



**OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER  
MICHAEL W. FRERICHS**

**State Treasury Investments Portfolio  
Investment Policy Statement**

*Effective* October 1, 2021

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# **State Investments Portfolio Investment Policy Statement**

## **1.0 POLICY**

Under this instrument, the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer's Investment Policy Statement for the State Investments portfolio ("Policy"), it is the policy of the Illinois State Treasurer's Office ("Treasurer") to invest all moneys and securities deposited with the Treasurer (collectively, the "State Investments portfolio") in a manner that will provide safety to the principal investment, meet the State's daily cash flow demands, and seek the highest risk-adjusted investment return, using authorized instruments and supporting community development efforts, in accordance with all State statutes governing the investment of public funds.

This Policy applies to all investments of the State Investments portfolio entered into on or after the adoption of this instrument. Investments made prior to the adoption of this Policy will continue to be governed by the policy in effect at the time such investments were made, until the maturity or selling of such investments.

This Policy applies to any investment under the stewardship of the Treasurer for which no other specific investment policy exists.

## **2.0 INVESTMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

The Treasurer affirms the existence of the Investment Policy Committee. The Investment Policy Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer and include the following members of the Treasurer's staff: Deputy Treasurer & Chief Investment Officer, Chief of Staff, Chief Financial Products Officer, Chief Legislative and Policy Officer, General Counsel, Director of State Investments and Banking, Director of Investment Analysis and Due Diligence, Director of Fiscal Operations, Director of IPTIP Investments, Director of ePAY and The Illinois Funds, Director of Portfolio and Risk Analytics, Director of Corporate Governance & Sustainable Investments, State Investments - Portfolio Investment & Cash Management Officer and anyone else deemed appropriate by the Treasurer.

The Deputy Treasurer & Chief Investment Officer, or anyone else deemed appropriate by the Treasurer, who bears responsibility for the administration, planning, development, and implementation of all financial and investment strategies per the direction of the Treasurer, shall assist the Treasurer in executing the duties and activities of the Investment Policy Committee.

## **3.0 OBJECTIVE**

The primary objective in the investment of the State Investments portfolio is to ensure the safety of principal. In addition, the Treasurer's objective to manage liquidity for payment of the State's financial obligations and provide the highest return on investment, using authorized instruments, while prudently exercising sustainable stewardship in its investment decision-making.

### **3.1 SAFETY**

The safety of principal is the foremost objective of the state's investments. State Investments shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the portfolio. To achieve this objective, diversification, as defined in Section 10.0 of this Policy, and investment stewardship is required to ensure that the Treasurer prudently manages market, operational, reputational, financial, legal, sustainability, interest rate, and credit risks.

### **3.2 LIQUIDITY**

The State Investments portfolio shall remain sufficiently liquid to enable the State to meet all operating and cash flow requirements that might be reasonably projected.

### **3.3 RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

The State Investments portfolio shall be designed and constructed to obtain the highest available risk-adjusted return, given the objectives of safety of principal and liquidity. The Director of State Investments and Banking or equivalent thereto shall seek to obtain the highest available return, using authorized investments during budgetary and economic cycles as mandated by Section 1.0 of this Policy. When the Treasurer deposits funds in support of community development efforts, the rate of return may include benefits other than direct investment earnings, as authorized by Section 7 of the Deposit of State Moneys Act (15 ILCS 520/7).

The rate of return achieved on the State Investments portfolio shall be measured at regular intervals against relevant industry benchmarks that the Investment Policy Committee established, to determine the investment decision effectiveness of meeting investment goals. The benchmarks shall be reviewed a minimum of every two (2) years to ensure accuracy and relevance.

### **3.4 SUSTAINABILITY**

The Treasurer seeks to invest all funds under its control in a manner that provides the highest risk-adjusted investment return using authorized instruments. Pursuant to the Illinois Sustainable Investing Act (30 ILCS 238/1 et seq.), the Treasurer shall prudently integrate sustainability factors into its investment decision-making, investment analysis, portfolio construction, risk management, due diligence, and investment ownership to maximize anticipated financial returns, minimize projected risk, and more effectively execute its fiduciary duty. As such, consistent with achieving the foremost investment objectives of the Treasurer set forth herein, the Treasurer and its agents shall prudently integrate sustainability factors into its investment processes.

The sustainability analysis adds an additional layer of rigor to the fundamental analytical approach and helps assess the reliability of future cash flows and debt repayments. Similar to financial accounting, sustainability accounting has both confirmatory and predictive value, thus, it can be used to evaluate past performance, future planning and decision-making. As a complement to financial accounting, it provides a more complete view of an investment fund or portfolio company's performance on material factors likely to impact its long-term value.

Sustainability factors may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Corporate governance and leadership factors, such as the independence of boards and auditors, the expertise and competence of corporate boards and executives, systemic risk management practices, executive compensation structures, transparency and reporting, leadership diversity, regulatory and legal compliance, shareholder rights, and ethical conduct.
- b) Environmental factors that may have an adverse or positive financial impact on investment performance, such as greenhouse gas emissions, air quality, energy management, water and wastewater management, waste and hazardous materials management, and ecological impacts.
- c) Social capital factors that may have an adverse or positive impact on customers, local communities, the public, and/or government, which may impact investment performance. Social capital factors may include human rights, customer welfare, customer privacy, data security, access and affordability, selling practices and product labeling, community reinvestment, and community relations.
- d) Human capital factors that recognize that the workforce is an important asset to delivering long-term value, including factors such as labor practices, responsible contractor and

responsible bidder policies, employee health and safety, employee engagement, diversity and inclusion, and incentives and compensation.

- e) Business model and innovation factors that reflect an ability to plan and forecast opportunities and risks, and whether a company can create long-term shareholder value, including factors such as supply chain management, materials sourcing and efficiency, business model resilience, product design and life cycle management, and physical impacts of climate change.

The Treasurer shall develop policy guidelines to integrate material sustainability risks relevant to particular financial products, investment funds, companies, and government bodies, which shall be provided to internal and external investment managers to factor into their investment decision-making. The policy guidelines for integrating sustainability factors shall be reviewed and updated a minimum of every two (2) years to ensure consistency within the rapidly evolving global economy.

