

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1400

To amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to improve collection and dissemination of information concerning bond prices and to improve price competition in bond markets, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 1999

Mr. BILLEY (for himself, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. COX, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. GANSKE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mrs. WILSON, Mr. LUTHER, Mr. SHADEGG, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. EHRlich) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to improve collection and dissemination of information concerning bond prices and to improve price competition in bond markets, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Bond Price Competi-
5 tion Improvement Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TRANSACTION REPORTING TO DEBT**
2 **SECURITIES.**

3 (a) AMENDMENT.—Subsection (d) of section 11A of
4 the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78k–
5 1(d)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(d) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSACTION
7 INFORMATION ON DEBT SECURITIES.—

8 “(1) ACTION REQUIRED.—The Commission
9 shall adopt such rules and take such other actions
10 under this section as may be necessary or appro-
11 priate, having due regard for the public interest, the
12 protection of investors, and the maintenance of fair
13 and orderly markets to assure the prompt, accurate,
14 reliable, and fair collection, processing, distribution,
15 and publication of transaction information, including
16 last sale data, with respect to covered debt securities
17 so that such information is available to all exchange
18 members, brokers, dealers, securities information
19 processors, and all other persons. In determining the
20 rules or other actions to take under this subsection,
21 the Commission shall take into consideration, among
22 other factors, private sector systems for the collec-
23 tion and distribution of transaction information on
24 corporate debt securities.

25 “(2) EFFECT ON OTHER AUTHORITY.—Nothing
26 in this subsection limits or otherwise alters the Com-

1 mission’s authority under the other provisions of this
2 section or any other provision of this title.

3 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
4 section:

5 “(A) COVERED DEBT SECURITIES.—The
6 term ‘covered debt securities’ means bonds, de-
7 bentures, or other debt instruments of an
8 issuer, other than—

9 “(i) exempted securities; and

10 “(ii) securities that the Commission
11 determines by rule to except from the re-
12 quirements of this subsection.

13 “(B) TRANSACTION INFORMATION.—The
14 term ‘transaction information’ means informa-
15 tion concerning such price, volume, and yield
16 information associated with a transaction in-
17 volving the purchase or sale of a covered debt
18 security as may be prescribed by the Commis-
19 sion by rule for purposes of this subsection.

20 “(C) FACTORS IN DEFINITIONAL RULES.—
21 In prescribing rules pursuant to this paragraph,
22 the Commission shall take into consideration
23 the extent to which a security is actively traded,
24 market liquidity, competition, the protection of

1 investors and the public interest, and other rel-
2 evant factors.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
4 11A(a)(3)(A) of such Act is amended by striking “(which
5 shall be in addition to the National Market Advisory
6 Board established pursuant to subsection (d) of this sec-
7 tion)”.

8 (c) DEADLINE FOR ACTION.—The Securities and Ex-
9 change Commission shall take action to implement the re-
10 quirements of section 11A(d) of the Securities Exchange
11 Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78k–1(d)), as amended by sub-
12 section (a) of this section, within 12 months after the date
13 of enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**

15 Section 3(a)(12)(B) of the Securities Exchange Act
16 of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(12)(B)) is amended by adding
17 at the end the following new clause:

18 “(ii) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A)(i) of
19 this paragraph, securities described in subpara-
20 graphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (42) of this sub-
21 section shall not be deemed to be exempted securi-
22 ties for purposes of section 11A of this title.”.

23 **SEC. 4. STUDIES.**

24 (a) STUDIES REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General
25 shall conduct a study of measures needed in the public

1 interest and for the protection of investors to improve the
2 prompt, accurate, reliable, and fair collection, processing,
3 distribution, and publication of information concerning
4 transactions—

5 (1) in debt securities as to which transaction in-
6 formation is collected but not disseminated pursuant
7 to section 11A(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of
8 1934, as amended by this Act (15 U.S.C. 78k–1(d));
9 and

10 (2) in municipal securities (as such term is de-
11 fined in section 3(a)(29) of such Act (15 U.S.C.
12 78c(a)(29)).

13 (b) COMMISSION AND MSRB PARTICIPATION.—The
14 Comptroller General shall conduct the study required by
15 subsection (a)(1) in consultation with the Securities and
16 Exchange Commission, and the study required by sub-
17 section (a)(2) in consultation with the Securities and Ex-
18 change Commission and the Municipal Securities Rule-
19 making Board.

20 (c) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—The Comptroller
21 General shall submit to the Congress a report on the stud-
22 ies required by subsection (a) within one year after the
23 date of enactment of this Act. Such reports shall include
24 an identification of the measures needed to improve the
25 prompt, accurate, reliable, and fair collection, processing,

- 1 distribution, and publication of information concerning
- 2 transactions in the debt securities and municipal securities
- 3 described in such subsection, including measures requiring
- 4 legislative or regulatory action.

