

MFS MUNICIPAL INCOME TRUST  
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AS FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION ON

August 6, 2008

1940 ACT FILE NO. 811-4841

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

**FORM N-2**

REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940

x

Amendment No. 12

x

**MFS Municipal Income Trust**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

500 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code: 617-954-5000

Susan S. Newton

Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk

MFS Municipal Income Trust

c/o Massachusetts Financial Services Company

500 Boylston Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02116

(Name and Address of Agent for Service)



The MFS Municipal Income Trust (the fund or Fund ) is a closed-end, diversified management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act ). The fund was organized as a business trust under the laws of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts on September 18, 1986.

### **Investment Objective**

The fund's investment objective is to seek high current income exempt from federal income tax, but may also consider capital appreciation. The fund's objective may be changed without shareholder approval.

### **Principal Investment Strategies**

The fund invests, under normal market conditions, at least 80% of its net assets, including assets attributable to preferred shares and borrowings for investment purposes, in municipal bonds (debt securities issued by or on behalf of states, territories, possessions of the United States, District of Columbia, and their political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities, the interest on which is exempt from federal income tax). This policy may not be changed without shareholder approval. Interest from the fund's investments may be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax.

MFS (Massachusetts Financial Services Company, the fund's investment adviser) may invest 25% or more of the fund's total assets in municipal instruments that finance similar projects, such as those relating to education, healthcare, housing, utilities, water, or sewers.

MFS may invest up to 100% of the fund's assets in lower quality debt instruments.

MFS may invest a relatively high percentage of the fund's assets in the debt instruments of a single issuer or a small number of issuers.

MFS may use derivatives for different purposes, including to earn income and enhance returns, to increase or decrease exposure to a particular market, to manage or adjust the risk profile of the fund, or as alternatives to direct investments.

MFS uses a bottom-up investment approach in buying and selling investments for the fund. Investments are selected primarily based on fundamental analysis of instruments and their issuers in light of current market, economic, political, and regulatory conditions. Factors considered may include the instrument's credit quality, collateral characteristics, and indenture provisions, and the issuer's management ability, capital structure, leverage, and ability to meet its current obligations. Quantitative analysis of the structure of the instrument and its features may also be considered.

The fund uses leverage through the issuance of preferred shares and/or the creation of tender option bonds, and then investing the proceeds pursuant to its investment strategies. If approved by the fund's Board of Trustees, the fund may use leverage by other methods.

MFS may engage in active and frequent trading in pursuing the fund's principal investment strategies.

In response to market, economic, political, or other conditions, MFS may depart from the fund's principal investment strategies by temporarily investing for defensive purposes.

### **Principal Investment Types**

**Debt Instruments:** Debt instruments represent obligations of corporations, governments, and other entities to repay money borrowed. The issuer or borrower usually pays a fixed, variable, or floating rate of interest, and must repay the amount borrowed, usually at the maturity of the instrument. Some debt instruments, such as zero coupon bonds or payment-in-kind bonds, do not pay current interest. Other debt instruments, such as certain mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities, make periodic payments of interest and/or principal. Some debt instruments are partially or fully secured by collateral supporting the payment of interest and principal.

**Lower Quality Debt Instruments:** Lower quality debt instruments, commonly referred to as high yield securities or junk bonds, are debt instruments of less than investment grade quality.

**Municipal Instruments:** Municipal instruments are issued to raise money for a variety of public and private purposes, including general financing for state and local governments, or financing for a specific project or public facility. Municipal instruments include general obligation bonds of municipalities, local or state governments,



project or revenue-specific bonds, municipal lease obligations, and prerefunded or escrowed bonds. Municipal instruments may be fully or partially supported by the local government, by the credit of a private issuer, by the current or anticipated revenues from a specific project or assets, by the issuer's pledge to make annual appropriations for lease payments, or by domestic or foreign entities providing credit support, such as letters of credit, guarantees, or insurance.

**Tender Option Bonds:** Tender option bonds are created when municipal instruments are transferred to a special purpose trust which issues two classes of certificates. The first class, commonly called floating rate certificates, pays an interest rate that is typically reset weekly based on a specified index. Each holder of a floating rate certificate has the option at specified times, and/or may be required under specified circumstances, to tender its certificate to the issuer or a specified third party acting as agent for the issuer for purchase at the stated amount of the certificate plus accrued interest. The second class, commonly called inverse floaters, pays an interest rate based on the difference between the interest rate earned on the underlying municipal instruments and the interest rate paid on the floating rate certificates, after expenses.

**Derivatives:** Derivatives are financial instruments whose value is based on the value of one or more underlying indicators or the difference between underlying indicators. Underlying indicators may include a security or other financial instrument, asset, currency, interest rate, credit rating, commodity, volatility measure, or index. Derivatives often involve a counterparty to the transaction. Derivatives include futures, forward contracts, options, structured securities, inverse floating rate instruments, swaps, caps, floors, and collars.

### Principal Risks

As with any mutual fund, you could lose money on your investment in the fund. An investment in the fund is not a bank deposit and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

The principal risks of investing in the fund are:

**Interest Rate Risk:** The price of a debt instrument changes in response to interest rate changes. In general, the price of a debt instrument falls when interest rates rise and rises when interest rates fall. Instruments with longer maturities, or that do not pay current interest, are more sensitive to interest rate changes. In addition, short-term and long-term interest rates do not necessarily move in the same direction or by the same amount. An instrument's reaction to interest rate changes depends on the timing of its interest and principal payments and the current interest rate for each of those time periods. Instruments with floating interest rates can be less sensitive to interest rate changes. In response to an interest rate decline, instruments that provide the issuer with the right to call or redeem the instrument prior to maturity may be called or redeemed, resulting in the reinvestment of proceeds in other investments at a lower interest rate.

**Credit Risk:** The value of a debt instrument depends, in part, on the issuer's or borrower's credit quality or ability to pay principal and interest when due. The value of a debt instrument is likely to fall if an issuer or borrower defaults on its obligation to pay principal or interest or if the instrument's credit rating is downgraded by a credit rating agency. The value of a debt instrument can also decline in response to changes in the financial condition of the issuer or borrower, changes in specific market, economic, industry, political, and regulatory conditions that affect a particular type of instrument, issuer, or borrower, and changes in general market, economic, political, and regulatory conditions. Certain unanticipated events, such as natural disasters, terrorist attacks, war, and other geopolitical events can have a dramatic adverse effect on the value of a debt instrument. For certain types of instruments, including derivatives, the value of the instrument depends in part on the credit quality of the counterparty to the transaction. For other types of debt instruments, including collateralized instruments, the price of the debt instrument also depends on the credit quality and adequacy of the underlying assets or collateral. Enforcing rights against the underlying assets or collateral may be difficult, or the underlying assets or collateral may be insufficient, if the issuer defaults.

Lower quality debt instruments and certain unrated debt instruments can involve a substantially greater risk of default or can already be in default, and their values can decline significantly over short periods of time. Lower quality debt instruments are regarded as having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to capacity to pay interest and principal. Lower quality debt instruments tend to be more sensitive to adverse news about the issuer, or the market or economy in general, than higher quality debt instruments. The market for lower quality debt instruments and certain unrated debt instruments can be less liquid, especially during periods of recession or general market decline.

Municipal instruments supported as to the payment of principal and interest only by the revenue from a specific project or specific assets, or by the issuer's pledge to make annual appropriations for lease payments, are subject to greater credit risk due to the possibility that taxation supporting the project or assets will be discontinued, revenues for the project or from the assets will be insufficient, or annual appropriations for lease payments will not be made. If the Internal Revenue Service or a state taxing authority determines that an issuer of a municipal instrument has not complied with applicable tax requirements, interest from the instrument could become taxable (including retroactively) and the instrument could decline significantly in value.

**Prepayment Risk:** Many types of debt instruments, including mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, and municipal housing bonds, are subject to the risk of prepayment. Prepayment occurs when unscheduled payments of principal are made prior to an instrument's maturity. Instruments subject to prepayment can offer less potential for gains during a declining interest rate environment and greater potential for loss in a rising interest rate environment. In addition, prepayment rates are difficult to predict and the potential impact of prepayment on the price of a debt instrument depends on the terms of the instrument and can result in significant volatility.

**Municipal Market Risk:** The price of municipal instruments can be volatile and significantly affected by adverse tax or court rulings, legislative or political changes, and the financial developments of municipal issuers. Because many municipal instruments are issued to finance similar projects, especially those relating to education, health care, housing, utilities, and water and sewer, conditions in these industries can affect the overall municipal market. In addition, changes in the financial condition of an individual municipal insurer can affect the overall municipal market.

**Limited Number of Municipal Insurers Risk:** Because MFS may invest a relatively large percentage of the Fund's assets in securities insured by a single insurer or a small number of insurers, the Fund's performance could be adversely affected by changes in the financial condition or credit quality of that one insurer or insurers, and could be more volatile than the performance of a fund insured by a greater number of insurers.

**Issuer Focus Risk:** Because MFS may invest a relatively large percentage of the fund's assets in debt instruments of a single issuer or small number of issuers, the fund's performance could be closely tied to that one issuer or issuers, and could be more volatile than the performance of more diversified funds.