The State Investments portfolio's investment officers shall identify and select authorized investment options that meet the Treasurer's criteria for sustainable investing opportunities and risk parameters and fall within the framework of the investment objectives.

#### **4.0 ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Authorized investment officers and employees in policy-making positions shall refrain from personal business activity that could (a) conflict, or give the appearance of a conflict, with proper execution of the investment program or (b) impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. Such individuals shall disclose to the Treasurer any material and relevant financial interests, as determined by the Treasurer, in financial institutions that conduct business within the State, and they shall further disclose any personal financial investment positions that could be related to the performance of the State Investments portfolio. In addition, such individuals shall subordinate their personal investment transactions to those of the State Investments portfolio, particularly with regard to the time of purchases and sales.

#### **5.0 AUTHORIZED BROKER/DEALERS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

Authorized investment staff shall utilize the Treasurer's approved list of broker/dealers and financial institutions when selecting institutions to provide investment services.

The security brokers/dealers shall be selected according to their creditworthiness and their financial significance in the State, which shall be measured in terms of the location of the broker/dealer's corporate office, the number of full-time employees, the size of its payroll, or the extent that the broker/dealer has an economic presence in the State. The list may include "primary" dealers or regional dealers who qualify under Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 17 CFR § 15Cc3-1 (Net Capital Requirements for Brokers or Dealers).

All brokers/dealers interested in becoming qualified parties for investment transactions must supply the Treasurer's authorized investment staff with the following documents or the equivalent acceptable to the Treasurer, where applicable:

- a) Audited financial statements or a published Statement of Condition;
- b) Proof of minority-, woman-, disabled-, and/or veteran-owned or -managed broker/dealer status;
- c) A signed copy of the Treasurer's account authorization agreement;

- d) Proof of National and State of Illinois registration;
- e) Completed Counterparty Questionnaire;
- f) Certification of notice and acknowledgment of this Policy; and
- g) Any other documentation deemed necessary by the Treasurer.

If approved, a broker/dealer will be placed on a list of qualified parties for investment transactions. An annual review of the financial condition and registration of qualified parties will be conducted by the Treasurer's authorized investment staff. More frequent reviews may be conducted if warranted.

The Treasurer shall maintain a list of approved financial institutions, which shall be utilized by authorized investment officers. Pursuant to 15 ILCS 505/30, the Treasurer shall review a financial institution's Community Reinvestment Act ("CRA") rating, record, and current level of financial commitment to the community prior to making a decision to utilize or determine the eligibility of such financial institutions. No State funds may be deposited in any financial institution unless the institution has a current satisfactory or outstanding rating under the CRA. The State Treasurer may give preference to financial institutions that have a current rating of outstanding under the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977.

State funds may not be deposited in any financial institution unless the Treasurer's investment staff have conducted a safety and soundness review of the financial institution by consulting various bank rating services. If the financial institution has not yet been rated by the bank rating services, the institution may be eligible for a deposit that at maturity will not exceed \$250,000. The amount and duration of deposits shall be based on the safety and soundness review, in accordance with guidelines established by the Investment Policy Committee, and the diversification limits set forth in Section 10.0 of this Policy. No public deposit may be made, except in a qualified public depository, as defined by the Deposit of State Moneys Act. 15 ILCS 520/1 *et seq.*

#### **5.1 EXTERNAL INVESTMENT CONSULTANTS**

To the extent that the Investment Policy Committee deems it advisable to hire external investment consultants, it may do so in accordance with the Treasurer's procurement rules at 44 Ill. Admin. Code § 1400.

#### **5.2 PREFERENCE FOR BROKER/DEALERS OWNED BY MINORITIES, WOMEN, MILITARY VETERANS, AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Pursuant to 15 ILCS 505/30, it shall be the aspirational goal of the Treasurer to use businesses owned by or under the control of qualified veterans of the armed forces of the United States, qualified service-disabled veterans, minority persons, women, or persons with a disability for not less than 25% of the total dollar of purchases of investment securities, including, but not limited to, the use of broker/dealers. Beginning with fiscal year 2019, and at least annually thereafter, the Treasurer shall measure and report its utilization of broker/dealers owned or under the control of qualified veterans of the armed forces of the United States, qualified service-disabled veterans, minority persons, women, or persons with a disability. The report shall be published on the Treasurer's official website.

The terms "minority person", "woman", "person with a disability", "minority-owned business", "women-owned business", "business owned by a person with a disability", and "control" have the meanings provided in Section 1 of the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 575/1 *et seq.*). The terms "veteran", "qualified veteran-owned small business", "qualified service-disabled veteran-owned small business", "qualified service-disabled veteran", and "armed forces of the United States" have the meanings provided in Article 1 of the

Illinois Procurement Code (30 ILCS 500/1 et seq.).

To the greatest extent feasible within the bounds of financial and fiduciary prudence, it is the policy of the Treasurer to remove any barriers to the full participation in investment transactions afforded via the investment program by actively identifying and considering for hire brokers/dealers that provide proof of minority-, female-, disabled-, and/or veteran-owned or -managed status. The Treasurer shall establish a process by which said specially claimed statuses are verified, and a review shall be conducted at fixed intervals to ensure that special statuses continue to apply.

**5.3 PREFERENCE FOR BROKER/DEALERS HEADQUARTERED IN ILLINOIS**

The Treasurer shall seek to provide preference to qualified brokers/dealers that provide proof that their corporate headquarters is located in the State of Illinois. In doing so, the Treasurer shall establish a process to verify the location of broker/dealers’ corporate headquarters, and a review shall be conducted at fixed intervals to ensure that the Illinois-based location continues to apply.

Beginning with fiscal year 2019, and at least annually thereafter, the Treasurer shall measure and report its utilization of broker/dealers with headquarters located in the State of Illinois. The report shall be published on the Treasurer’s official website.

