

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND

Form N-14 8C

October 04, 2004

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on
October 4, 2004
Registration No.
(Investment Company Act Registration No. 811-05133)

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM N-14

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 /X/

Pre-Effective Amendment No. / /

Post-Effective Amendment No. / /

(Check appropriate box or boxes)

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)
617-292-1000
(Area Code and Telephone Number)

BETH S. MAZOR, Vice President
PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND
One Post Office Square
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
(Name and address of Agent for Service)

Copy to:
JOHN W. GERSTMAYR, Esquire
ROPES & GRAY LLP
One International Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Approximate Date of Proposed Offering:

As soon as practicable after this Registration Statement is declared effective.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Title of Securities Being Registered	Amount Being Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Reg
Common Shares	8,716,170	\$7.87 (1)	\$68,596,258	

(1) Average of high and low reported price for common shares on September 28, 2004.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Important information for shareholders of
 PUTNAM HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITIES TRUST AND
 PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND

The document you hold in your hands contains a combined prospectus/proxy statement and proxy card. A proxy card is, in essence, a ballot. When you complete and sign your proxy card, the Trustees of your fund will vote on your behalf exactly as you have indicated. If you simply sign the proxy card, it will be voted in accordance with the Trustees' recommendations on page []. The Trustees recommend that shareholders vote in favor of the proposal described in this document and listed on your proxy card.

Please take a few moments and decide how you want to vote. When shareholders don't return their proxies in sufficient numbers, follow-up solicitations are required, which may cost your fund money.

You can vote by returning your proxy card in the envelope provided. Or you can call our toll-free number, or go to the Web. See your proxy card for the phone number and Web address. If you have any questions, please contact Putnam at 1-800-225-1581 or call your financial advisor.

[Putnam Scales Logo]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Message from the Chairman	[], []
Notice of a Joint Meeting of Shareholders	[]
Combined Prospectus/Proxy Statement	[]

PROXY CARD(S) ENCLOSED

If you have any questions, please contact us at the special toll-free number we have set up for you (1-800-225-1581) or call your financial advisor.

A Message from the Chairman

Dear Shareholder of Putnam High Income Bond Fund:

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

[Photo of John A. Hill]

I am writing to you to ask for your vote on an important matter that affects your investment in Putnam High Income Bond Fund ("High Income Bond Fund"). While you are, of course, welcome to join us at the meeting, most shareholders cast their vote by filling out and signing the enclosed proxy card, by calling or by voting via the Internet.

We are asking for your vote on the following matter:

1. Approving a proposed merger of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust ("High Income Opportunities Trust") into High Income Bond Fund. In this merger, the shares of High Income Opportunities Trust would, in effect, be exchanged on a tax-free basis for shares of High Income Bond Fund with an equal total net asset value.

The proposed merger is not intended to change significantly the nature of your investment. The investment objective and policies of High Income Opportunities Trust and your fund are substantially similar. Both are closed-end funds that seek to provide high current income as a primary objective and capital appreciation as a secondary objective by investing in a portfolio of lower-grade and nonrated convertible securities and non-convertible, high-yield securities. Although the proposed merger will not materially affect the operation of your fund, we are required by the rules of the New York Stock Exchange to solicit your vote on this matter.

The proposal is intended to result in a combined fund that is more attractive to investors than either of the two funds separately. Putnam Investment Management, LLC believes that creating a broader shareholder base for the combined fund's shares may attract more interest in the combined fund than is currently the case with either fund, which may result in higher trading levels for the combined fund's shares. However, there can be no guarantee that the proposed merger will have the intended effect.

Your vote is important to us. We appreciate the time and consideration I am sure you will give this important matter. If you have questions about the proposal, please call 1-800-225-1581 or call your financial advisor.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature of John A. Hill]

John A. Hill, Chairman

A Message from the Chairman

Dear Shareholder of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust:

[Photo of John A. Hill]

I am writing to you to ask for your vote on an important matter that affects your investment in Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust ("High Income Opportunities Trust"). While you are, of course, welcome to join us at the meeting, most shareholders cast their vote by filling out and signing the enclosed proxy card, by calling or by voting via the Internet.

We are asking for your vote on the following matter:

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

1. Approving a proposed merger of High Income Opportunities Trust into Putnam High Income Bond Fund ("High Income Bond Fund"). In this merger, the shares of High Income Opportunities Trust would, in effect, be exchanged on a tax-free basis for shares of High Income Bond Fund with an equal total net asset value.

The proposed merger is not intended to change significantly the nature of your investment. The investment objective and policies of High Income Bond Fund and your fund are substantially similar. Both are closed-end funds that seek to provide high current income as a primary objective and capital appreciation as a secondary objective by investing in a portfolio of lower-grade and nonrated convertible securities and non-convertible, high-yield securities.

The proposal is intended to result in a combined fund that is more attractive to investors than either of the two funds separately. Putnam Investment Management, LLC believes that creating a broader shareholder base for the combined fund's shares may attract more interest in the combined fund than is currently the case with either fund, which may result in higher trading levels for the combined fund's common shares. However, there can be no guarantee that the proposed merger will have the intended effect.

Your vote is important to us. We appreciate the time and consideration I am sure you will give this important matter. If you have questions about the proposal, please call 1-800-225-1581 or call your financial advisor.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature of John A. Hill]

John A. Hill, Chairman

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITIES TRUST ("HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITIES TRUST") AND PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND ("HIGH INCOME BOND FUND")

Notice of a Joint Meeting of Shareholders

* This is the formal agenda for the joint meeting of shareholders. It tells you what matter will be voted on and the time and place of the meeting.