**Leveraging Risk:** If the fund utilizes investment leverage, there can be no assurance that such a leveraging strategy will be successful during any period in which it is employed. The use of leverage is a speculative investment technique that results in greater volatility in the fund's net asset value. To the extent that investments are purchased with the proceeds from the borrowings from a bank, the issuance of preferred shares, or the creation of tender option bonds, the fund's net asset value will increase or decrease at a greater rate than a comparable unleveraged fund. If the investment income or gains earned from the investments purchased with the proceeds from the borrowings from a bank, the issuance of preferred shares, or the creation of tender option bonds, fails to cover the expenses of leveraging, the fund's net asset value is likely to decrease more quickly than if the fund weren't leveraged. In addition, the fund's distributions could be reduced. The fund is currently required under the 1940 Act to maintain asset coverage of 200% on outstanding preferred shares and 300% on outstanding indebtedness. If asset coverage declines below those levels (as a result of market fluctuation or otherwise), the fund may be required to sell a portion of its investments at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so. The expenses of leveraging are paid by the holders of common shares.

Certain transactions including when-issued, delayed-delivery, forward commitment purchases, and the use of some derivatives can result in leverage. Because movements in a fund's share price generally correlate over time with the fund's net asset value, the market price of a leveraged fund will also tend to be more volatile than that of a comparable unleveraged fund. The costs of an offering of preferred shares and/or borrowing program would be borne by shareholders.

Under the terms of any loan agreement, the fund may be required to, among other things, limit its ability to pay distributions in certain circumstances, incur additional debts, engage in certain transactions, and pledge some or all of its assets. Such agreements could limit the fund's ability to pursue its investment strategies. The terms of any loan agreement could be more or less restrictive than those described.

Under guidelines generally required by a rating agency providing a rating for any preferred shares, the fund may be required to, among other things, maintain certain asset coverage requirements, restrict certain investments and practices, and adopt certain redemption requirements relating to preferred shares. Such agreements could limit the fund's ability to pursue its investment strategies. The guidelines imposed with respect to preferred shares by a rating agency could be more or less restrictive than those described.

In addition, the management fee paid to the Adviser is calculated based on net assets, including assets applicable to preferred shares, so the fee will be higher when leverage through the issuance of preferred shares is utilized, which may create an incentive for the Adviser to use leverage through the issuance of preferred shares.

**Preferred Shares Risk:** Holders of preferred shares may not be able to sell their shares at an auction if the auction fails; that is, if there are more preferred shares offered for sale than buyers for those shares. In addition, holders of preferred shares may receive a below-market interest rate for their shares in an auction. The preferred shares are not registered on any stock exchange or automated quotation system. There is no assurance that a secondary market for the preferred shares will be available and the fund is not required to redeem the preferred shares if an auction or the secondary market fails.

**Tender Option Bond Risk:** The underlying municipal instruments held by the special purpose trust are sold or distributed in-kind by the trustee if specified events occur, such as a downgrade in the rating of the underlying municipal instruments, a specified decline in the value of the underlying municipal instruments, a failed remarketing of the floating rate certificates, the bankruptcy of the issuer of the underlying municipal instruments and, if the municipal instruments are insured, of both the issuer and the insurer, and the failure of the liquidity provider to pay in accordance with the trust agreement. In the event the trustee sells or distributes in-kind the underlying municipal instruments to pay amounts owed to the floating rate certificate holders, with the remaining amount paid to the inverse floater holders, the fund's leverage will be reduced.

**Derivatives Risk:** Derivatives can be highly volatile and involve risks in addition to the risks of the underlying indicator(s). Gains or losses from derivatives can be substantially greater than the derivatives' original cost, and can sometimes be unlimited, and therefore, can involve leverage. Derivatives can be complex instruments and can involve analysis and processing that differs from that required for other investment types used by the fund. If the value of a derivative does not correlate well with the particular market or other asset class the derivative is intended to provide exposure to, the derivative may not have the effect anticipated. Derivatives can also reduce the opportunity for gains or result in losses by offsetting positive returns in other investments. Derivatives can be less liquid than other types of investments.

**Anti-Takeover Provisions Risk:** The fund's declaration of trust includes provisions that could limit the ability of other persons or entities to acquire control of the fund, to convert the fund to an open-end fund, or to change the composition of the fund's Board of Trustees. These provisions could reduce the opportunities for shareholders to sell their common shares at a premium over the then-current market price.

**Market Discount/Premium Risk:** The market price of common shares of the fund will be based on factors such as the supply and demand for common shares in the market and general market, economic, political or regulatory conditions. Whether shareholders will realize gains or losses upon the sale of common shares of the fund will depend on the market price of common shares at the time of the sale, not on the fund's net asset value. The market price may be lower or higher than the fund's net asset value. Shares of closed-end funds frequently trade at a discount to their net asset value.

**Investment Selection Risk:** The MFS analysis of an investment can be incorrect and its selection of investments can lead to an investment focus that results in the fund underperforming other funds with similar investment strategies and/or underperforming the markets in which the fund invests.

**Counterparty and Third Party Risk:** Transactions involving a counterparty other than the issuer of the instrument, or a third party responsible for servicing the instrument, are subject to the credit risk of the counterparty or third party, and to the counterparty's or third party's ability to perform in accordance with the terms of the transaction.

**Liquidity Risk:** Certain investments and types of investments are subject to restrictions on resale, may trade in the over-the-counter market or in limited volume, or may not have an active trading market. As a result, it may not be possible to sell the investment at any particular time or at an acceptable price.

**Defensive Investing Risk:** When MFS invests defensively, different factors could affect the fund's performance and the fund may not achieve its investment objective. In addition, the defensive strategy may not work as intended.

**Frequent Trading Risk:** Frequent trading increases transaction costs, which may reduce the fund's return. Frequent trading can also result in the realization of a higher percentage of short-term capital gains and a lower percentage of long-term capital gains as compared to a fund that trades less frequently. Because short-term capital gains are distributed as ordinary income, this would generally increase your tax liability unless you hold your shares through a tax-deferred or tax-exempt vehicle.

#### **Portfolio Turnover Rate**

For fiscal year ended October 31, 2006, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 17%. For fiscal year ended October 31, 2007, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 24%.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION ON INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS**

The following description supplements the principal investment strategies and the principal risks described above.

**Asset-Backed Securities.** Asset-backed securities are securities that represent a participation in, or are secured by and payable from, pools of underlying assets such as debt securities, bank loans, motor vehicle installment sales contracts, installment loan contracts, leases of various types of real and personal property, receivables from revolving credit (i.e., credit card) agreements and other receivables. These underlying assets are securitized through the use of trusts and special purpose entities. Payment of interest and repayment of principal on asset-backed securities may be largely dependent upon the cash flows generated by the underlying assets backing the securities and, in certain cases, may be supported by letters of credit, surety bonds, or other credit enhancements.

Asset-backed securities are often subject to more rapid repayment than their stated maturity date would indicate, as a result of the pass-through of prepayments of principal on the underlying assets. The rate of principal payments on asset-backed securities is related to the rate of principal payments on the underlying asset pool and related to the priority of payment of the security with respect to the asset pool. The occurrence of prepayments is a function of several factors, such as the level of interest rates, general economic conditions, the location, and age of the underlying obligations, asset default and recovery rates, and other social and demographic conditions. Because prepayments of principal generally occur when interest rates are declining, an investor generally has to reinvest the proceeds of such prepayments at lower interest rates than those at which its assets were previously invested. Therefore, asset-backed securities may have less potential for capital appreciation in periods of falling interest rates than other income-bearing securities of comparable maturity.

The credit quality of asset-backed securities depends primarily on the quality of the underlying assets, the level of credit enhancement, if any, provided for the securities, and the credit quality of the credit-support provider, if any. The value of asset-backed securities may be affected by the various factors described above and other factors, such as changes in interest rates, the availability of information concerning the pool and its structure, the creditworthiness of the servicing agent for the pool, the originator of the underlying assets, or the entities providing the credit enhancement. Because asset-backed securities may not have the benefit of a security interest in the underlying assets that is comparable to a mortgage, asset-backed securities present certain additional risks that are not present with mortgage-backed securities.

**Asset Segregation.** With respect to certain kinds of transactions entered into by the Fund that involve obligations to make future payments to third parties, including, but not limited to, futures, forward contracts, swap contracts, the purchase of securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis, or reverse repurchase agreements, under applicable federal securities laws, rules, and interpretations thereof, the Fund must set aside (referred to sometimes as asset segregation) liquid assets, or engage in other measures to cover open positions with respect to such transactions. Assets segregated to cover these types of transactions can decline in value. For example, with respect to forward foreign currency exchange contracts and futures contracts that are not contractually required to cash-settle, the Fund must cover its open positions by setting aside liquid assets equal to the contracts' full, notional value, except that deliverable foreign currency exchange contracts for currencies that are liquid will be treated as the equivalent of cash-settled contracts. As such, the Fund may set aside liquid assets in an amount equal to the Fund's daily marked-to-market (net) obligation (i.e. the Fund's daily net liability if any) rather than the full notional amount under such deliverable forward foreign currency exchange contracts. With respect to forward foreign currency exchange contracts and futures contracts that are contractually required to cash-settle, the Fund may set aside liquid assets in an amount equal to the Fund's daily marked-to-market (net) obligation rather than the notional value. By setting aside assets equal to only its net



obligation under liquid deliverable foreign currency exchange contracts and cash-settled forward or futures contracts the Fund will have the ability to employ leverage to a greater extent than if the Fund were required to segregate assets equal to the full notional value of such contracts. The Fund reserves the right to modify its asset segregation policies in the future.