**6.0 AUTHORIZED AND SUITABLE INVESTMENTS**

The following investments are authorized pursuant, subject to the Deposit of State Moneys Act (15 ILCS 520/22.5):

- a) Federally guaranteed obligations that receive the full faith and credit of the United States of America (“United States”) as to principal and interest;
- b) Obligations of agencies of the United States, as originally issued by the agencies. For purposes of this Section, the term “agencies of the United States” includes the following: federal land banks, federal intermediate credit banks, banks for cooperative, federal farm credit banks or any other entity authorized to issue debt obligations under the Farm Credit Act of 1971 as amended, the federal home loan banks and the federal home loan mortgage corporation, and any other agency created or supported through an Act of Congress and issues United States dollar-denominated debt;
- c) Obligations of instrumentalities of the United States, as originally issued by the instrumentalities. For the purposes of this section, the term “instrumentalities of the United States” is an instrumentality created or supported through an Act of Congress and issues United States dollar-denominated debt or other obligations that are issued or guaranteed by supranational entities; provided, that at the time of investment, the entity has the United States government as a shareholder;
- d) Obligations of a foreign government that are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of that government as to principal and interest and rated at one (1) of the three (3) highest classifications established by at least two (2) standard rating services, (upper medium grade for the long-term rating of A- and above or equivalent), and only if the foreign government has not defaulted and has met its payment obligations in a timely manner on all similar obligations for at least twenty-five (25) years prior to the time of acquiring those obligations;
- e) Interest-bearing bonds, issued by counties or municipal corporations of the State of Illinois, whether the interest earned thereon is taxable or tax-exempt under federal law. The bonds shall be registered in the name of the State of Illinois or held under a custodial agreement at a financial institution. The bonds shall be rated at the time of purchase at one (1) of the three (3) highest classifications established by at least one (1) standard rating service with

nationally recognized expertise in rating bonds of states and their political subdivisions, (upper medium grade for the long-term rating of A- and above or equivalent). The maturity or pre-refunded date(s) of the bonds authorized by this subsection shall, at the time of purchase, not exceed ten (10) years. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a longer maturity is authorized, if the State of Illinois has a put option to tender the bonds within ten (10) years from the date of purchase;

- f) Repurchase agreements of government securities having the meaning set out in the Government Securities Act of 1986 (15 U.S.C. § 780-5);
- g) Short-term obligations of either corporations or limited liability companies organized in the United States with assets exceeding \$500,000,000 and rated at the time of purchase at one (1) of the two (2) highest classifications established by at least two (2) standard rating services (short-term rating of A-2 and above or equivalent). At the time of purchase, the maturity or pre-refunded date(s) shall not exceed nine (9) months to maturity;
- h) Long-term obligations of either corporations or limited liability companies organized in the United States that have a significant presence in the State of Illinois, with assets exceeding \$500,000,000, and rated at the time of purchase at one (1) of the three (3) highest classifications established by at least two (2) standard rating services, (upper medium grade for the long-term rating of A- and above or equivalent). At the time of purchase, the maturity or pre-refunded date(s) shall not exceed ten (10) years;
- i) Money market mutual funds registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 15 U.S.C. §80a-1;
- j) Securities in accordance with Federal Financial Institution Examination Council guideline only if the securities are collateralized at a satisfactory level to assure the safety of the securities, taking into account market value fluctuation. The securities may be collateralized by cash or collateral acceptable under Sections 11 and 11.1 of the Deposit of State Moneys Act. Securities lending cash collateral may be invested according to the Securities Lending Agreement between the Treasurer and the Treasurer's Agent;
- k) Interest-bearing savings accounts, interest-bearing certificates of deposit, interest-bearing time deposits or any other investments constituting direct obligations of any bank as defined by the Illinois Banking Act (205 ILCS 5/1 et seq.);
- l) Dividend-bearing share accounts, share certificate accounts, or class of share accounts of a credit union chartered under the laws of the State of Illinois or the United States that maintains its principal office in the State of Illinois;
- m) Interest-bearing accounts for the deposit of funds in support of local community development efforts;
- n) The Illinois Public Treasurers Investment Pool, created under Section 17 of the State Treasurer Act (15 ILCS 505/17);
- o) Investments made in accordance with the Technology Development Act (30 ILCS 265/1 et seq.);
- p) Investments made in accordance with the Student Investment Act (110 ILCS 991/1 et seq.);



q) Investments constituting direct obligations of a community development financial institution, which is certified by the United State Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions Fund and is operating in the State of Illinois; and

r) Investments constituting direct obligations of a minority depository institution, as designated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, that is operating in the State of Illinois; and

s) Investments to support Illinois infrastructure development projects.

### **6.1 PRIVATE DEBT PLACEMENT**

The Treasurer may invest any State money in the Treasury, excluding specific funds noted in the Deposit of State Moneys Act (15 ILCS 520/22.5), in intergovernmental investment agreements with the Office of the Illinois State Comptroller in order to facilitate the payment of vouchers, when the total amount of vouchers presented exceeds the funds available in the General Revenue Fund by \$1,000,000,000 or more. The total outstanding investments, at any given time, shall not exceed \$2,000,000,000.

The interest rate will be tied to the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR), the Federal Funds Rate or an equivalent market established variable rate. At no time shall the interest rate exceed the rate established under the State Prompt Payment Act. 30 ILCS 540/1 et seq. or the timely pay interest rate under Section 368a of the Illinois Insurance Code.

The Treasurer and Comptroller will mutually agree upon the funds in the Treasury that will be utilized for the investment(s).

The Treasurer and Comptroller shall enter into a written intergovernmental agreement that specifies the terms of each investment, including, but not limited to, the repayment of the principal and interest. The terms of each investment will be posted to the Treasurer's official website.

### **6.2 ADMINISTRATIVE TRUST FUNDS**

Pursuant to the Deposit of State Moneys Act (15 ILCS 520/ 1 et seq.), the Treasurer may invest or reinvest up to five percent (5%) of the College Savings Pool Administrative Trust Fund, the Illinois Public Treasurer's Investment Pool (IPTIP) Administrative Trust Fund and the State Treasurer's Administrative Fund that is not needed for current expenditures due or about to become due in common or preferred stocks of publicly traded corporations, partnerships, or limited liability companies organized in the United States, with assets exceeding \$500,000,000 if:

- a) The purchases do not exceed one percent (1%) of the corporation's or the limited liability company's outstanding common and preferred stock;
- b) No more than ten percent (10%) of the total funds are invested in any one publicly traded corporation, partnership, or limited liability company; and
- c) The corporation or the limited liability company has not been placed on the list of restricted companies by the Illinois Investment Policy Board under Section 1-110.16 of the Illinois Pension Code. 40 ILCS 5/1-110.16.