To the Shareholders of High Income Opportunities Trust:

A Meeting of Shareholders of High Income Opportunities Trust will be held on [], at [], Boston time, on the eighth floor of One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts, to consider the following:

1. Approving an Agreement and Plan of Reorganization and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the transfer of all of the assets of High Income Opportunities Trust to High Income Bond Fund in exchange for the issuance and delivery of shares of beneficial interest of High Income Bond Fund and the assumption by High Income Bond Fund of all of the liabilities of High Income Opportunities Trust, and the distribution of such shares to the shareholders of High Income Opportunities Trust in complete liquidation of High Income Opportunities Trust. See page [].

To the Shareholders of High Income Bond Fund:

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

A Meeting of Shareholders of High Income Bond Fund will be held on [], at [], Boston time, on the eighth floor of One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts, to consider the following:

1. Approving an Agreement and Plan of Reorganization and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the transfer of all of the assets of High Income Opportunities Trust to High Income Bond Fund in exchange for the issuance and delivery of shares of beneficial interest of High Income Bond Fund and the assumption by High Income Bond Fund of all of the liabilities of High Income Opportunities Trust, and the distribution of such shares to the shareholders of High Income Opportunities Trust in complete liquidation of High Income Opportunities Trust. See page [].

By the Trustees

John A. Hill, Chairman
George Putnam, III, President

Jameson A. Baxter
Charles B. Curtis
Ronald J. Jackson
Paul L. Joskow
Elizabeth T. Kennan
John H. Mullin, III
Robert E. Patterson
A.J.C. Smith
W. Thomas Stephens

WE URGE YOU TO MARK, SIGN, DATE AND MAIL THE ENCLOSED PROXY IN THE POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE PROVIDED OR RECORD YOUR VOTING INSTRUCTIONS BY TELEPHONE OR VIA THE INTERNET SO THAT YOU WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING.

[], 2004

Prospectus/Proxy Statement

[], 2004

This Prospectus/Proxy Statement relates to the proposed merger of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust ("High Income Opportunities Trust") into Putnam High Income Bond Fund ("High Income Bond Fund"), each located at One Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109; 1-617-292-1000. As a result of the proposed merger, each shareholder of High Income Opportunities Trust would receive a number of full and fractional shares of High Income Bond Fund of equal net asset value at the date of the exchange to the total net asset value of the shareholder's High Income Opportunities Trust shares.

This Prospectus/Proxy Statement is being mailed on or about [], 2004. It explains concisely what you should know before voting on the matter described herein or investing in High Income Bond Fund, a closed-end management investment company. Please read this Prospectus/Proxy Statement and keep it for future reference.

A Statement of Additional Information (the "SAI"), dated [], 2004, relating to the proposed merger has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and is incorporated by reference into this Prospectus/Proxy Statement. For a free copy of the SAI, please contact

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

us at 1-800-225-1581.

The securities offered by this Prospectus/Proxy Statement have not been approved or disapproved by the SEC, nor has the SEC passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this Prospectus/Proxy Statement. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Shares of High Income Bond Fund are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed or endorsed by, any financial institution, are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Board or any other agency, and involve risk, including the possible loss of principal amount invested.

This document will give you the information you need to vote on the proposal. Much of the information is required under rules of the SEC; some of it is technical. If there is anything you don't understand, please contact us at our toll-free number, 1-800-225-1581, or call your financial advisor. Like High Income Bond Fund, High Income Opportunities Trust is in the family of funds managed by Putnam Investment Management, LLC ("Putnam Management"). High Income Bond Fund and High Income Opportunities Trust are collectively referred to herein as the "funds," and each is referred to individually as a "fund."

The common shares of High Income Bond Fund are listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") under the symbol "PCF," and the common shares of High Income Opportunities Trust are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "PCV." You may inspect reports, proxy material and other information concerning either High Income Bond Fund or High Income Opportunities Trust at the NYSE.

High Income Bond Fund and High Income Opportunities Trust are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and, as a result, file reports and other information with the SEC. You may review and copy information about the funds, including the SAI, at the SEC's public reference room at 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, D.C.; or at the public reference facilities in its Northeast and Midwest regional offices, at 233 Broadway, New York, NY, and 175 W. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 900, Chicago, IL. You may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for information about the operation of the public reference room. You may obtain copies of this information, with payment of a duplication fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov, or by writing the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, D.C. 20549-0102. You may also access reports and other information about the funds on the EDGAR Database on the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

I. Synopsis

* The responses to the questions that follow provide an overview of key points typically of concern to shareholders considering a proposed merger between closed-end funds. These responses are qualified in their entirety by the remainder of the Prospectus/Proxy Statement, which contains additional information and further details regarding the proposed merger.

1. What is being proposed?

The Trustees of the funds are recommending that shareholders of each fund approve the merger of High Income Opportunities Trust into High Income Bond Fund and the related transactions contemplated by the Agreement and Plan of Reorganization among each of the funds and Putnam Management, dated as of [] (the "Agreement"). The Agreement is attached to this Prospectus/Proxy Statement as Appendix A. If approved by shareholders of each fund, all of

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

the assets of High Income Opportunities Trust will be transferred to High Income Bond Fund in exchange for the issuance and delivery to High Income Opportunities Trust of shares of High Income Bond Fund (the "Merger Shares") with a net asset value equal to the value of High Income Opportunities Trust's assets net of liabilities and for the assumption by High Income Bond Fund of all of the liabilities of High Income Opportunities Trust. Immediately following the transfer, the Merger Shares received by High Income Opportunities Trust will be distributed to its shareholders, pro rata.

2. What will happen to my shares as a result of the proposed merger?

If you are a shareholder of High Income Opportunities Trust, your shares will, in effect, be exchanged on a tax-free basis for shares of High Income Bond Fund with an equal aggregate net asset value on the date of the merger. It is possible, however, that the market value of such shares may differ. See question 12 below.