**Commodity-Related Investments.** Commodity-related investments include futures, options, options on futures, swaps, structured notes, securities of other investment companies, grantor trusts, and hybrid instruments whose values are related to commodity or commodity contracts. The value of commodity-related investments can be affected by changes in overall market movements, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates, or factors affecting a particular industry or commodity, such as drought, floods, weather, livestock disease, changes in storage costs, embargoes, tariffs, policies of commodity cartels, and international market, economic, industry, political, and regulatory developments. The value of commodity-related investments can be more volatile than the value of traditional securities.

**Common Stock.** Common stock represents an equity or ownership interest in an issuer. In the event an issuer is liquidated or declares bankruptcy, the claims of owners of bonds and preferred stock take precedence over the claims of those who own common stock.

**Convertible Securities.** Convertible securities are bonds, debentures, notes, or other securities that may be converted into or exchanged for (by the holder or by the issuer) shares of stock (or cash or other securities of equivalent value) of the same or a different issuer at a stated exchange ratio. A convertible security may also be called for redemption or conversion by the issuer after a particular date and under certain circumstances (including a specified price) established upon issue.

Convertible securities generally have less potential for gain or loss than common stocks. Convertible securities generally provide yields higher than the underlying common stocks, but generally lower than comparable non-convertible securities. Because of this higher yield, convertible securities generally sell at prices above their conversion value, which is the current market value of the stock to be received upon conversion. The difference between this conversion value and the price of convertible securities will vary over time depending on changes in the value of the underlying common stocks and interest rates. When the underlying common stocks decline in value, convertible securities will tend not to decline to the same extent because of the interest or dividend payments and the repayment of principal at maturity for certain types of convertible securities. However, securities that are convertible other than at the option of the holder generally do not limit the potential for loss to the same extent as securities convertible at the option of the holder. When the underlying common stocks rise in value, the value of convertible securities may also be expected to increase. At the same time, however, the difference between the market value of convertible securities and their conversion value will narrow, which means that the value of convertible securities will generally not increase to the same extent as the value of the underlying common stocks. Because convertible securities may also be interest-rate sensitive, their value may increase as interest rates fall and decrease as interest rates rise. Convertible securities are also subject to credit risk, and are often lower-quality securities.

**Country Location.** The issuer of a security or other investment is generally deemed to be economically tied to a particular country if: (a) the security or other investment is issued or guaranteed by the government of that country or any of its agencies, authorities or instrumentalities; (b) the issuer is organized under the laws of, and maintains a principal office in, that country; (c) the issuer has its principal securities trading market in that country; (d) the issuer derives 50% or more of its total revenues from goods sold or services performed in that country; (e) the issuer has 50% or more of its assets in that country; (f) the issuer is included in an index which is representative of that country; or (g) the issuer is exposed to the economic fortunes and risks of that country.

**Depository Receipts.** Depository receipts are securities that evidence ownership interests in a security or a pool of securities that have been deposited with a depository. Depository receipts may be sponsored or unsponsored and include American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), European Depositary Receipts (EDRs) and Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs). In sponsored programs, an issuer has made arrangements to have its securities trade in the form of ADRs, EDRs, or GDRs. In unsponsored programs, the issuer may not be directly involved in the creation of the program. For ADRs, the depository is typically a U.S. financial institution and the underlying securities are issued by a foreign issuer. For other depository receipts, the depository may be a foreign or a U.S. entity, and the underlying securities may have a foreign or a U.S. issuer. Depository receipts will not necessarily be denominated in the same currency as their underlying securities. Generally, ADRs are issued in registered form, denominated in U.S. dollars, and designed for use in the U.S. securities markets. Other depository receipts, such as GDRs and EDRs, may be issued in bearer form and denominated in other currencies, and may be offered privately in the

United States and are generally designed for use in securities markets outside the U.S. The deposit agreement sets out the rights and responsibilities of the underlying issuer, the depository, and the depository receipt holders.

With sponsored facilities, the underlying issuer typically bears some of the costs of the depository receipts (such as dividend payment fees of the depository), although most sponsored depository receipt holders may bear costs such as deposit and withdrawal fees. Depositories of most sponsored depository receipts agree to distribute notices of shareholder meetings, voting instructions, and other shareholder communications and financial information to the depository receipt holders at the underlying issuer's request.

Holders of unsponsored depository receipts generally bear all the costs of the facility. The depository usually charges fees upon the deposit and withdrawal of the underlying securities, the conversion of dividends into U.S. dollars or other currency, the disposition of non-cash distributions, and the performance of other services. The depository of an unsponsored facility frequently is under no obligation to distribute shareholder communications received from the underlying issuer or to pass through voting rights to depository receipt holders with respect to the underlying securities.

**Derivatives.** Derivatives are financial instruments whose value is based on the value of one or more underlying indicators or the difference between underlying indicators. Underlying indicators may include a security or other financial instrument, asset, currency, interest rate, credit rating, commodity, volatility measure or index. Derivatives often involve a counterparty to the transaction. Derivatives include futures, forward contracts, options, structured securities, inverse floating rate instruments, swaps, caps, floors, and collars. Derivatives can be highly volatile and involve risks in addition to the risks of the underlying indicator(s). Gains or losses from derivatives can be substantially greater than the derivatives' original cost and can sometimes be unlimited, and therefore, can involve leverage. Derivatives can be complex instruments and can involve analysis and processing that differs from that required for other investment types. If the value of a derivative does not correlate well with the particular market or other asset class the derivative is intended to provide exposure to, the derivative may not have the effect anticipated. Derivatives can also reduce the opportunity for gains or result in losses by offsetting positive returns in other investments. Derivatives can be less liquid than other types of investments.

**Emerging Markets.** Investing in emerging market countries involves certain risks not typically associated with investing in the United States, and imposes risks greater than, or in addition to, risks of investing in more developed foreign markets. These risks include, but are not limited to, the following: greater risks of nationalization or expropriation of assets or confiscatory taxation; currency devaluations and other currency exchange rate fluctuations; greater social, economic, and political uncertainty and instability (including amplified risk of war and terrorism); more substantial government involvement in the economy; less government supervision and regulation of the securities markets and participants in those markets; controls on foreign investment and limitations on repatriation of invested capital and on the fund's ability to exchange local currencies for U.S. dollars; unavailability of currency hedging techniques in certain emerging market countries; the fact that companies in emerging market countries may be smaller, less seasoned, and newly organized; the difference in, or lack of, auditing and financial reporting standards, which may result in unavailability of material information about issuers; the risk that it may be more difficult to obtain and/or enforce a judgment in a court outside the United States; the risk that a judgment against a foreign government may be unenforceable; and greater price volatility, less liquidity, and significantly smaller market capitalization of securities markets. Also, any change in the leadership or politics of emerging market countries, or the countries that exercise a significant influence over those countries, may halt the expansion of or reverse the liberalization of foreign investment policies now occurring and adversely affect existing investment opportunities. Furthermore, high rates of inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had, and may continue to have, negative effects on the economies and securities markets of certain emerging market countries.

**Equity Securities.** Equity securities represent an ownership interest, or the right to acquire an ownership interest, in a company or other issuer. Different types of equity securities provide different voting and dividend rights and priorities in the event of bankruptcy of the issuer. Equity securities include common stocks, preferred stocks, securities convertible into stocks, depository receipts for those securities, securities of investment companies, and other similar interests in an issuer.

**Floating Rate Certificates.** Each holder of a floating rate certificate has the option at specified times to tender its certificate to the issuer or a specified third party acting as agent for the issuer for purchase at the stated amount of the certificate plus accrued interest. Floating rate certificates may be floating or variable rate securities. The issuer or third party agent may be unable to purchase the certificates on the purchase date due to a variety of circumstances, which may result in a loss of value of the certificates.

**Foreign Currencies.** Foreign securities may be denominated in foreign currencies and international currency units and foreign currencies may be purchased directly. Accordingly, the weakening of these currencies and units against the U.S. dollar would result in a decline in the value of securities denominated in that currency or the value of the currency itself.

While holding currencies permits an investor to take advantage of favorable movements in the applicable exchange rate, this strategy also exposes the investor to risk of loss if exchange rates move in a direction adverse to the investor's position. Such losses could reduce any profits or increase any losses sustained by the investor from the sale or redemption of securities and could reduce the dollar value of interest or dividend payments received.

Some foreign countries have managed currencies, which are not free floating against the U.S. dollar. Managed currencies can experience a steep devaluation relative to the U.S. dollar.

In addition, there is risk that certain foreign countries may restrict the free conversion of their currencies into other currencies. Further, certain currencies may not be internationally traded.