### **7.0 INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

The following investment restrictions apply to the State Investments portfolio:

- a) Any investments not authorized by this or any other investment policy or applicable law are prohibited;
- b) Repurchase agreements may only be executed with approved financial institutions or broker/dealers that meet the Treasurer's standards, which include mutual execution of a Master Repurchase Agreement adopted by the Treasurer;
- c) Investments in derivative products and leveraging of assets through reverse repurchase agreements are prohibited;
- d) All qualified repurchase agreement dealers, commercial paper issuers, and corporate bond issuers must have a corporate headquarters, corporate office, or operating location in the State of Illinois and that location must retain full-time staff employed within the State of Illinois or the dealer must have a significant economic presence in the State of Illinois as determined by the Treasurer;
- e) Commercial paper with a credit rating or evaluation that is derived from any factor other than the full faith and credit of the issuing institution and/or the guarantee of the parent company is prohibited;
- f) Obligations may not be purchased from a corporation or limited liability company that has been placed on the list of restricted companies by the Illinois Investment Policy Board under Section 1-110.16 of the Illinois Pension Code. 40 ILCS 5/1-110.16;
- g) Asset-backed securities and mortgage-backed securities of any kind are prohibited; and
- h) Investments may not be made in any savings and loan association unless a commitment by the savings and loan association, executed by the president or chief executive officer of that association, is submitted in the form required by Section 22.5 of the Deposit of State Moneys Act. 15 ILCS 520/22.5.

## **8.0 COLLATERALIZATION**

The following shall apply:

- a) All State deposits, repurchase agreements, and securities lending shall be secured as required by the Treasurer and provided for by the Deposit of State Moneys Act (15 ILCS 520/1 et seq.) and the Treasurer's Acceptable Collateral Listing, which may change from time to time. The Treasurer may take possession and title to any securities held as collateral and hold such securities until it is prudent to dispose of them.
- b) Securities lending cash or securities collateral shall have the meaning set forth in the Securities Lending Agreement between the Treasurer and a financial institution ("Treasurer's Agent"). The Treasurer's Agent may reinvest cash collateral as indicated in the Securities Lending Agreement. The Treasurer or Treasurer's Agent may take possession and title to any cash or securities held as collateral and hold such securities according to the Securities Lending Agreement.

## **9.0 CUSTODY AND SAFEKEEPING**

The custody and safekeeping of collateral will be processed by Illinois financial institutions selected in compliance with the Treasurer's procurement rules at 44 Ill. Adm. Code 1400. Financial institutions selected by the Treasurer to perform custody and safekeeping services will be required to enter into a contractual agreement approved by the Treasurer's General Counsel.

All security transactions entered into by the Treasurer shall be conducted on a delivery-versus-payment (“DVP”) or receipt-versus-payment (“RVP”) basis. Securities shall be held by a safekeeping agent designated by the Treasurer and evidenced by safekeeping receipts or a statement of holdings.

**10.0 DIVERSIFICATION**

In general, the primary purpose of diversification is to control credit and market risk. The State Investments portfolio shall be diversified to mitigate the risk of loss resulting from concentration of assets in a specific maturity, a specific issuer, or a specific class of securities. In order to properly manage any risk attendant to the investment of State assets, the State Investments will observe the following diversification guidelines, at the time of purchase:

- a) The State Investments portfolio shall seek to achieve diversification in the portfolio by distributing investments among authorized investment categories among financial institutions, issuers and broker/dealers.
- b) The State Investments portfolio shall not hold time deposits that constitute more than 10% of any single financial institution’s total deposits.
- c) No financial institution shall at any time hold more than \$100,000,000 of time deposits other than community development deposits, described in Section 7 of the Deposit of State Moneys Act. 15 ILCS 520/7. Provided, however, that financial institutions that, as a result of a merger or acquisition, hold deposits that exceed \$100,000,000.00 may continue to be eligible to hold deposits that do not exceed the amount of deposits held on the date of the merger or acquisition.
- d) The State Investments portfolio shall not hold obligations of corporations or limited liability companies that exceed ten percent (10%) of the corporation’s or the limited liability company’s outstanding obligations.
- e) The State Investments portfolio shall not hold obligations of a municipality’s bonds that exceed ten percent (10%) of the municipality’s outstanding obligations.
- f) The State Investments portfolio shall not be invested in more than ten percent (10%) of each prime money market fund’s assets (including all share classes) at any given time;
- g) The State Investments portfolio shall not invest more the five percent (5%) to support Illinois infrastructure development projects;
- h) The State Investments portfolio shall not contain investments that exceed the following diversification limits. These limits will apply to the total assets in the State Investments portfolio at the time of the origination or purchase. As maturities and or calls of instruments occur, these limits will be monitored and adjusted accordingly:
  - i. With the exception of cash equivalents, treasury securities and time deposits, as defined in Section 6.0 of this Policy, no more than fifty five percent (55%) of the State Investments portfolio shall be invested in other investment categories;
  - ii. No more than one-third (33%) of the State Investments portfolio shall be invested in short-term obligations of corporations or limited liability companies as defined by Section 6.0(g) of this Policy;