If you are a shareholder of High Income Bond Fund, your shares of High Income Bond Fund will not be directly affected by the merger, but will represent interests in a larger fund pursuing the same investment objectives and policies.

3. Why is the merger being proposed at this time?

Putnam Management proposed the merger of High Income Opportunities Trust into High Income Bond Fund to the funds' Trustees because it believes the proposed merger may result in a combined fund that is more attractive to investors than either of the two funds separately. Putnam Management believes that creating a broader shareholder base for the combined fund's shares may attract more interest in the combined fund than is currently the case with either fund, which may result in higher trading levels for the combined fund's common shares. However, there can be no guarantee that the proposed merger will have the intended effect.

In addition, the merger would offer shareholders of both funds the opportunity to invest in a larger fund with substantially similar investment policies and the potential to achieve greater economies of scale and a lower expense ratio. In addition, the funds are managed by the same investment teams with a common investment process and similar objectives; therefore, the proposed merger would permit the funds' investment teams to focus their efforts on a single fund.

Both funds invest significantly in both high-yield bonds and convertible securities. Convertible securities typically are bonds, preferred stocks or warrants that can be converted into or exchanged for common stock. The convertible securities portion of High Income Bond Fund is a heavily income-oriented portfolio composed of so-called "broken" convertibles, which are convertibles whose underlying equity has fallen to the point where the convertibles trade based primarily on their fixed-income attributes. The convertible securities portion of High Income Opportunities Trust was originally more equity-oriented, emphasizing smaller capitalization issuers. In 2002, however, a number of investment policy changes were made to these funds, including changing the convertible securities portion of High Income Opportunities Trust to permit it to focus its convertible holdings on larger capitalization and "broken" convertibles. As a result, the management of the two funds has converged, and they are now managed in parallel by the same investment management teams.

For these reasons, Putnam Management recommended that High Income

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Opportunities Trust, which had assets of \$72.5 million as of July 31, 2004, be combined with High Income Bond Fund, which had assets of \$114.9 million as of July 31, 2004. As High Income Bond Fund is larger than High Income Opportunities Trust, the Trustees believe that it is appropriate for the smaller High Income Opportunities Trust to be merged into High Income Bond Fund.

* * *

The Trustees of the Putnam Funds, who serve as Trustees of each of the funds involved in the proposed merger, have carefully considered Putnam Management's recommendations. Following a review of the anticipated benefits and costs of the proposed merger to the shareholders of each fund, the Trustees of the funds, including all of the independent Trustees, who are not "interested persons" of Putnam Management, unanimously determined that the proposed merger is in the best interests of each fund and recommend that shareholders vote FOR approval of the proposed merger.

4. How do the investment goals, policies and restrictions of the two funds compare?

Investment Goals

The investment goals of the funds are identical. Each fund seeks high current income as a primary objective and capital appreciation as a secondary objective. The management of the two funds has converged, and they are now managed in parallel. As of July 31, 2004, each fund had 47-48% of its net assets in convertible securities and 43-44% in high-yield bonds.

Investment Policies

The funds share substantially similar fundamental investment policies, though there are three differences that Putnam Management believes are of little practical importance since, as discussed above, the funds are now managed in parallel. First, High Income Opportunities Trust may borrow up to 10% of the value of its total assets. By contrast, High Income Bond Fund may borrow up to 15% of the value of its total assets. Secondly, High Income Bond Fund may not purchase securities restricted as to resale if, as a result, such investments would exceed 10% of the value of its net assets. By contrast, High Income Opportunities Trust has a non-fundamental policy under which it may invest up to 15% of its net assets in securities that are restricted as to resale. Third, while both funds are generally prohibited from issuing senior securities (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act")), High Income Opportunities Trust is permitted to issue shares of beneficial interest with preference rights.

The funds share substantially similar non-fundamental investment policies. Each fund will invest, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets in fixed income securities (including debt instruments, convertible securities and preferred stock) rated below investment grade (e.g., below BBB/Baa) by at least one nationally recognized rating agency (or nonrated securities Putnam Management believes are of comparable credit quality). There are two differences in non-fundamental investment policies that Putnam Management believes are of little practical importance because, as discussed above, the funds are now managed in parallel. First, High Income Bond Fund may invest up to 20% if its net assets in securities principally traded in foreign markets. By contrast, High Income Opportunities Trust may only invest up to 15% of its assets in securities principally traded in foreign markets. Secondly, High Income Bond Fund may not invest in the

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

securities of registered open-end investment companies, except as they may be acquired as part of a merger or consolidation or acquisition of assets or by purchases in the open market involving only customary brokers' commissions. High Income Opportunities Trust is not subject to a corresponding restriction.

5. How do the management fees and other expenses of the two funds compare, and what are they estimated to be following the proposed merger?

The following tables summarize the maximum fees and expenses you may pay when investing in the funds, expenses that each of the funds incurred for its most recent fiscal year as well as the pro forma expenses of High Income Bond Fund. As shown below, the merger is expected to result in decreased total expenses for shareholders of each fund. For more information on the management fees paid by the funds, see "Information about the Funds--Management" below.

	High Income Bond Fund	High Income Opportunities Trust
Shareholder transaction expenses		
Maximum sales charge imposed on purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	None (a)	None (a)
Dividend Reinvestment Plan	None (b)	None (b)

(a) Shares of either fund purchased on the secondary market are not subject to sales charges but may be subject to brokerage commissions or other charges. The table does not include an underwriting commission paid by shareholders in the initial offering of each fund.

(b) Each participant in a fund's dividend reinvestment plan pays a proportionate share of the brokerage commissions incurred with respect to open market purchases in connection with such plan.