Foreign currency transactions can be made on a spot (i.e., cash) or forward basis (i.e., by entering into forward contracts to purchase or sell foreign currencies). Although foreign exchange dealers generally do not charge a fee for such conversions, they do realize a profit based on the difference between the prices at which they are buying and selling various currencies. Thus, a dealer may offer to sell a foreign currency at one rate, while offering a lesser rate of exchange should the counterparty desire to resell that currency to the dealer. Forward contracts are customized transactions that require a specific amount of a currency to be delivered at a specific exchange rate on a specific date or range of dates in the future. Forward contracts are generally traded in an interbank market directly between currency traders (usually large commercial banks) and their customers. The parties to a forward contract may agree to offset or terminate the contract before its maturity, or may hold the contract to maturity and complete the contemplated currency exchange.

A settlement hedge or transaction hedge attempts to protect against an adverse change in foreign currency values between the date a security is purchased or sold and the date on which payment is made or received. Entering into a forward contract for the purchase or sale of the amount of foreign currency involved in an underlying security transaction for a fixed amount of U.S. dollars locks in the U.S. dollar price of the security. Forward contracts to purchase or sell a foreign currency may also be used in anticipation of future purchases or sales of securities denominated in foreign currency, even if the specific investments have not yet been selected.

Forward contracts can be used to hedge against a decline in the value of existing investments denominated in foreign currency. For example, if an investor owned securities denominated in pounds sterling, the investor could enter into a forward contract to sell pounds sterling in return for U.S. dollars to hedge against possible declines in the pound's value. Such a hedge, sometimes referred to as a position hedge, would tend to offset both positive and negative currency fluctuations, but would not offset changes in security values caused by other factors. An investor could also hedge the position by selling another currency expected to perform similarly to the pound sterling. This type of hedge, sometimes referred to as a proxy hedge, could offer advantages in terms of cost, yield, or efficiency, but generally would not hedge currency exposure as effectively as a direct hedge into U.S. dollars. Proxy hedges may result in losses if the currency used to hedge does not perform similarly to the currency in which the hedged securities are denominated.

Forward contracts can also be used to shift investment exposure from one currency into another. This may include shifting exposure from U.S. dollars to a foreign currency or from one foreign currency to another foreign currency. This type of strategy, sometimes known as a cross-hedge, will tend to reduce or eliminate exposure to the currency that is sold, and increase exposure to the currency that is purchased, much as if a fund had sold a security denominated in one currency and purchased an equivalent security denominated in another. Cross-hedges protect against losses resulting from a decline in the hedged currency, but will cause a fund to assume the risk of fluctuations in the value of the currency it purchases.

Swap agreements, indexed securities, hybrid securities and options and futures contracts relating to foreign currencies can be used for the same purposes.

Successful use of currency management strategies will depend on MFS's skill in analyzing currency values. Currency management strategies may increase the volatility of a fund's returns and could result in significant losses to a fund if currencies do not perform as MFS anticipates. For example, if a currency's value rose at a time when MFS had hedged a fund by selling that currency in exchange for dollars, a fund would not participate in the

currency's appreciation. If MFS hedges currency exposure through proxy hedges, a fund could realize currency losses from both the hedge and the security position if the two currencies do not move in tandem. Similarly, if MFS increases a fund's exposure to a foreign currency and that currency's value declines, a fund will realize a loss. There is no assurance that MFS' use of currency management strategies will be advantageous to a fund or that it will hedge at appropriate times.

**Foreign Markets.** Foreign securities and foreign currencies, as well as any securities issued by U.S. entities with substantial foreign operations, may involve significant risks in addition to the risks inherent in U.S. investments. Foreign investments involve risks relating to local political, economic, regulatory, or social instability, military action or unrest, or adverse diplomatic developments, and may be affected by actions of foreign governments adverse to the interests of U.S. investors. Such actions may include expropriation or nationalization of assets, confiscatory taxation, restrictions on U.S. investment or on the ability to repatriate assets or convert currency into U.S. dollars, or other government intervention. The debt instruments of foreign governments and their agencies and instrumentalities may or may not be supported by the full faith and credit of the foreign government. Additionally, governmental issuers of foreign debt securities may be unwilling to pay interest and repay principal when due and may require that the conditions for payment be renegotiated. In addition, the value of securities denominated in foreign currencies and of dividends and interest paid with respect to such securities will fluctuate based on the relative strength of the U.S. dollar.

Foreign stock markets, while growing in volume and sophistication, are generally not as developed as those in the United States, and securities of some foreign issuers may be less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. issuers. Foreign security trading, settlement and custodial practices (including those involving securities settlement where fund assets may be released prior to receipt of payment) are often less developed than those in U.S. markets, and may result in increased risk or substantial delays in the event of a failed trade or the insolvency of, or breach of duty by, a foreign broker-dealer, securities depository, or foreign subcustodian. In addition, the costs associated with foreign investments, including withholding taxes, brokerage commissions, and custodial costs, are generally higher than with U.S. investments.

Foreign markets may offer less protection to investors than U.S. markets. Foreign issuers are generally not bound by uniform accounting, auditing, and financial reporting requirements and standards of practice comparable to those applicable to U.S. issuers. Adequate public information on foreign issuers may not be available, and it may be difficult to secure dividends and information regarding corporate actions on a timely basis. In general, there is less overall governmental supervision and regulation of securities exchanges, brokers, and listed companies than in the United States. OTC markets tend to be less regulated than stock exchange markets and, in certain countries, may be totally unregulated. Regulatory enforcement may be influenced by economic or political concerns, and investors may have difficulty enforcing their legal rights in foreign countries.

Some foreign securities impose restrictions on transfer within the United States or to U.S. persons. Although securities subject to such transfer restrictions may be marketable abroad, they may be less liquid than foreign securities of the same class that are not subject to such restrictions.

**Futures Contracts.** A futures contract is a standardized agreement between two parties to buy or sell in the future a specific quantity of an asset, currency, interest rate, index, commodity, instrument or other indicator at a specific price and time. The value of a futures contract typically fluctuates in correlation with the increase or decrease in the value of the underlying indicator. The buyer of a futures contract enters into an agreement to purchase the underlying indicator on the settlement date and is said to be "long" the contract. The seller of a futures contract enters into an agreement to sell the underlying indicator on the settlement date and is said to be "short" the contract. The price at which a futures contract is entered into is established either in the electronic marketplace or by open outcry on the floor of an exchange between exchange members acting as traders or brokers. Open futures contracts can be liquidated or closed out by physical delivery of the underlying indicator or payment of the cash settlement amount on the settlement date, depending on the terms of the particular contract. Some financial futures contracts (such as security futures) provide for physical settlement at maturity. In the case of physically settled futures, it may not be possible to liquidate or close out the futures contract at any particular time or at an acceptable price. Other financial futures contracts (such as those relating to interest rates, foreign currencies and securities indexes) generally provide for cash settlement at maturity. In the case of cash settled futures contracts, the cash settlement amount is equal to the difference between the final settlement price on the last trading day of the contract and the price at which the contract was entered into. Most futures contracts, however, are not held until maturity but instead are "offset" before the settlement date through the establishment of an opposite and equal futures position.

The purchaser or seller of a futures contract is not required to deliver or pay for the underlying indicator unless the contract is held until the settlement date. However, both the purchaser and seller are required to deposit initial margin with a futures commission merchant (FCM) when the futures contract is entered into. Initial margin deposits are typically calculated as a percentage of the contract's market value. If the value of either party's position declines, that party will be required to make additional variation margin payments to settle the change in value on a daily basis. This process is known as marking-to-market.

The risk of loss in trading futures contracts can be substantial, because of the low margin deposits required, the extremely high degree of leverage involved in futures pricing, and the potential high volatility of the futures markets. As a result, a relatively small price movement in a futures position may result in immediate and substantial loss (or gain) to the investor. Thus, a purchase or sale of a futures contract may result in unlimited losses. In the event of adverse price movements, an investor would continue to be required to make daily cash payments to maintain its required margin. In addition, on the settlement date, an investor may be required to make delivery of the indicators underlying the futures positions it holds.

An investor could suffer losses if it is unable to close out a futures contract because of an illiquid secondary market. Futures contracts may be closed out only on an exchange which provides a secondary market for such products. However, there can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular futures product at any specific time. Thus, it may not be possible to close a futures position, and an investor would remain obligated to meet margin requirements until the position is closed. Moreover, most futures exchanges limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in futures contract prices during a single trading day. The daily limit establishes the maximum amount that the price of a futures contract may vary either up or down from the previous day's settlement price at the end of a trading session. Once the daily limit has been reached in a particular type of contract, no trades may be made on that day at a price beyond that limit. The daily limit governs only price movement during a particular trading day and therefore does not limit potential losses, because the limit may prevent the liquidation of unfavorable positions. Futures contract prices have occasionally moved to the daily limit for several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of future positions and subjecting some futures traders to substantial losses. The inability to close futures positions also could have an adverse impact on the ability to hedge a portfolio investment or to establish a substitute for a portfolio investment.

An investor could lose margin payments it has deposited with its futures commission merchant (FCM), if, for example, the FCM breaches its agreement with the investor or becomes insolvent or goes into bankruptcy. In that event, the investor may be entitled to return of margin owed to it only in proportion to the amount received by the FCM's other customers, potentially resulting in losses to the investor.