- iii. No more than five percent (5%) of the State Investments portfolio shall be invested in short-term obligations of any one corporation or limited liability company as defined by Section 6.0(g) of this Policy;
- iv. No more than twenty percent (20%) of the State Investments portfolio shall be invested in long-term obligations of corporations or limited liability companies as defined by Section 6.0(h) of this Policy;
- v. No more than five percent (5%) of the State Investments portfolio shall be invested in long-term obligations of any one corporation or limited liability company as defined by Section 6.0(h) of this Policy
- vi. No more than ten percent (10%) of the State Investments portfolio shall be invested in municipal securities issued by counties or municipal corporations of the State of Illinois as defined by Section 6.0(e) of this Policy;
- vii. No more than three percent (3%) of the State Investments portfolio shall be invested in any single issuer of municipal securities issued by counties or municipal corporations of the State of Illinois as defined by Section 6.0(e) of this Policy;
- viii. If invested in more than three (3) prime money market funds, then no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the portfolio's investments to prime money market funds may be placed with any one (1) prime money market fund option;
- ix. No more than three-fourths of one percent ( $\frac{3}{4}$  of 1%) of the State Investments portfolio shall be invested in foreign government securities, not to exceed a five (5) year maturity, as defined in Section 6.0(h) of this Policy;
- x. No more than fifty-five percent (55%) of the State Investments portfolio shall be allocated to investments greater than two (2) years and less than or equal to three (3) years;
- xi. No more than (thirty percent) 30% of the State Investments portfolio shall be allocated to investments greater than three (3) years and less than or equal to four (4) years, not including foreign government securities;
- xii. No more than (twenty percent) 20% of the State Investments portfolio shall be allocated to investments greater than four (4) years and less than or equal to five (5) years;
- xiii. No more than (fifteen percent) 15% of the State Investments portfolio shall be allocated to investments greater than five (5) years and no less than or equal to ten (10) years; and
- xiv. There shall be no limit to the percentage of the State Investments portfolio that may be allocated to investments with a zero to two-year (0- to 2) maturity band.

## **11.0 INTERNAL CONTROLS**

The Treasurer and the Chief Investment Officer, or anyone else deemed appropriate by the Treasurer with the assistance of the Investment Policy Committee, shall establish a system of internal controls and written operational procedures that shall be documented and filed with the Treasurer's Chief Internal Auditor for review. The controls shall be designed to prevent the loss of public funds arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, unanticipated changes in financial markets, or imprudent actions by authorized investment officers.

- a) **Asset Allocation:** The allocation of assets within investment categories authorized under Section 6.0 of this Policy shall be approved by the Chief Investment Officer or anyone else deemed appropriate by the Treasurer at least annually.
- b) **Competitive Bidding:** Authorized investment officers shall obtain competitive bids from at least three (3) broker/dealers prior to executing the purchase or sale of any authorized investments. Reverse inquiry investments, investments in a new issue, and investments defined under Sections 6(a)-(b) of this Policy purchased from the agency discount window are exempt from this provision.
- c) **Certificates of Deposit:** Authorized investment officers shall purchase certificates of deposit on the basis of a qualified financial institution's ability to pay a required rate of interest to the Treasurer. Such rate is generally determined on the basis of Treasury or other appropriate market rates for a comparable term.

## **12.0 LIABILITY**

The standard of care to be used by authorized investment officers shall be the "prudent person" standard, which shall be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio. Authorized investment officers, acting in accordance with written procedures and this Policy and exercising due diligence, will be relieved of personal liability for an individual security's credit risk or market price changes, provided deviations from expectations are reported in a timely manner and necessary action is taken to control adverse developments.

## **13.0 REPORTING**

Monthly reports shall be presented to the Investment Policy Committee for its review. The monthly report shall contain sufficient information to enable the Investment Policy Committee to review the investment portfolio, its effectiveness in meeting the needs of the Treasurer for safety, liquidity, rate of return, and diversification, and the general performance of the State Investments portfolio. The following information shall be included in the monthly reports:

- a) The total amount of funds held by the Treasurer;
- a) The current and historic performance of the portfolio as compared to benchmarks established by the Treasurer;
- b) The asset allocation for the investments made by the Treasurer;
- c) Any circumstances resulting in a deviation from the standards established in Section 10.0 of this Policy; and
- d) Impact of any material change in investment policy adopted during the month.

The Treasurer shall provide performance reports in compliance with established industry reporting standards within six (6) months following the adoption of this Policy. Such reporting standards shall be in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP").

## **14.0 EXTERNAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Investment Policy Committee may convene an External Advisory Committee at the direction of the Treasurer to provide independent advice and counsel to the Investment Policy Committee on investment policy, investments, and investment related issues for the benefit of all Illinois citizens.

## **15.0 EXCEPTIONS**

The Deputy Treasurer & Chief Investment Officer or anyone else deemed appropriate by the Treasurer may issue exceptions to this Policy provided that they do not conflict with applicable State statutes governing the use and investment of the State Investments portfolio including, but not limited to, the State Treasurer Act, the Treasurer as Custodian of Funds Act, the Deposit of State Moneys Act, the Securities Safekeeping Act, and any other applicable statutes and it is reasonably assured that deviating from this Policy is in the best interest of the taxpayers.

## **16.0 EMERGENCY POWERS**

In the event of an emergency, the Treasurer may, at his or her discretion, invoke emergency powers and suspend any or all of the provisions of this Policy, provided that:

- a) The Treasurer shall, even in the event that emergency powers are invoked, comply with all State statutes governing the use and investment of the State Investments portfolio including, but not limited to, the State Treasurer Act, the Treasurer as Custodian of Funds Act, the Deposit of State Moneys Act, the Securities Safekeeping Act, and any other applicable statute;
- b) The Treasurer reasonably believes that deviating from this Policy is in the best interest of the taxpayers; and
- c) Within thirty (30) days of invoking emergency powers the Treasurer shall provide an explanation in writing to the Chief Internal Auditor and the Investment Policy Committee, a copy of which shall be posted on the Treasurer's website that includes the following:
  - i. The date and time that the emergency powers were invoked;
  - ii. The date and time that emergency powers were repealed;
  - iii. The Section or Sections of this Policy that were affected by the emergency or use of emergency powers; and
  - iv. The reason for invoking emergency powers resulting in the deviation from this Policy.

## **17.0 STATUTORY REFERENCES**

Any statutory references in this policy shall include any amendments to or repeals of those statutes.

## **18.0 AMENDMENTS**

The Treasurer reserves the right to amend this Policy at any time.

## Appendix A

### **Investment Policy Statement for the State Investments Portfolio's Externally Managed Municipal Securities**

#### **1.0 POLICY**

Under this instrument, the Illinois State Treasurer's Investment Policy for Externally Managed Municipal Securities ("Policy"), it is the policy of the Illinois State Treasurer's Office ("Treasurer") to invest all funds under its control in a manner that provides the highest risk-adjusted investment return, using authorized instruments.