Annual Fund Operating Expenses
(expenses that are deducted from fund assets)

	High Income Opportunities Trust	High Income Bond Fund	High Income Bond Fund (Pro forma combined)
Management Fees	1.35%*	0.75%	0.75%
Other Expenses	0.44%	0.38%	0.29%**
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses	1.79%	1.13%	1.04%**

* Includes a quarterly investment management fee based on the average weekly net asset value of the fund at the annual rate of 1.10% and a quarterly administrative service fee based on the average weekly net asset value of the fund at the annual rate of 0.25%.

** Does not reflect non-recurring expenses related to the merger. If such expenses had been reflected, pro forma "other expenses" and Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses would have been 0.34% and 1.09%, respectively.

The tables are provided to help you understand the expenses of investing in the funds and your share of the operating expenses that each fund incurs and that Putnam Management expects the combined fund to incur in the first year following the merger. The expenses shown in the table do not reflect the application of credits related to expense offset arrangements that reduce certain fund expenses.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Examples

These examples translate the "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses" shown in the preceding table into dollar amounts. By doing this, you can more easily compare the cost of investing in the funds. The examples make certain assumptions. They assume that you invest \$1,000 in a fund for the time periods shown. They also assume, as required by the SEC, a 5% return on your investment each year and that a fund's operating expenses remain the same. The examples are hypothetical; your actual costs and returns may be higher or lower.

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
High Income Bond Fund	\$12	\$36	\$62	\$137
High Income Opportunities Trust	\$18	\$56	\$97	\$211
High Income Bond Fund (Pro forma combined)	\$11	\$33	\$57	\$127

6. How does the investment performance of the funds compare?

As shown in the table below, in recent years, the total returns at NAV of High Income Opportunities Trust have approximated those of High Income Bond Fund. Each fund's performance at market price may differ from its results at NAV. Although market price performance generally reflects investment results, it may also be influenced by several factors, including changes in investor perceptions of each fund or its investment adviser, market conditions, fluctuations in supply and demand for each fund's shares and changes in each fund's distributions.

TOTAL RETURN FOR PERIODS ENDED 8/31/04

	High Income Bond Fund		High Income Opportunities Trust	
	NAV	Market Price	NAV	Market Price
1 year	16.40%	12.06%	15.43%	8.01%
5 years	58.79%	36.49%	29.56%	22.95%
Annual average	9.69%	6.42%	5.32%	4.22%
10 years	133.54%	104.14%		
Annual average	9.13%	7.40%	--	--
Life of fund*			91.47%	69.35%
Annual average	10.12%	9.10%	7.34%	5.91%

* The inception dates of High Income Bond Fund and High Income Opportunities Trust were 7/9/87 and 6/29/95, respectively.

The performance information does not account for taxes.

COMPARATIVE INDEX RETURNS FOR PERIODS ENDED 8/31/04

	Merrill Lynch All-Convertible Index*	JP Morgan Global High Yield Index**	Lipper Convertible Securities Funds (closed-end) category average***
1 year	9.72%	14.62%	10.59%
5 years	31.43%	38.05%	21.12%
Annual average	5.62%	6.66%	3.80%
10 years	158.46%	115.52%	113.01%
Annual average	9.96%	7.98%	7.78%
Life of High Income Bond Fund (7/9/87)	--	--	8.58%
Annual average			

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Life of High Income Opportunities Trust (6/29/95)	132.87%	92.36%	91.30%
Annual average	9.66%	7.40%	7.27%

* Primary benchmark for High Income Bond Fund and High Income Opportunities Trust. This index began operations on 12/31/87.

** Secondary benchmark for High Income Bond Fund and High Income Opportunities Trust. This index began operations on 12/31/93.

*** Over the 1-, 5- and 10-year periods ended 8/31/04, there were 13, 8 and 7 funds, respectively, in this Lipper category.

Index and Lipper results should be compared to each fund's performance at NAV.

7. What are the federal income tax consequences of the proposed merger?

For federal income tax purposes, no gain or loss will be recognized by the funds or their shareholders directly as a result of the proposed merger. Certain other tax consequences are discussed below under "Information about the Proposed Merger--Federal Income Tax Consequences."

8. Will my dividend be affected by the proposed merger?

The merger will not result in a change in dividend policy. Because the funds' earning rates are currently substantially similar, the merger will not result in any immediate material change in current dividend rate. As of August 31, 2004, the dividend rates for High Income Bond Fund and High Income Opportunities Trust were 6.67% and 6.04%, respectively, and the estimated dividend rate for shares of High Income Bond Fund on a pro forma basis, after giving effect to the merger, would have been 6.67%. As of August 16, 2004, the SEC yields for shares of High Income Bond Fund and High Income Opportunities Trust were 5.76% and 5.11%, respectively. Over the longer term, the level of dividends will depend on market conditions and the ability of Putnam Management to invest the fund's assets, including those received in the merger, in securities meeting High Income Bond Fund's investment objectives and policies.

High Income Bond Fund will not permit any holder of High Income Opportunities Trust shares holding certificates for such shares at the time of the merger to receive cash dividends or other distributions, receive certificates for Merger Shares or pledge Merger Shares until such certificates for High Income Opportunities Trust shares have been surrendered, or, in the case of lost certificates, until an adequate surety bond has been posted.

If a shareholder is not, for the reason above, permitted to receive cash dividends or other distributions on Merger Shares, High Income Bond Fund will pay all such dividends and distributions in additional shares, notwithstanding any election the shareholder may have made previously to receive dividends and distributions on High Income Opportunities Trust shares in cash.