If MFS attempts to use a futures contract as a hedge against, or as a substitute for, a portfolio investment, the futures position may not correlate as expected with the portfolio investment, resulting in losses to the fund. While hedging strategies involving futures products can reduce the risk of loss, they can also reduce the opportunity for gain or even result in losses by offsetting favorable price movements in other fund investments.

Pursuant to a claim of exemption filed with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) on behalf of the MFS Funds that are permitted by their investment objectives and policies to use futures and options on futures contracts, each such MFS Fund is not deemed to be a commodity pool or commodity pool operator under the Commodity Exchange Act and is not subject to registration or regulation as such under the Commodity Exchange Act.

**Hybrid Instruments.** Hybrid instruments are generally considered derivatives and combine the elements of swaps, futures contracts, or options with those of debt, preferred equity or a depository instrument. A hybrid instrument may be a debt instrument, preferred stock, warrant, convertible security, certificate of deposit or other evidence of indebtedness on which a portion of or all interest payments, and/or the principal or stated amount payable at maturity, redemption or retirement, is determined by reference to prices, changes in prices, or differences between prices, of securities, currencies, intangibles, goods, commodities, indexes, economic factors or other measures, including interest rates, currency exchange rates, or commodities or securities indices, or other indicators (collectively, indicators).

The risks of investing in hybrid instruments reflect a combination of the risks of investing in securities, swaps, options, futures and currencies. An investment in a hybrid instrument may entail significant risks that are not associated with a similar investment in a traditional debt instrument that has a fixed principal amount, is denominated in U.S. dollars or bears interest either at a fixed rate or a floating rate determined by reference to a

common, nationally published benchmark. The risks of a particular hybrid instrument will depend upon the terms of the instrument, but may include the possibility of significant changes in the benchmark(s) or the prices of the underlying indicators to which the instrument is linked. Such risks generally depend upon factors unrelated to the operations or credit quality of the issuer of the hybrid instrument, which may not be foreseen by the purchaser, such as economic and political events, the supply and demand of the underlying indicators and interest rate movements. Hybrid instruments may be highly volatile.

Hybrid instruments are potentially more volatile and carry greater market risks than traditional debt instruments. Depending on the structure of the particular hybrid instrument, changes in a benchmark, underlying asset or indicator may be magnified by the terms of the hybrid instrument and have an even more dramatic and substantial effect upon the value of the hybrid instrument. Also, the prices of the hybrid instrument and the benchmark, underlying asset or indicator may not move in the same direction or at the same time.

Hybrid instruments may bear interest or pay preferred dividends at below market (or even relatively nominal) rates. Alternatively, hybrid instruments may bear interest at above market rates but bear an increased risk of principal loss (or gain). The latter scenario may result if leverage is used to structure the hybrid instrument. Leverage risk occurs when the hybrid instrument is structured so that a given change in a benchmark or underlying indicator is multiplied to produce a greater value change in the hybrid instrument, thereby magnifying the risk of loss as well as the potential for gain.

If MFS attempts to use a hybrid instrument as a hedge against, or as a substitute for, a portfolio investment, the hybrid instrument may not correlate as expected with the portfolio investment, resulting in losses to the fund. While hedging strategies involving hybrid instruments can reduce the risk of loss, they can also reduce the opportunity for gain or even result in losses by offsetting favorable price movements in other fund investments.

Hybrid instruments may also carry liquidity risk since the instruments are often customized to meet the portfolio needs of a particular investor, and therefore, the number of investors that are willing and able to buy such instruments in the secondary market may be smaller than that for more traditional debt instruments. Under certain conditions, the redemption value of such an investment could be zero. In addition, because the purchase and sale of hybrid investments could take place in an over-the-counter market without the guarantee of a central clearing organization, or in a transaction between the fund and the issuer of the hybrid instrument, hybrid instruments are subject to the creditworthiness of the issuer of the hybrid instrument, and their values may decline substantially if the issuer's creditworthiness deteriorates. Hybrid instruments also may not be subject to regulation by the CFTC, which generally regulates the trading of commodity futures by U.S. persons, the SEC, which regulates the offer and sale of securities by and to U.S. persons, or any other governmental regulatory authority.

**Inflation-Indexed Bonds.** Inflation-indexed bonds are debt instruments whose principal value is adjusted periodically according to a rate of inflation (usually a consumer price index). Two structures are most common. The U.S. Treasury and some other issuers use a structure that accrues inflation into the principal value of the bond. Most other issuers pay out the inflation accruals as part of a semiannual coupon.

U.S. Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS) currently are issued with maturities of five, ten, or thirty years, although it is possible that securities with other maturities will be issued in the future. The principal amount of TIPS adjusts for inflation, although the inflation-adjusted principal is not paid until maturity. Semi-annual coupon payments are determined as a fixed percentage of the inflation-adjusted principal at the time the payment is made.

If the rate measuring inflation falls, the principal value of inflation-indexed bonds will be adjusted downward, and consequently the interest payable on these securities (calculated with respect to a smaller principal amount) will be reduced. At maturity, TIPS are redeemed at the greater of their inflation-adjusted principal or at the par amount at original issue. If an inflation-indexed bond does not provide a guarantee of principal at maturity, the adjusted principal value of the bond repaid at maturity may be less than the original principal.

The value of inflation-indexed bonds is expected to change in response to changes in real interest rates. Real interest rates in turn are tied to the relationship between nominal interest rates and the rate of inflation. For example, if inflation were to rise at a faster rate than nominal interest rates, real interest rates would likely decline, leading to an increase in value of inflation-indexed bonds. In contrast, if nominal interest rates increase at a faster rate than inflation, real interest rates would likely rise, leading to a decrease in value of inflation-indexed bonds.

While these securities, if held to maturity, are expected to be protected from long-term inflationary trends, short-term increases in inflation may lead to a decline in value. If nominal interest rates rise due to reasons other than

inflation (for example, due to an expansion of non-inflationary economic activity), investors in these securities may not be protected to the extent that the increase in rates is not reflected in the bond's inflation measure.

The inflation adjustment of TIPS is tied to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPI-U), which is calculated monthly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI-U is a measurement of price changes in the cost of living, made up of components such as housing, food, transportation, and energy. There can be no assurance that the CPI-U will accurately measure the real rate of inflation in the prices of goods and services.

**Inverse Floaters.** Inverse floaters have variable interest rates that typically move in the opposite direction from movements in prevailing interest rates, most often short-term rates. Accordingly, the value of inverse floaters, or other obligations or certificates structured to have similar features, generally moves in the opposite direction as interest rates. The value of an inverse floater can be considerably more volatile than the value of other debt instruments of comparable maturity and quality. Inverse floaters incorporate varying degrees of leverage. Generally, greater leverage results in greater price volatility for any given change in interest rates. Inverse floaters may be subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale and therefore may be less liquid than other types of securities.

**Lending.** The fund may not lend any security or make any other loan, if as a result, more than 33 1/3% of its total assets would be lent to other parties. This limitation does not apply to the purchase of debt instruments, money market instruments, repurchase agreements, loans, or other direct indebtedness.

**Lending of Portfolio Securities.** Portfolio securities may be lent to qualified investors such as member firms of the New York Stock Exchange (the Exchange) (and subsidiaries thereof) and member banks of the Federal Reserve System, and would be required to be secured by collateral in cash, an irrevocable letter of credit, or U.S. Government securities maintained on a current basis at an amount at least equal to the market value of the securities loaned. When one party lends portfolio securities to another party, the lender has the right to call the loan and obtain the securities loaned at any time on customary industry settlement notice (which will not usually exceed five business days). For the duration of a loan, the borrower pays the lender an amount equal to any interest or dividends received on the securities loaned. The lender also receives a fee from the borrower or compensation from the investment of the collateral, less a fee paid to the borrower (if the collateral is in the form of cash). The lender does not, however, have the right to vote any securities having voting rights during the existence of the loan, but it can call the loan in anticipation of an important vote to be taken among holders of the securities or of the giving or withholding of their consent on a material matter affecting the investment. A fund's performance will continue to reflect changes in the value of the securities loaned and will also reflect the receipt of interest, through investment of cash collateral by the fund or a fee. If the borrower defaults on its obligation to return the securities loaned because of insolvency or other reasons, the lender may not be able to recover the securities loaned or gain access to the collateral. These delays and costs could be greater for foreign securities. If the lender is not able to recover the securities loaned, the lender may sell the collateral and purchase a replacement investment in the market. The value of the collateral could decrease below the value of the replacement investment by the time the replacement investment is purchased.

**Loans and Other Direct Indebtedness.** Loans and other direct indebtedness are interests in amounts owed by corporations, governmental or other borrowers to lenders or lending syndicates (loans and loan participations), to suppliers of goods and services (trade claims and other receivables), or to other parties. Some loans may be unsecured in part or in full. Loans may be in default at the time of purchase. Loans that are fully secured should protect the purchaser to a greater extent than unsecured loans in the event of nonpayment of scheduled interest or principal. However, there can be no assurance that the liquidation of collateral acquired in connection with the default of a secured loan would satisfy the borrower's obligation, or that such collateral could be liquidated.