This Policy applies to all investments entered into by any of the Treasurer's external investment managers of municipal securities on or after the adoption of this Policy.

#### **2.0 OBJECTIVE**

The primary objective in the investment of State funds by any external investment manager of municipal securities is to ensure the safety of principal and provide the highest risk-adjusted investment return, using authorized instruments.

#### **2.1 SAFETY**

The safety of principal is an objective of the investment program. Investments managed externally on behalf of the Treasurer shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the portfolio. To achieve this objective, diversification, as defined in Section 7.0 of this Policy, is required to ensure that the Treasurer prudently manages market, operational, reputational, financial, legal, sustainability, interest rate and credit risks.

#### **2.2 RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

The investment portfolio shall be designed and constructed to obtain the highest available return, given the safety of principal objective. The external investment manager shall seek to obtain the highest available return, using the authorized investments set forth in Section 5.0 of this Policy.

The rate of return achieved on the externally managed funds, for portfolios containing municipal securities, shall be measured at regular intervals against the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. 1-10 Year Municipals Index or other indexes mutually agreed upon by the Treasurer and external investment manager, to determine the effectiveness of investment decisions in meeting the Treasurer's investment goals. The benchmark shall be reviewed annually by the Treasurer to ensure accuracy and relevance.

#### **2.3 SUSTAINABILITY**

The Treasurer seeks to invest all funds under its control in a manner that provides the highest risk-adjusted investment return using authorized instruments. Pursuant to the Illinois Sustainable Investing Act (30 ILCS 238), the Treasurer's external investment managers shall prudently integrate sustainability factors into its investment decision-making, investment analysis, portfolio construction, risk management, due diligence, and investment ownership in order to maximize anticipated financial returns, minimize projected risk, and more effectively execute its fiduciary duty. As such, consistent with achieving the foremost investment objectives of the Treasurer set forth herein, the Treasurer and its external investment managers shall prudently integrate sustainability factors into its investment processes.

The sustainability analysis adds an additional layer of rigor to the fundamental analytical approach and helps assess the reliability of future cash flows and debt repayments. Similar to financial accounting, sustainability accounting has both confirmatory and predictive value, thus, it can be used

to evaluate past performance and be used for future planning and decision-making. As a complement to financial accounting, it provides a more complete view of an investment fund or portfolio company's performance on material factors likely to impact its long-term value.

Sustainability factors may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Corporate governance and leadership factors, such as the independence of boards and auditors, the expertise and competence of corporate boards and executives, systemic risk management practices, executive compensation structures, transparency and reporting, leadership diversity, regulatory and legal compliance, shareholder rights, and ethical conduct.
- b) Environmental factors that may have an adverse or positive financial impact on investment performance, such as greenhouse gas emissions, air quality, energy management, water and wastewater management, waste and hazardous materials management, and ecological impacts.
- c) Social capital factors that impact relationships with key outside parties, such as customers, local communities, the public, and the government, which may impact investment performance. Social capital factors include human rights, customer welfare, customer privacy, data security, access and affordability, selling practices and product labeling, community reinvestment, and community relations.
- d) Human capital factors that recognize that the workforce is an important asset to delivering long-term value, including factors such as labor practices, responsible contractor and responsible bidder policies, employee health and safety, employee engagement, diversity and inclusion, and incentives and compensation.
- e) Business model and innovation factors that reflect an ability to plan and forecast opportunities and risks, and whether a company can create long-term shareholder value, including factors such as supply chain management, materials sourcing and efficiency, business model resilience, product design and life cycle management, and physical impacts of climate change.

The Treasurer shall develop policy guidelines to integrate material sustainability risks relevant to particular financial products, investment funds, companies, or government bodies, which shall be provided to internal and external investment managers to factor into their investment decision-making. The policy guidelines for integrating sustainability factors shall be reviewed and updated every two (2) years at a minimum to ensure consistency within the rapidly evolving global economy.

The Treasurer's external investment managers shall identify and select authorized investment options that meet the Treasurer's criteria for sustainable investing opportunities and risk parameters and fall within the framework of the investment objectives.

### **3.0 ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

External managing firm employees making investment decisions on behalf of the Treasurer shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict or give the appearance of a conflict with this Policy or impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. Any individuals with such a conflict or impairment shall disclose to the Treasurer any material conflicts of interest or impairment. If permitted by the Treasurer to proceed, such individuals shall subordinate their personal investment transactions to those of the investment portfolio, particularly with regard to the time of purchases and sales.



**4.0 BROKERS/DEALERS**

The external investment manager, on behalf of the Treasurer, shall seek to provide a preference to qualified brokers/dealers that provide proof of minority-, female-, disabled-, and/or military veteran-owned or -managed status and brokers/dealers that provide proof that their corporate headquarters are located in the State of Illinois.

**5.0 INVESTMENT PARAMETERS:**

The Treasurer has authorized the purchase of municipal securities, subject to the provisions of the Deposit of State Moneys Act (15 ILCS 520/1 *et seq.*), and the following:

- a) Municipal securities (“securities”) must be issued by any counties or municipal corporations of the State of Illinois;
- b) Securities may be taxable or tax exempt;
- c) Securities must be interest-bearing;
- d) At a maximum, securities must have a maturity or pre-refunded date of ten (10) years from the time of purchase;
- e) Securities shall be rated within three (3) intermediate credit ratings of United States’ sovereign credit rating but not less than an A-, or an equivalent rating by at least one (1) accredited rating agency with nationally recognized expertise in rating bonds of states and their political subdivisions (“Rating Agency”), at the time of purchase;
- f) If the securities are credit enhanced with bond insurance policies, the external investment manager will apply the securities’ underlying credit ratings or bond insurer’ credit rating, whichever is greater. There will be no limit on the percentage of credit enhanced bonds with an underlying issuer rating not less than A-, or its equivalent by a Rating Agency, in the externally managed portfolio.