9. Do the procedures for purchasing and selling shares of the two funds differ?

No. The procedures for purchasing and selling shares of each fund are identical. As closed-end funds, the funds are not required to redeem

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

outstanding shares, and do not continuously offer shares. The funds' shares currently may be bought and sold at prevailing market prices on the NYSE. High Income Bond Fund will apply to list the Merger Shares on the NYSE. It is a condition to the closing of the merger that the Merger Shares be approved for listing.

10. How will I be notified of the outcome of the vote?

If the proposed merger is approved and you are a shareholder of High Income Opportunities Trust, you will receive confirmation after the reorganization is completed, indicating your new account number, the number of shares you are receiving and the procedures for surrendering your certificates, if you have any. Otherwise, you will be notified in the next annual report of your fund.

11. Will the number of shares I own change?

If you are a shareholder of High Income Opportunities Trust, the number of shares you own will change but the total net asset value of the shares of High Income Bond Fund you receive will equal the total net asset value of the shares of High Income Opportunities Trust that you hold at the time of the merger. If you are a shareholder of High Income Bond Fund, the number of High Income Bond Fund shares you own will not change. Even though the net asset value per share of each fund is different, the total net asset value of a shareholder's holdings will not change as a result of the merger. Of course, the Merger Shares may trade on the NYSE at a discount from net asset value, which might be greater or less than the trading discount of High Income Opportunities Trust shares at the time of the merger.

12. Will the market value of my investment change?

Shares of each fund will continue to be traded on the NYSE until the time of the merger, and may at times trade at a market price greater or less than net asset value. In recent years, shares of both funds have traded at a discount to net asset value. Depending on market conditions immediately prior to the exchange, shares of High Income Bond Fund may trade at a larger or smaller discount to net asset value than shares of High Income Opportunities Trust. This could result in the Merger Shares having a market value that is greater or less than the market value the High Income Opportunities Trust shares currently have.

13. Why is the vote of High Income Bond Fund's shareholders being solicited?

Although High Income Bond Fund will continue its legal existence and operations as before, we are required by the rules of the NYSE to solicit the vote of High Income Bond Fund's shareholders on this matter.

14. What percentage of shareholders' votes is required to approve the merger?

Approval of the merger will require the "yes" vote of the holders of:

* a majority of the outstanding shares of High Income Bond Fund voted, if holders of more than 50% of such shares vote, and

* the lesser of (1) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of High Income Opportunities Trust or (2) 67% or more of the shares present at a meeting if more than 50% of the outstanding shares are represented at the meeting in person or by proxy.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

The Trustees believe that the proposed merger is in the best interests of each fund's shareholders. Accordingly, the Trustees unanimously recommend that shareholders vote FOR approval of the proposed merger.

II. Risk Factors

* What are the risks of High Income Bond Fund, and how do they compare with those of High Income Opportunities Trust?

The risks of an investment in High Income Bond Fund (the "fund" as used in the following discussion of main risks) are generally similar to the risks of an investment in High Income Opportunities Trust.

The main risks that could adversely affect the value of the fund's shares and the total return on your investment include:

* The risk that the issuers of the fund's fixed-income investments will not make timely payments of interest and principal. Because the fund invests significantly in junk bonds, it is subject to heightened credit risk. Investors should carefully consider the risks associated with an investment in the fund.

* The risk that the stock price of one or more of the companies in the fund's portfolio will fall, or will fail to rise. Many factors can adversely affect a stock's performance, including both general financial market conditions and factors related to a specific company or industry. This risk is generally greater for small and midsized companies, which tend to be more vulnerable to adverse developments.

* The risk that movements in financial markets will adversely affect the value of the fund's investments. This risk includes interest rate risk, which means that the prices of the fund's investments are likely to fall if interest rates rise. Interest rate risk is generally higher for investments with longer maturities.

* The risks of investing outside the United States, such as currency fluctuations, economic or financial instability, lack of timely or reliable financial information or unfavorable political or legal developments. These risks are increased for investments in emerging markets.

* The risk that the fund's shares may trade at a discount to net asset value. Although the market price of the fund's shares generally reflects investment results, it may also be influenced by several factors, including changes in investor perceptions of the fund or its investment adviser, market conditions, fluctuations in supply and demand for the fund's shares and changes in fund distributions. As a result, the fund cannot predict whether its shares will trade at, below or above net asset value.

* What are the main investment strategies and related risks of High Income Bond Fund, and how do they compare with those of High Income Opportunities Trust?

Because the funds share substantially similar goals and policies, the risks described below for an investment in High Income Bond Fund are virtually identical to the risks of an investment in High Income Opportunities Trust.

Any investment carries with it some level of risk that generally reflects its potential for reward. Putnam Management pursues the fund's goal by investing, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets in

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

fixed income securities (including debt instruments, convertible securities and preferred stock) rated below investment grade (e.g., below BBB/Baa) by at least one nationally recognized rating agency (or nonrated securities Putnam Management believes are of comparable credit quality). Convertible securities typically are bonds, preferred stocks or warrants that can be converted into or exchanged for common stock. A convertible security tends to provide a higher yield than the underlying stock, which may cushion it against declines in the price of that stock. The convertible bonds the fund buys usually have intermediate- to long-term maturities (three years or longer). The fund may invest in companies of any capitalization.

Putnam Management will consider, among other factors, a company's financial strength, competitive position in its industry, projected future earning, cash flows and dividends when deciding whether to buy or sell investments. A description of the risks associated with the fund's main investment strategies follows:

Interest rate risk. The values of bonds and other debt instruments usually rise and fall in response to changes in interest rates. Declining interest rates generally increase the value of existing debt instruments, and rising interest rates generally decrease the value of existing debt instruments. Changes in a debt instrument's value usually will not affect the amount of interest income paid to the fund, but will affect the value of the fund's shares. Interest rate risk is generally greater for investments with longer maturities.