Loans generally are made to finance internal growth, mergers, acquisitions, stock repurchases, leveraged buy-outs or other corporate activities. Such loans typically are originated, negotiated and structured by a syndicate of lenders represented by an agent lender that has negotiated and structured the loan and that is responsible for collecting interest and principal payments and other amounts due on behalf of all of the lenders in the syndicate, and for enforcing the lenders' rights against the borrower. Typically, the agent is given broad discretion in monitoring the borrower's performance and is obligated to use the same care it would use in the management of its own property. Upon an event of default, the agent typically will enforce the loan agreement after instruction from the lenders. The borrower compensates the agent for these services. This compensation may include special fees paid when the loan is structured or funded and other fees paid on a continuing basis. The typical practice of an agent or a lender to rely exclusively or primarily on reports from the borrower involves a risk of fraud by the borrower.

If an agent becomes insolvent, or has a receiver, conservator or similar official appointed for it by an appropriate authority, or if it becomes a debtor in a bankruptcy proceeding, the agent's appointment may be terminated, and a successor agent typically may be appointed by the lenders. If an appropriate authority determines that assets held by the agent for the benefit of lenders or purchasers of loans are subject to the claims of the agent's general or secured creditors, then such lenders or purchasers might incur certain costs and delays in realizing payment on a loan or suffer a loss of principal and/or interest. Furthermore, in the event of the borrower's bankruptcy or insolvency, the borrower's obligation to repay a loan may be subject to certain defenses that the borrower can assert as a result of improper conduct by the agent.

Loans may be acquired by participating directly in a lending syndicate as a lender. Alternatively, loans or an interest in loans may be acquired by novation, by assignment or by participation from members of the lending syndicate or from other participants. In a novation or an assignment, the acquirer assumes all of the rights of the lender in the loan or of the participant in the participants' portion of the loan and, in the case of a novation or an assignment from a member of the lending syndicate, becomes a party of record with respect to the loan. In a participation, the acquirer purchases a portion of the lender's or the participants' interest in the loan, but has no direct contractual relationship with the borrower. An investment in a loan by participation gives rise to several risks. The acquirer must rely on another party not only for the enforcement of the acquirer's rights against the borrower, but also for the receipt and processing of principal, interest or other payments due under the loan and may be subject to the credit risk of the other party in addition to the borrower. The acquirer may be subject to delays, expenses, and risks that are greater than those that would be involved if the acquirer could enforce its rights directly against the borrower. In addition, under the terms of a participation agreement, the acquirer may be regarded as a creditor of the seller of the participation interest (rather than of the borrower), so that the acquirer also may be subject to the risk that such seller could become insolvent. A participation agreement also may limit the rights of the acquirer to vote on changes that may be made to the underlying loan agreement, such as waiving a breach of a covenant.

Direct indebtedness includes trade or other claims against companies, which generally represent monies owed by such companies to suppliers of goods or services. Such claims may be purchased when such companies are in default.

The ability to receive payments of principal and interest on loans and other direct indebtedness will depend primarily on the financial condition of the borrower. Because an acquirer may be required to rely on another party to collect and to pass on to it amounts payable with respect to the loan or other direct indebtedness and to enforce the acquirer's rights under the loan or other direct indebtedness, an insolvency, bankruptcy or reorganization of such other party may delay or prevent the acquirer from receiving such amounts. The highly leveraged nature of many loans and other direct indebtedness may make such loans and other direct indebtedness especially vulnerable to adverse changes in economic or market conditions.

Revolving credit facilities and other standby financing commitments obligate the purchaser to fund additional cash on a certain date or on demand. A revolving credit facility differs from other types of financing commitments in that as the borrower repays the loan, an amount equal to the repayment may be borrowed again during the term of the revolving credit facility. These commitments may have the effect of requiring a purchaser to increase its investment in a company at a time when the purchaser might not otherwise decide to do so (including at a time when the company's financial condition makes it unlikely that such amounts will be repaid).

Floating rate loans generally are subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale. Floating rate loans currently are not listed on any securities exchange or automatic quotation system. As a result, no active market may exist for some floating rate loans, and to the extent a secondary market exists for other floating rate loans, such market may be subject to irregular trading activity, wide bid/ask spreads and extended trade settlement periods. Additionally, the supply of floating rate loans may be limited from time to time due to a lack of sellers in the market for existing floating rate loans or to the number of new floating rate loans currently being issued. As a result, the floating rate loans available for purchase may be of lower quality or may have a higher price.

With respect to its management of investments in bank loans, MFS will normally seek to avoid receiving material, non-public information (MNPI) about the issuers of bank loans being considered for acquisition by the fund or held in the fund's portfolio. In many instances, borrowers may offer to furnish MNPI to prospective investors, and to holders, of the issuer's loans. MFS' decision not to receive MNPI may place MFS at a disadvantage relative to other investors in loans (which could have an adverse effect on the price the fund pays or receives when buying or selling loans). Also, in instances where holders of loans are asked to grant amendments, waivers or consent, MFS' ability to assess their significance or desirability may be adversely affected. For these and other reasons, it is possible that MFS' decision not to receive MNPI under normal circumstances could adversely affect the fund's investment performance.



Notwithstanding its intention generally not to receive MNPI with respect to its management of investments in loans, MFS may from time to time come into possession of MNPI about the issuers of loans that may be held in the fund's portfolio. Possession of such information may in some instances occur despite MFS' efforts to avoid such possession, but in other instances MFS may choose to receive such information (for example, in connection with participation in a creditors' committee with respect to a financially distressed issuer). As, and to the extent, required by applicable law, MFS' ability to trade in these loans for the account of the fund could potentially be limited by its possession of such information. Such limitations on MFS' ability to trade could have an adverse effect on the fund by, for example, preventing the fund from selling a loan that is experiencing a material decline in value. In some instances, these trading restrictions could continue in effect for a substantial period of time.

**Lower Quality Debt Instruments.** Lower quality debt instruments are considered speculative with respect to the issuer's continuing ability to meet principal and interest payments and, while generally expected to provide greater income than investments in higher quality debt instruments, will involve greater risk of principal and income (including the possibility of default or bankruptcy of the issuers of such instruments) and may involve greater volatility of price (especially during periods of economic uncertainty or change) than higher quality debt instruments. In addition, because yields vary over time, no specific level of income can ever be assured. These lower quality debt instruments generally tend to reflect economic changes (and the outlook for economic growth), short-term corporate and industry developments and the market's perception of their credit quality to a greater extent than higher quality debt instruments, which react primarily to fluctuations in the general level of interest rates (although these lower quality debt instruments are also affected by changes in interest rates). In the past, economic downturns or an increase in interest rates have, under certain circumstances, resulted in a higher incidence of default by the issuers of these instruments and may do so in the future, especially in the case of highly leveraged issuers. The prices for these instruments may be affected by legislative and regulatory developments. The market for these lower quality debt instruments may be less liquid than the market for investment grade debt instruments. Furthermore, the liquidity of these lower quality debt instruments may be affected by the market's perception of their credit quality.

Instruments in the lowest tier of investment-grade debt instruments, while normally exhibiting adequate protection parameters, have speculative characteristics and changes in economic conditions or other circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to make principal and interest payments than in the case of higher grade securities.

See *Appendix A* for a description of bond ratings.

**Money Market Instruments.** Money market instruments, or short-term debt instruments, consist of obligations such as commercial paper, bank obligations (*e.g.*, certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances), repurchase agreements, and various government obligations, such as Treasury bills. Money market instruments may be structured to be, or may employ a trust or other form so that they are, eligible investments for money market funds. For example, put features can be used to modify the maturity of a security or interest rate adjustment features can be used to enhance price stability. If a structure fails to function as intended, adverse tax or investment consequences may result. Neither the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) nor any other regulatory authority has ruled definitively on certain legal issues presented by certain structured securities. Future tax or other regulatory determinations could adversely affect the value, liquidity, or tax treatment of the income received from these securities. Commercial paper is a money market instrument issued by banks or companies to raise money for short-term purposes. Unlike some other debt obligations, commercial paper is typically unsecured. Commercial paper may be issued as an asset-backed security.

**Mortgage-Backed Securities.** Mortgage-backed securities are securities that represent direct or indirect participation in, or are collateralized by and payable from, mortgage loans secured by real property or instruments derived from such loans. Mortgage-backed securities are backed by different types of mortgages, including commercial and residential properties and reverse mortgages. Mortgage-backed securities include various types of securities such as pass-throughs, stripped mortgage-backed securities, and collateralized mortgage obligations. There are a wide variety of mortgage types underlying these securities, including mortgage instruments whose principal or interest payments may vary or whose terms to maturity may be shorter than customary.

Mortgage-backed securities represent interests in pools of mortgage loans assembled for sale to investors by various governmental agencies, such as the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), by government-related organizations, such as the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), and by private issuers, such as commercial banks, savings and loan institutions and mortgage companies. Government mortgage-backed securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States as to payment of principal and interest. GNMA, the principal U.S. guarantor of these securities, is a wholly-owned U.S. government corporation within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Government-related mortgage-backed securities are not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. Issuers of government-related mortgage-backed securities include FNMA and FHLMC. FNMA is a congressionally chartered corporation owned entirely by private stockholders, and is subject to general regulation by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Pass-through securities issued by FNMA are guaranteed as to timely payment of principal and interest by FNMA. FHLMC is a stockholder-owned government-sponsored enterprise established by Congress. Participation certificates representing interests in mortgages from FHLMC's national portfolio are guaranteed as to the timely payment of interest and principal by FHLMC.