For securities with credit enhancements with an underlying issuer rating below A-, or its equivalent by a Rating Agency, the external investment manager will not hold more than 10% of securities guaranteed by a single bond insurer in the externally managed portfolio. Bond insurance policies issued by the following companies are permissible, or other bond insurance policies mutually agreed upon by the Treasurer and external investment manager;

- i. Assured Guaranty Municipal Corporation;
  - ii. Assured Guaranty Corporation;
  - iii. Build America Mutual; and
  - iv. National Public Finance Guarantee.
- g) Should a security be downgraded below A3/A-, the external investment managers will provide written notification to the Treasurer in order to determine the appropriate action (sell or hold) based on the perceived risk and expected return.

**6.0 INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

The Treasurer’s external investment managers may not invest in the following types of investments:

- a) Any investments not authorized by this Policy, any other investment policy of the Treasurer, or applicable law are prohibited; or
- b) Any investments prohibited by Section 22.6 of the Deposit of State Monies Act.

### **7.0 DIVERSIFICATION**

The externally managed municipal securities shall be diversified to mitigate the risk of loss resulting from concentration of assets in a specific maturity or a specific issuer. In order to properly manage any risk attendant to the investment of State assets, the external investment managers shall not deviate from the following diversification guidelines unless specifically authorized by the Treasurer in writing:

- a) The Treasurer's external investment managers shall seek to achieve diversification in the portfolio by distributing investments among issuers and broker/dealers and
- b) The externally managed municipal securities shall not contain investments that exceed the lesser of 25% of an issuance or \$5,000,000.00.

### **8.0 INTERNAL CONTROLS**

The Treasurer's external investment managers shall establish a system of internal controls and written operational procedures and share them with the Treasurer. The controls shall be designed to prevent the loss of public funds arising from fraud, employee error, and misrepresentation by third parties, unanticipated changes in financial markets, or imprudent actions by authorized investment officers.

### **9.0 DUE DILIGENCE**

The Treasurer's external investment managers will perform due diligence, including, but not limited to, research and financial analysis of municipal securities and legal compliance with federal and State laws, rules, and regulations, and the Treasurer's investment policies.

### **10.0 RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Treasurer's external investment managers will establish risk management protocols to mitigate risk, including but not limited to, credit risks, liquidity risks, market risks, operational risks, reputational risks, and legal risks for the Treasurer.

### **11.0 LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

External managing firm employees making investment decisions on behalf of the Treasurer shall use the "prudent person" standard, which shall be applied in the context of managing an overall municipal securities portfolio. Such individuals who act in accordance with this Policy and exercise due diligence will be relieved of personal liability for an individual security's credit risk or market price changes, provided deviations from expectations are reported in a timely manner and necessary action is taken to control adverse developments.

### **12.0 REPORTING**

The external investment manager shall present monthly reports to the Treasurer for review. The monthly reports shall contain sufficient information for the Treasurer to evaluate the investment portfolio; its effectiveness in meeting the Treasurer's standards for safety, liquidity, rate of return, and diversification; and the general performance of the portfolio. At a minimum, the following information shall be included in the monthly reports:

- a) Change in market value of the securities;

- b) Rating changes of the securities;
- c) Portfolio performance and characteristics;
- d) Benchmark comparison;
- e) Portfolio transaction detail and holdings, including any supporting research documentation;  
and
- f) Listing of all securities held with a rating less than A-, or equivalent, with supporting research documentation.

## Appendix B

### **Investment Policy Statement for the State Investments Portfolio's Externally Managed Investment Grade Credit Securities**

#### **1.0 POLICY**

Under this instrument, the Illinois State Treasurer's Investment Policy for Externally Managed Investment Grade Credit Securities ("Policy"), it is the policy of the Illinois State Treasurer's Office ("Treasurer") to invest all funds under its control in a manner that provides the highest risk-adjusted investment return, using authorized instruments.

This Policy applies to all investments entered into by any of the Treasurer's external investment managers of investment grade credit securities on or after the adoption of this Policy.

#### **2.0 OBJECTIVE**

The primary objective in the investment of State funds by any external investment manager of investment grade credit securities is to ensure the safety of principal and provide the highest risk-adjusted investment return, using authorized instruments.

#### **2.1 SAFETY**

The safety of principal is an objective of the investment program. Investments managed externally on behalf of the Treasurer shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the portfolio. To achieve this objective, diversification, as defined in Section 7.0 of this Policy, is required to ensure that the Treasurer prudently manages market, operational, reputational, financial, legal, sustainability, interest rate, and credit risks.

#### **2.2 RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

The investment portfolio shall be designed and constructed to obtain the highest available return, given the safety of principal objective. The external investment manager shall seek to obtain the highest available return, using the authorized investments set forth in Section 5.0 of this Policy.

The rate of return achieved on the externally managed funds shall be measured at regular intervals against the Bloomberg Barclay's U.S. Corporate A+ 1-5 Yr Credit Index, or other indexes mutually agreed upon by the Treasurer and external investment manager, to determine the effectiveness of investment decisions in meeting the Treasurer's investment goals. The benchmark shall be reviewed annually by the Treasurer to ensure accuracy and relevance.

#### **2.3 SUSTAINABILITY**

The Treasurer seeks to invest all funds under its control in a manner that provides the highest risk-adjusted investment return using authorized instruments. Pursuant to the Illinois Sustainable Investing Act (30 ILCS 238), the Treasurer's external investment managers shall prudently integrate sustainability factors into its investment decision-making, investment analysis, portfolio construction, risk management, due diligence, and investment ownership in order to maximize anticipated financial returns, minimize projected risk, and more effectively execute its fiduciary duty. As such, consistent with achieving the foremost investment objectives of the Treasurer set forth herein, the Treasurer and its external investment managers shall prudently integrate sustainability factors into its investment processes.

The sustainability analysis adds an additional layer of rigor to the fundamental analytical approach and helps assess the reliability of future cash flows and debt repayments. Similar to financial accounting, sustainability accounting has both confirmatory and predictive value, thus, it can be used to evaluate past performance and be used for future planning and decision-making. As a complement

to financial accounting, it provides a more complete view of an investment fund or portfolio company's performance on material factors likely to impact its long-term value.