Some investments give the issuer the option to call or redeem an investment before its maturity date. If an issuer calls or redeems an investment during a time of declining interest rates, we might have to reinvest the proceeds in an investment offering a lower yield, and therefore might not benefit from any increase in value as a result of declining interest rates.

"Premium" investments offer coupon rates higher than prevailing market rates. However, they involve a greater risk of loss, because their values tend to decline over time.

Credit risk. Investors normally expect to be compensated in proportion to the risk they are assuming. Thus, debt of issuers with poor credit prospects usually offers higher yields than debt of issuers with more secure credit. Higher-rated investments generally offer lower credit risk.

The fund invests, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets in fixed income securities (including debt instruments, convertible securities and preferred stock) rated below investment grade (e.g., below BBB/Baa) by at least one nationally recognized rating agency (or nonrated securities Putnam believes are of equivalent credit quality). We will not necessarily sell an investment if its rating is reduced after we buy it.

Investments rated below BBB or its equivalent are known as "junk bonds." This rating reflects a greater possibility that the issuers may be unable to make timely payments of interest and principal and thus default. If this happens, or is perceived as likely to happen, the values of those investments will usually be more volatile and are likely to fall. A default or expected default could also make it difficult for us to sell the investments at prices approximating the values we had placed on them. Lower-rated debt usually has a more limited market than higher-rated debt, which may at times make it difficult for us to buy or sell certain debt instruments or to establish their fair value. Credit risk is generally greater for investments that are issued at less than

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

their face value and that are required to make interest payments only at maturity rather than at intervals during the life of the investment. Although investment-grade investments generally have lower credit risk, they may share some of the risks of lower-rated investments.

Credit ratings are based largely on the issuer's historical financial condition and the rating agencies' investment analysis at the time of rating. The rating assigned to any particular investment does not necessarily reflect the issuer's current financial condition, and does not reflect an assessment of an investment's volatility or liquidity. Although Putnam Management considers credit ratings in making investment decisions, Putnam Management performs its own investment analysis and does not rely on ratings assigned by the rating agencies. The fund depends more on Putnam Management's ability in buying lower-rated debt than it does in buying investment-grade debt. The fund may have to participate in legal proceedings or take possession of and manage assets that secure the issuer's obligations. This could increase the fund's operating expenses and decrease its net asset value.

A company's convertible securities generally receive payments only after the company has paid the holders of its non-convertible debt; for this reason, the credit risk of a company's convertible securities is generally greater than that of its non-convertible debt.

Common stocks. Common stock represents an ownership interest in a company. The value of a company's stock may fall as a result of factors directly relating to that company, such as decisions made by its management or lower demand for the company's products or services. A stock's value may also fall because of factors affecting not just the company, but also companies in the same industry or in a number of different industries, such as increases in production costs. The value of a company's stock may also be affected by changes in financial markets that are relatively unrelated to the company or its industry, such as changes in interest rates or currency exchange rates. In addition, a company's stock generally pays dividends only after the company invests in its own business and makes required payments to holders of its bonds and other debt. For this reason, the value of a company's stock will usually react more strongly than its bonds and other debt to actual or perceived changes in the company's financial condition or prospects. Stocks of smaller companies may be more vulnerable to adverse developments than those of larger companies.

The price of a convertible security normally varies with the price of the underlying stock. Companies Putnam Management believes are undergoing positive change and whose stock Putnam Management believes is undervalued by the market may have experienced adverse business developments or may be subject to special risks that have caused their stocks to be out of favor. If Putnam Management's assessment of a company's prospects is wrong, or if other investors do not similarly recognize the value of the company, then the price of the company's stock may fall or may not approach the value that Putnam Management has placed on it.

Foreign investments. The fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in foreign investments. Foreign investments involve certain special risks. For example, their values may decline in response to changes in currency exchange rates, unfavorable political and legal developments, unreliable or untimely information, and economic and financial instability. In addition, the liquidity of these investment may be more limited than for most U.S. investments, which means we may at times be unable to sell them at desirable prices.

Foreign settlement procedures may also involve additional risks. These

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

risks are generally greater in the case of developing (also known as emerging) markets with less developed legal and financial systems.

Certain of these risks may also apply to some extent to U.S.-traded investments that are denominated in foreign currencies, investments in U.S. companies that are traded in foreign markets or investments in U.S. companies that have significant foreign operations. Special U.S. tax considerations may apply to the fund's foreign investments.

Small and mid-sized companies. These companies, some of which may have a market capitalization of less than \$1 billion, are more likely than larger companies to have limited product lines, markets or financial resources, or to depend on a small, inexperienced management group. Stocks of these companies often trade less frequently and in limited volume, and their prices may fluctuate more than stocks of larger companies. Stocks of small and mid-sized companies may therefore be more vulnerable to adverse developments than those of larger companies.

Derivatives. Putnam Management may engage in a variety of transactions involving derivatives, such as futures, options, warrants and swap contracts. Derivatives are financial instruments whose value depends upon, or is derived from, the value of something else, such as one or more underlying investments, pools of investments, indexes or currencies. Putnam Management may use derivatives both for hedging and non-hedging purposes. However, Putnam Management may also choose not to use derivatives, based on its evaluation of market conditions or the availability of suitable derivatives. Investments in derivatives may be applied toward meeting a requirement to invest in a particular kind of investment if the derivatives have economic characteristics similar to that investment.

Derivatives involve special risks and may result in losses. The successful use of derivatives depends on Putnam Management's ability to manage these sophisticated instruments. The prices of derivatives may move in unexpected ways due to the use of leverage or other factors, especially in unusual market conditions, and may result in increased volatility. The use of derivatives may also increase the amount of taxes payable by shareholders.

