No change.

**Supplementary Material****.01 Temporary Relief to Allow Remote Inspections for Calendar Year 2020; [and] Calendar Year 2021; and Through June 30 of Calendar Year 2022.**

(a) Each dealer obligated to complete an inspection of an office of municipal supervisory jurisdiction, branch office or non-branch location in calendar years 2020, [and calendar year] 2021 and 2022 pursuant to, as applicable, subsection (d)(i)(A), (B) and (C) of this rule, subject to the requirements of this Supplementary Material .01, may satisfy such obligation by conducting the applicable inspection(s) remotely without an on-site visit to such office(s) or location(s). In accordance with this Supplementary Material .01, the applicable inspection(s) for calendar year 2020 must be completed on or before March 31, 2021, and inspections for calendar year 2021 must be completed on or before December 31, 2021. [The temporary relief provided by this Supplementary Material .01 does not extend to a dealer's inspection requirements beyond calendar year 2021] With respect to a dealer's obligation to conduct an inspection of an office or location in calendar year 2022, a dealer has the option to conduct those inspections remotely only through June 30, 2022, and such inspections must be conducted in accordance with subsection (d)(i)(A), (B) and (C) of this rule. Consistent with subsection (g)(ii)(A)(7) of this rule, a temporary location established in response to the implementation of a business continuity plan is not deemed an office for purposes of complying with inspection obligations.

**(b) Written Supervisory Procedures for Remote Inspections.** Consistent with a dealer's obligation under subsection (c)(i) of this rule, a dealer that elects to conduct [each of] its [calendar year 2020 or calendar year 2021] inspections remotely for any of the calendar years specified in this supplementary material shall amend or supplement its written supervisory procedures as appropriate to provide for remote inspections that are reasonably designed to assist in detecting and preventing violations of, and achieving compliance with, applicable securities laws and regulations, and with applicable Board rules. Reasonably designed procedures for conducting remote inspections of offices or locations should include, among other things: (1) a description of the methodology, including technologies permitted by the dealer, that may be used to conduct remote inspections; and (2) the use of other risk-based systems employed generally by the dealer to identify and prioritize for review those areas that pose the greatest risk of potential violations of applicable securities laws and regulations, and of applicable Board rules.

(c) No change.

**(d) Documentation Requirement.** In addition to the documentation requirements under subsection (d)(ii) of this rule, a dealer that elects to conduct [each of] its [calendar year 2020 or calendar year 2021] inspections remotely, shall make and maintain a centralized record for each of calendar years 2020 and [calendar year] 2021, and for calendar year 2022 through June 30, 2022 only that separately identifies: (1) all offices or locations that had inspections that were

conducted remotely; and (2) any offices or locations for which the dealer determined to impose additional supervisory procedures or more frequent monitoring, as provided for under paragraph (c) of this Supplementary Material .01. A dealer's documentation of the results of a remote inspection for an office or location must identify any additional supervisory procedures or more frequent monitoring for that office or location that were imposed as a result of the remote inspection.

Supplementary Material .02 - .03 No change.

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