Sustainability factors may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Corporate governance and leadership factors, such as the independence of boards and auditors, the expertise and competence of corporate boards and executives, systemic risk management practices, executive compensation structures, transparency and reporting, leadership diversity, regulatory and legal compliance, shareholder rights, and ethical conduct.
- b) Environmental factors that may have an adverse or positive financial impact on investment performance, such as greenhouse gas emissions, air quality, energy management, water and wastewater management, waste and hazardous materials management, and ecological impacts.
- c) Social capital factors that impact relationships with key outside parties, such as customers, local communities, the public, and the government, which may impact investment performance. Social capital factors include human rights, customer welfare, customer privacy, data security, access and affordability, selling practices and product labeling, community reinvestment, and community relations.
- d) Human capital factors that recognize that the workforce is an important asset to delivering long-term value, including factors such as labor practices, responsible contractor and responsible bidder policies, employee health and safety, employee engagement, diversity and inclusion, and incentives and compensation.
- e) Business model and innovation factors that reflect an ability to plan and forecast opportunities and risks, and whether a company can create long-term shareholder value, including factors such as supply chain management, materials sourcing and efficiency, business model resilience, product design and life cycle management, and physical impacts of climate change.

The Treasurer shall develop policy guidelines to integrate material sustainability risks relevant to particular financial products, investment funds, companies, or government bodies, which shall be provided to internal and external investment managers to factor into their investment decision-making. The policy guidelines for integrating sustainability factors shall be reviewed and updated every two (2) years at a minimum to ensure consistency within the rapidly evolving global economy.

The Treasurer's external investment managers shall identify and select authorized investment options that meet the Treasurer's criteria for sustainable investing opportunities and risk parameters and fall within the framework of the investment objectives.

### **3.0 ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

External managing firm employees making investment decisions on behalf of the Treasurer shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict or give the appearance of a conflict with this Policy or impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. Any individuals with such a conflict or impairment shall disclose to the Treasurer any material conflicts of interest or impairment. If permitted by the Treasurer to proceed, such individuals shall subordinate their personal investment transactions to those of the investment portfolio, particularly with regard to the time of purchases and sales.

#### **4.0 BROKERS/DEALERS**

The external investment manager, on behalf of the Treasurer, shall seek to provide a preference to qualified brokers/dealers that provide proof of minority-, female-, disabled-, and/or military veteran-owned or -managed status and brokers/dealers that provide proof that their corporate headquarters are located in the State of Illinois.

#### **5.0 INVESTMENT PARAMETERS**

The Treasurer has authorized the purchase of investment grade credit securities, subject to the provisions of the Deposit of State Moneys Act (15 ILCS 520/1 *et seq.*), and the following:

- a) Securities must be issued by corporations or limited liability companies (“securities/security”) organized in the United States that have a significant presence in the State of Illinois and assets exceeding \$500,000,000;
- b) At the time of purchase, the maturity of the securities shall not exceed ten (10) years;
- c) Securities must be rated at the time of purchase by one of the three (3) highest classifications established by at least two (2) standard rating services, but not less than an A- long-term rating or equivalent;
- d) The corporation or limited liability company has not been placed on the list of restricted companies by the Illinois Investment Policy Board under Section 1-11.16 of the Illinois Pension Code;
- e) The Treasurer’s external investment managers will not purchase investment grade credit securities that are credit enhanced by mortgages or the collection of mortgages;
- f) Investment grade credit securities with credit enhancements based on tangible assets pledged as collateral for the bond will not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the overall externally managed portfolio; and
- g) Should a security be downgraded below A3/A-, or equivalent rating, the external investment managers will provide written notification to the Treasurer in order to determine the appropriate action (sell or hold) based on the perceived risk and expected return.

#### **6.0 INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

The Treasurer’s external investment managers may not invest in the following types of investments:

- a) Any investments not authorized by this Policy, any other investment policy of the Treasurer, or applicable law are prohibited; or
- b) Any investments prohibited by Section 22.6 of the Deposit of State Monies Act.

#### **7.0 DIVERSIFICATION**

The externally managed investment grade credit securities shall be diversified to mitigate the risk of loss resulting from concentration of assets in a specific maturity or a specific issuer. In order to properly manage any risk attendant to the investment of State assets, the external investment managers shall not deviate from the following diversification guidelines, unless specifically authorized by the Treasurer in writing:

- a) The Treasurer’s external investment managers shall seek to achieve diversification in the portfolio by distributing investments among issuers and broker/dealers; and

- b) Purchases cannot exceed ten percent (10%) of the corporation's or the limited liability company's outstanding obligations.

## **8.0 INTERNAL CONTROLS**

The Treasurer's external investment managers shall establish a system of internal controls and written operational procedures and share them with the Treasurer. The controls shall be designed to prevent the loss of public funds arising from fraud, employee error, and misrepresentation by third parties, unanticipated changes in financial markets, or imprudent actions by authorized investment officers.

## **9.0 DUE DILIGENCE**

The Treasurer's external investment managers will perform due diligence, including, but not limited to, research and financial analysis of investment grade credit securities and legal compliance with federal and State laws, rules, and regulations, and the Treasurer's investment policies.

## **10.0 RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Treasurer's external investment managers will establish risk management protocols to mitigate risk, including but not limited to, credit risks, liquidity risks, market risks, operational risks, reputational risks, and legal risks for the Treasurer.

## **11.0 LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

External managing firm employees making investment decisions on behalf of the Treasurer shall use the "prudent person" standard, which shall be applied in the context of managing an overall investment grade credit portfolio or a portfolio containing both investment grade credit and municipal securities. Such individuals who act in accordance with this Policy and exercise due diligence will be relieved of personal liability for an individual security's credit risk or market price changes, provided deviations from expectations are reported in a timely manner and necessary action is taken to control adverse developments.

## **12.0 REPORTING**

The external investment manager shall present monthly reports to the Treasurer for review. The monthly reports shall contain sufficient information for the Treasurer to evaluate the investment portfolio; its effectiveness in meeting the Treasurer's standards for safety, liquidity, rate of return, and diversification; and the general performance of the portfolio. At a minimum, the following information shall be included in the monthly reports:

- a) Change in market value of the securities;
- b) Rating changes of the securities;
- c) Portfolio performance and characteristics;
- d) Benchmark comparison;
- e) Portfolio transaction detail and holdings, including any supporting research documentation; and
- f) Listing of all securities held with a rating less than A3/A-, or equivalent, with supporting research documentation.