Other risks arise from our potential inability to terminate or sell derivatives positions. A liquid secondary market may not always exist for the fund's derivatives positions at any time. In fact, many over-the-counter instruments (investments not traded on an exchange) will not be liquid. Over-the-counter instruments also involve the risk that the other party to the derivative transaction will not meet its obligations. For further information about the risks of derivatives, see the statement of additional information (SAI).

Anti-takeover provisions. The fund's agreement and declaration of trust includes provisions that could limit the ability of other persons or entities to acquire control of the fund or to cause it to engage in certain transactions or to modify its structure. Such provisions may have the effect of depriving shareholders of an opportunity to sell their shares at a premium over prevailing market prices and may have the effect of inhibiting the fund's conversion to open-end status.

Market price of shares. Shares of closed-end investment companies often trade at a discount to their net asset values, and the fund's shares may likewise trade at a discount, although it is possible that they may trade at a premium above net asset value. Net asset value will be reduced immediately following the merger as a result of merger-related expenses. Although the market price of the fund's shares generally

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

reflects investment results, it may also be influenced by several factors, including changes in investor perceptions of the fund or its investment adviser, market conditions, fluctuations in supply and demand for the fund's shares and changes in fund distributions. As a result, the fund cannot predict whether its shares will trade at, below or above net asset value.

Other investments. In addition to the main investment strategies described above, the fund may make other types of investments, such as investments in non-convertible preferred stocks and asset-backed securities, which may be subject to other risks, as described in the SAI.

Alternative strategies. Under normal market conditions, Putnam Management keeps the fund's portfolio fully invested, with minimal cash holdings. However, at times Putnam Management may judge that market conditions make pursuing the fund's usual investment strategies inconsistent with the best interests of the fund's shareholders. Putnam Management then may temporarily use alternative strategies that are mainly designed to limit losses. However, Putnam Management may choose not to use these strategies for a variety of reasons, even in very volatile market conditions. These strategies may cause the fund to miss out on investment opportunities, and may prevent the fund from achieving its goal.

Changes in policies. The fund's Trustees may change the fund's goal, investment strategies and other policies without shareholder approval, except as otherwise indicated.

An investment in High Income Bond Fund may not be appropriate for all investors, and there is no assurance that High Income Bond Fund will achieve its investment objective. High Income Bond Fund is designed primarily as a long-term investment and not as a trading vehicle.

III. Information about the Proposed Merger

General. The shareholders of each fund are being asked to approve a merger between High Income Opportunities Trust and High Income Bond Fund pursuant to the Agreement, which is attached to this Prospectus/Proxy Statement as Appendix A. Although the term "merger" is used for ease of reference, the transaction is structured as a transfer of all of the assets of High Income Opportunities Trust to High Income Bond Fund in exchange for the assumption by High Income Bond Fund of all of the liabilities of High Income Opportunities Trust and for the issuance and delivery to High Income Opportunities Trust of shares of High Income Bond Fund equal in aggregate net asset value to the net value of the assets transferred to High Income Bond Fund.

After receipt of the Merger Shares, High Income Opportunities Trust will distribute the Merger Shares to its shareholders, in proportion to their existing shareholdings, in complete liquidation of High Income Opportunities Trust, and the legal existence of High Income Opportunities Trust as a separate business trust under Massachusetts law will be terminated. Each shareholder of High Income Opportunities Trust will receive a number of full and fractional Merger Shares equal in aggregate net asset value at the date of the exchange to the aggregate net asset value of the shareholder's High Income Opportunities Trust shares.

Prior to the date of the transfer (the "Exchange Date"), High Income Opportunities Trust will declare a dividend that will have the effect of distributing to shareholders all of its remaining investment company income (computed without regard to the deduction for dividends paid) and net

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

realized capital gains, if any, through the Exchange Date.

The Trustees have voted unanimously to approve the proposed merger and to recommend that shareholders also approve the merger. The actions contemplated by the Agreement and Plan of Reorganization and the related matters described therein will be consummated only if approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of High Income Bond Fund voted, if holders of more than 50% of such shares vote, and the lesser of (1) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of High Income Opportunities Trust or (2) 67% or more of the shares present at a meeting if more than 50% of the outstanding shares of High Income Opportunities Trust are represented at the meeting in person or by proxy.

The Agreement provides that the investment restrictions of High Income Opportunities Trust will be temporarily amended to the extent necessary to effect the transactions contemplated by the Agreement.

In the event that the merger does not receive the required approvals, each fund will continue to be managed as a separate fund in accordance with its current investment objective and policies, and the Trustees may consider such alternatives as may be in the best interests of each fund's respective shareholders.

Trustees' Considerations Relating to the Proposed Merger. The Trustees of the Putnam Funds, who serve as Trustees of each of the funds involved in the proposed mergers, have carefully considered the anticipated benefits and costs of the proposed merger from the perspective of each fund. The Contract Committee of the Trustees of the Putnam Funds, which consists solely of Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the funds as defined in the 1940 Act (the "independent Trustees"), reviewed the terms of the proposed merger. The Contract Committee and the Trustees were assisted in this process by independent legal counsel for the funds and the independent Trustees. Following the conclusion of this process, the Trustees, including all of the independent Trustees, determined that the proposed merger of High Income Opportunities Trust into High Income Bond Fund would be in the best interests of each fund and its shareholders, and that the interests of existing shareholders of each fund would not be diluted by the proposed merger. The Trustees unanimously approved the proposed merger and recommended its approval by shareholders of each fund.