Private mortgage-backed securities represent interest in pass-through pools consisting of residential or commercial mortgage loans created by non-government issuers, such as commercial banks and savings and loan associations and private mortgage companies. Private mortgage-backed securities may be subject to greater credit risk and be more volatile than government or government-related mortgage-backed securities. In addition, private mortgage-backed securities may be less liquid than government or government-related mortgage-backed securities.

Private, government, or government-related entities may create mortgage loan pools offering pass-through investments in addition to those described above. Interests in pools of mortgage-related securities differ from other forms of debt instruments, which normally provide for periodic payment of interest in fixed amounts with principal payments at maturity or specified call dates. Instead, these securities typically provide a monthly payment which consists of both interest and principal payments. In effect, these payments generally are a pass-through of the monthly payments made by the individual borrowers on their residential or commercial loans, net of any fees paid to the issuer or guarantor of such securities. Additional payments are caused by repayments of principal resulting from the sale of the underlying property, refinancing or foreclosure, net of fees or costs incurred.

Mortgage-backed securities are often subject to more rapid repayment than their stated maturity date would indicate as a result of the pass-through of prepayments of principal on the underlying loans. Prepayments of principal by mortgagors or mortgage foreclosures shorten the term of the mortgage pool underlying the mortgage-backed security. The occurrence of prepayments is a function of several factors, including interest rates, general economic conditions, the location of the mortgaged property, the age of the mortgage or other underlying obligations, and other social and demographic conditions. Because prepayment rates of individual mortgage pools vary widely, the average life of a particular pool is difficult to predict. The rate of principal payments for a reverse mortgage-backed security depends on a variety of economic, geographic, social, and other factors, including interest rates and borrower mortality. Reverse mortgage-backed securities may respond differently to economic, geographic, social, and other factors than other mortgage-backed securities. A fund's ability to maintain positions in mortgage-backed securities is affected by the reductions in the principal amount of such securities resulting from prepayments. The values of mortgage-backed securities vary with changes in market interest rates generally and the differentials in yields among various kinds of U.S. government securities, mortgage-backed securities, and asset-backed securities. In periods of rising interest rates, the rate of prepayment tends to decrease, thereby lengthening the average life of a pool of mortgages supporting a mortgage-backed security. Conversely, in periods of falling interest rates, the rate of prepayment tends to increase thereby shortening the average life of such a pool. Because prepayments of principal generally occur when interest rates are declining, an investor generally has to reinvest the proceeds of such prepayments at lower interest rates than those at which its assets were previously invested. Therefore, mortgage-backed securities typically have less potential for capital appreciation in periods of falling interest rates than other income-bearing securities of comparable maturity.

Collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs) are mortgage-backed securities that are collateralized by whole loan mortgages or mortgage pass-through securities. The bonds issued in a CMO transaction are divided into groups, and each group of bonds is referred to as a tranche. Under the traditional CMO structure, the cash flows

generated by the mortgages or mortgage pass-through securities in the collateral pool are used to first pay interest and then pay principal to the CMO bondholders. The bonds issued under a traditional CMO structure are retired sequentially as opposed to the pro-rata return of principal found in traditional pass-through obligations. Subject to the various provisions of individual CMO issues, the cash flow generated by the underlying collateral (to the extent it exceeds the amount required to pay the stated interest) is used to retire the bonds. Under a CMO structure, the repayment of principal among the different tranches is prioritized in accordance with the terms of the particular CMO issuance. The fastest-pay tranches of bonds, as specified in the prospectus for the issuance, would initially receive all principal payments. When those tranches of bonds are retired, the next tranche, or tranches, in the sequence, as specified in the prospectus, receive all of the principal payments until they are retired. The sequential retirement of bond groups continues until the last tranche is retired. Accordingly, the CMO structure allows the issuer to use cash flows of long maturity, monthly-pay collateral to formulate securities with short, intermediate, and long final maturities, as well as varied expected average lives and risk characteristics. In recent years, new types of CMO tranches have evolved. These include floating rate CMOs, parallel pay CMOs planned amortization classes, accrual bonds and CMO residuals. These newer structures affect the amount and timing of principal and interest received by each tranche from the underlying collateral. Under certain of these new structures, given classes of CMOs have priority over others with respect to the receipt of prepayments on the mortgages. Therefore, depending on the type of CMOs in which a fund invests, the investment may be subject to a greater or lesser risk of prepayment than other types of mortgage-backed securities.

A primary risk of CMOs is the uncertainty of the timing of cash flows that results from the rate of prepayments on the underlying mortgages serving as collateral and from the structure of the particular CMO transaction (that is, the priority of the individual tranches). An increase or decrease in prepayment rates (resulting from a decrease or increase in mortgage interest rates) will affect the yield, average life, and price of CMOs. The prices of certain CMOs, depending on their structure and the rate of prepayments, can be volatile. Some CMOs may also not be as liquid as other securities.

Commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) are a type of mortgage-backed security that are collateralized by a pool of commercial mortgage loans. The bonds issued in a CMBS transaction are divided into groups, and each group of bonds is referred to as a tranche. Under a typical CMBS structure, the repayment of principal among the different tranches is prioritized in accordance with the terms of the particular CMBS issuance. The fastest-pay tranches of bonds, as specified in the prospectus for the issuance, would initially receive all principal payments. When those tranches of bonds are retired, the next tranche, or tranches, in the sequence, as specified in the prospectus, receive all of the principal payments until they are retired. The sequential retirement of bond groups continues until the last tranche is retired. Accordingly, the CMBS structure allows the issuer to use cash flows of long maturity, monthly-pay collateral to formulate securities with short, intermediate, and long final maturities. The value of CMBS depend on the cash flow and volatility of the commercial loans, the volatility and reliability of cash flows associated with the commercial properties; the type, quality, and competitiveness of the commercial properties; the experience, reputation and capital resources of the borrower and the manager; the location of the commercial properties; the quality of the tenants; and the terms of the loan agreements.

Stripped mortgage-backed securities (SMBSs) are derivative multi-class mortgage-backed securities. SMBSs may be issued by agencies or instrumentalities of the U.S. government, or by private originators of, or investors in, mortgage loans, including savings and loan associations, mortgage banks, commercial banks, investment banks, and special purpose entities formed or sponsored by any of the foregoing. SMBSs may be less liquid than other types of mortgage-backed securities.

SMBSs are usually structured with two classes that receive different proportions of the interest and principal distributions on a pool of mortgage assets. A common type of SMBS will have one class receiving some of the interest and most of the principal from the mortgage assets, while the other class will receive most of the interest and the remainder of the principal. In the most extreme case, one class will receive all of the interest (the interest-only or IO class), while the other class will receive all of the principal (the principal-only or PO class). The price and yield-to-maturity on an IO class is extremely sensitive to the rate of principal payments (including prepayments) on the related underlying mortgage assets, and a rapid rate of principal payments may have a material adverse effect on a fund's yield to maturity from these securities. If the underlying mortgage assets experience greater than anticipated prepayments of principal, a fund may fail to recoup some or all of its initial investment in these securities, even if the security is in one of the highest rating categories. The mortgages underlying these securities may be alternative mortgage instruments, that is, mortgage instruments whose principal or interest payments may vary or whose terms to maturity may be shorter than customary.

**Mortgage Dollar Roll Transactions.** In mortgage dollar roll transactions, the investor sells mortgage-backed securities for delivery in the future and simultaneously contracts to repurchase substantially similar securities on a specified future date. During the roll period, the investor foregoes principal and interest paid on the mortgage-backed securities. The lost interest is compensated by the difference between the current sales price and the lower price for the future purchase (often referred to as the drop) as well as by the interest earned on, and gains from, the investment of the cash proceeds of the initial sale. A commitment fee may also be received for participation in such transaction.

If the income and capital gains from the investment of the cash from the initial sale do not exceed the income, capital appreciation and gain or loss that would have been realized on the securities sold as part of the dollar roll, the use of this technique will result in a lower return than would have been realized without the use of the dollar rolls. Dollar roll transactions involve the risk that the market value of the securities that are required to be purchased in the future may decline below the agreed upon repurchase price of those securities. If the party to whom the securities are sold becomes insolvent, the right to purchase or repurchase securities may be restricted. Successful use of mortgage dollar rolls may depend upon the investor's ability to correctly predict interest rates and prepayments.

A dollar roll can be viewed as a borrowing. If a fund makes additional investments while a dollar roll is outstanding, this may be considered a form of leverage.

**Municipal Instruments.** Debt instruments issued by or on behalf of states, territories and possessions of the United States and the District of Columbia and their political subdivisions, agencies or instrumentalities, are known as municipal instruments. Generally, interest received on municipal instruments is exempt from federal income tax. The tax-exempt nature of the interest on a municipal instrument is generally the subject of a bond counsel opinion delivered in connection with the issuance of the instrument. There is no assurance that the IRS will agree with bond counsel's opinion that such interest is tax-exempt or that the interest payments on such municipal instruments will continue to be tax exempt for the life of the municipal instrument. Issuers or other parties generally enter into covenants requiring continuing compliance with federal tax requirements to preserve the tax-free status of interest payments over the life of the municipal instrument. If at any time the covenants are not complied with, or if the IRS otherwise determines that the issuer did not comply with relevant tax requirements, interest payments from a municipal instrument could become federally taxable, possibly retroactively to the date the municipal instrument was issued and an investor may need to file an amended income tax return. Certain types of structured securities are designed so that tax exempt interest from municipal instruments held by the underlying entity will pass through to the holders of the structured security. There is no assurance that the IRS will agree that such interest is tax exempt.

The value of municipal instruments can be affected by changes in their actual or perceived credit quality. The credit quality of municipal instruments can be affected by, among other things, the financial condition of the issuer or guarantor, the issuer's future borrowing plans and sources of revenue, the economic feasibility of the revenue bond project or general borrowing purpose, political or economic developments in the region where the instrument is issued and the liquidity of the security. Municipal instruments generally trade in the over-the-counter market.

General obligation bonds are backed by the issuer's pledge of its full faith and credit and taxing power for the repayment of principal and the payment of interest. Issuers of general obligation bonds include states, counties, cities, towns, and regional districts. The proceeds of these obligations are used to fund a wide range of public projects, including construction or improvement of schools, highways and roads, and water and sewer systems. The rate of taxes that can be levied for the payment of debt service on these bonds may be limited. Additionally, there may be limits as to the rate or amount of special assessments or taxes that can be levied to meet these obligations.

Some general obligation bonds are backed by both a pledge of a specific revenue source, such as a special assessment or tax and an issuer's pledge of its full faith and credit and taxing power. Debt service from these general obligation bonds is typically paid first from the specific revenue source and second, if the specific revenue source is insufficient, from the general taxing power.

Revenue bonds are generally backed by the net revenues derived from a particular facility, group of facilities, or, in some cases, the proceeds of a special excise tax or other specific revenue source, such as a state's or local government's proportionate share of the payments from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. Revenue bonds are issued to finance a wide variety of capital projects. Examples include electric, gas, water and sewer systems; highways, bridges, and tunnels; port and airport facilities; colleges and universities; and hospitals.

Industrial development bonds, a type of revenue bond, are issued by or on behalf of public authorities to raise money to finance various privately operated facilities for a variety of purposes, including economic development, solid waste disposal, transportation, and pollution control. Although the principal security for revenue bonds is typically the revenues of the specific facility, project, company or system, many revenue bonds are secured by additional collateral in the form of a mortgage on the real estate comprising a specific facility, project or system, a lien on receivables and personal property, as well as the pledge of various reserve funds available to fund debt service, working capital, capital expenditures or other needs. Net revenues and other security pledged may be insufficient to pay principal and interest due which will cause the price of the bonds to decline. In some cases, revenue bonds issued by an authority are backed by a revenue stream unrelated to the issuer, such as a hotel occupancy tax, a sales tax, or a special assessment. In these cases, the ability of the authority to pay debt service is solely dependent on the revenue stream generated by the special tax. Furthermore, the taxes supporting such issues may be subject to legal limitations as to rate or amount.

Municipal insurance policies typically insure, subject to the satisfaction of the policy conditions, timely and scheduled payment of all principal and interest due on the underlying municipal instruments. The insurance may be obtained by either (i) the issuer at the time the municipal instrument is issued, commonly referred to as primary market insurance or (ii) another party after the municipal instrument has been issued, commonly referred to as secondary market insurance. The financial strength of the companies issuing the bond insurance can vary.

In general, municipal insurance does not insure any risk other than nonpayment. Municipal insurance does not insure against market fluctuations which affect the price of a security. In addition, a municipal insurance policy will not insure (i) the payment of regularly scheduled debt service payments until maturity if an issuer redeems the municipal bonds prior to maturity in accordance with the call provisions of the municipal instrument; (ii) over the loss of prepayment or other acceleration payment which at any time may become due in respect of any instrument, (except for a mandatory sinking fund redemption; (iii) the payment of a prepayment or acceleration premium; or (iv) nonpayment of principal or interest caused by negligence or bankruptcy of the paying agent. A municipal insurance policy often reserves to the insurer the exclusive right to accelerate the instruments upon a payment default.

Because a significant portion of the municipal instruments issued and outstanding are insured by a small number of insurance companies, an event involving one or more of these insurance companies could have a significant adverse effect on the value of the securities insured by that insurance company and on the municipal market as a whole.

The various insurance companies providing primary and secondary market insurance policies for municipal instruments are described below. Ratings reflect each respective rating agency's assessment of the creditworthiness of an insurer and the insurer's ability to pay claims on its insurance policies at the time of the assessment.

Ambac Assurance Corp. (AMBAC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Ambac Financial Group, Inc., is a guarantor of public finance and structured finance obligations. As of June 30, 2008, Ambac has earned Aa3 ratings from Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and AA ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services.

Assured Guaranty Insurance Co. (ASSD GTY) is a provider of financial guaranty insurance and reinsurance to the U.S. and global capital markets. As of June 30, 2008, Assured Guaranty has earned Aaa ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc., AAA ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and AAA ratings from Fitch, Inc.

Berkshire Hathaway Assurance Company (BHAC) guarantees interest and principal on debt by U.S. states, cities and towns. As of June 30, 2008, BHAC has earned Aaa ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc. and AAA ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services.

CIFG Assurance North America (CIFG) provides insurance for investment grade transactions in the structured finance, public finance and project finance markets in the US and Europe. As of June 30, 2008, CIFG has earned Ba2 ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc., A- ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and CCC ratings from Fitch, Inc.

Financial Guaranty Insurance Co. (FGIC) is a provider of financial guaranties for a variety of debt securities. As of June 30, 2008, FGIC has earned B1 ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc., BB ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and BBB ratings from Fitch, Inc.

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Financial Security Assurance Inc. (FSA) provides financial guaranty insurance for a broad range of financings, including municipal bonds and loans. As of June 30, 2008, FSA has earned Aaa ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc., AAA ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and AAA ratings from Fitch, Inc.

Government National Mortgage Assn. (GNMA) offers mortgage-backed securities carrying the full faith and credit guaranty of the United States government. As of June 30, 2008, GNMA has earned Aaa ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc., AAA ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and AAA ratings from Fitch, Inc.

MBIA Insurance Corp. (MBIA) is a financial guarantor and provider of specialized financial services. As of June 30, 2008, MBIA has earned A2 ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc. and AA ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services.

Permanent School Fund (PSF) was created by the Texas Legislature as a bond guarantee program for the benefit of Texas public schools. As of June 30, 2008, PSF has earned Aaa ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc., AAA ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and AAA ratings from Fitch, Inc.

XL Capital Insurance Co. (XLCA) is a provider of global insurance and reinsurance coverage to industrial, commercial and professional service firms, insurance companies, and other enterprises on a worldwide basis. As of June 30, 2008, XLCA has earned B2 ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc., BBB- ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and BB ratings from Fitch, Inc.

Federal Housing Administration (FHA) is a federal agency that provides mortgage insurance on loans made by FHA-approved lenders throughout the United States and its territories.

Federal National Mortgage Assn. (FNMA) is a financial services company serving the American home mortgage industry. Fannie Mae offers banks and other mortgage lenders financing, credit guarantees, technology and services so lenders can make more home loans to more consumers.

Connie Lee Insurance Co. (CONNIE LEE) was acquired by Ambac Assurance Corp in 1997, thus Connie Lee rated bonds carry the ratings of Ambac insured bonds.

Radian Asset Assurance, Inc. (RADIAN) provides financial guaranty insurance and reinsurance to US and international issuers of municipal bonds, asset-backed securities and structured finance transactions. As of June 30, 2008, RADIAN has earned A3 ratings from Moody's Investors Services, Inc. and A ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services.

ACA Financial Guaranty Corp. (ACA) provides financial guaranty insurance on municipal and other public finance bonds that guarantee to the investor the timely payment of interest and principal on such obligations. As of June 30, 2008, ACA has earned CCC ratings from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services.

*Education.* In general, there are two types of education-related bonds: (i) those issued to finance projects for public and private colleges and universities, charter schools and private schools, and (ii) those representing pooled interests in student loans. Bonds issued to supply educational institutions with funding are subject to many risks, including the risks of unanticipated revenue decline, primarily the result of decreasing student enrollment, decreasing state and federal funding, or a change in general economic conditions. Additionally, higher than anticipated costs associated with salaries, utilities, insurance or other general expenses could impair the ability of a borrower to make annual debt service payments. Student loan revenue bonds are generally offered by state (or substate) authorities or commissions and are backed by pools of student loans. Underlying student loans may be guaranteed by state guarantee agencies and may be subject to reimbursement by the United States Department of Education through its guaranteed student loan program. Others may be private, uninsured loans made to parents or students which may be supported by reserves or other forms of credit enhancement. Recoveries of principal due to loan defaults may be applied to redem