In evaluating the proposed merger, the Trustees first considered the underlying investment rationale articulated by Putnam Management. The Trustees noted the similarity of the funds' investment objectives, policies and restrictions. The Trustees also considered the historical investment performance of each fund and its current distribution rate, as well as the expected savings in annual fund operating expenses for shareholders of the combined fund, based on Putnam Management's unaudited estimates of the funds' expense ratios as of July 31, 2004 and the expected pro forma expense ratios based on combined assets of the funds as of the same date, as shown in the table below:

	Total Expenses
High Income Bond Fund	1.08%
High Income Opportunities Trust	1.78%
High Income Bond Fund Pro Forma Combined	1.04%

The Trustees also considered the tax effects of the proposed merger. In particular, using data as of July 31, 2004, they reviewed the historical and pro forma tax attributes of the funds and examined the effect of a hypothetical merger occurring as of that date on certain tax losses of

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

the funds (see "Federal Income Tax Consequences" below). The Trustees noted that since the funds had relatively similar gain/loss positions at that time, there was no significant prospect that one fund's shareholders would have been placed at a disadvantage, for example, due to the spreading of their losses (which are a potential tax benefit) among a larger group of shareholders. The Trustees also noted that, at that time, since each fund had significant capital loss carryforwards of its own, the impact of the loss limitation rules governing the use of pre-merger losses by the combined fund was expected to be modest. The effect of this limitation on the proposed merger, however, will depend on the amount of losses in each fund at the time of the merger.

The Trustees took into account the expected costs of the proposed merger, including proxy solicitation costs, fees associated with registering the sale of High Income Bond Fund's shares to be issued in the proposed merger, accounting fees and legal fees. The Trustees weighed these costs (and the estimated portfolio transaction expenses described below) against the quantifiable expected benefits of the proposed merger and considered Putnam Management's agreement to bear these costs to the extent they exceed certain limits established by the Trustees and set forth in the Agreement. Accordingly, the funds are expected to bear these costs in the following amounts:

High Income Bond Fund	\$26,887 (0.02% of July 31, 2004 assets)
High Income Opportunities Trust	\$57,752 (0.08% of July 31, 2004 assets)

The Trustees also took into account a number of factors, including: (1) a comparison of the investment objectives and policies of the funds; (2) the classification and performance rating of each fund by independent research firms such as Morningstar, Inc. and Lipper Inc.; (3) the performance history of each fund; (4) the performance history of each fund as compared to its benchmark indexes; (5) the volatility of each fund's portfolio relative to the market; (6) the composition of each fund's management team; (7) the net assets, average duration and average credit quality of each fund; (8) the current dividend rates and SEC yield for each fund; and (9) the terms of the Agreement.

Agreement and Plan of Reorganization. The proposed merger will be governed by the Agreement, a copy of which is attached as Appendix A. The Agreement provides that High Income Bond Fund will acquire all of the assets of High Income Opportunities Trust in exchange for the assumption by High Income Bond Fund of all of the liabilities of High Income Opportunities Trust and for the issuance of and delivery to High Income Opportunities Trust of Merger Shares equal in aggregate net asset value to the aggregate net asset value of the transferred assets net of assumed liabilities. The shares will be issued on the next full business day (the "Exchange Date") following the time as of which the funds' shares are valued for determining net asset value for the merger (4:00 p.m., Boston time, on [], or such other date as may be agreed upon by the parties (the "Valuation Time")). The following discussion of the Agreement is qualified in its entirety by the full text of the Agreement.

High Income Opportunities Trust will sell all of its assets to High Income Bond Fund, and in exchange, High Income Bond Fund will assume all of the liabilities of High Income Opportunities Trust and deliver to High Income Opportunities Trust a number of full and fractional Merger Shares having an aggregate net asset value equal to the value of assets of High Income Opportunities Trust, less the value of the liabilities of High Income Opportunities Trust assumed by High Income Bond Fund. The Agreement provides that the investment restrictions of High Income Opportunities Trust will be temporarily amended to the extent necessary to effect the transactions contemplated by the Agreement.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Immediately following the Exchange Date, High Income Opportunities Trust will distribute pro rata to its shareholders of record, as of the close of business on the Exchange Date, the full and fractional Merger Shares received by High Income Opportunities Trust. As a result of the proposed merger, each shareholder of High Income Opportunities Trust will receive a number of Merger Shares equal in aggregate net asset value at the Exchange Date to the net asset value of High Income Opportunities Trust shares held by the shareholder. This distribution will be accomplished by the establishment of accounts on the share records of High Income Bond Fund in the name of such shareholders, each account representing the respective number of full and fractional Merger Shares due such shareholder. New certificates for Merger Shares will be issued only upon written request. If you hold certificates for shares of High Income Opportunities Trust, you will not, following the merger, be able to receive any dividends or transfer your High Income Bond Fund shares until you have delivered your High Income Opportunities Trust share certificates to Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company.

The consummation of the merger is subject to the conditions set forth in the Agreement. The Agreement may be terminated and the merger abandoned at any time, before or after approval by the shareholders, prior to the Exchange Date, by mutual consent of High Income Bond Fund and High Income Opportunities Trust or, if any condition set forth in the Agreement has not been fulfilled and has not been waived by the party entitled to its benefits, by such party.

If shareholders of each fund approve the proposed merger, High Income Opportunities Trust will liquidate such of its portfolio securities as High Income Bond Fund shall indicate it does not wish to acquire. The Agreement provides that the liquidation will be substantially completed prior to the Exchange Date, unless otherwise agreed upon by High Income Opportunities Trust and High Income Bond Fund. High Income Opportunities Trust shareholders will bear the portfolio trading costs associated with this liquidation to the extent that it is completed prior to the Exchange Date. There can be no assurance that such liquidation will be accomplished prior to the Exchange Date. To the extent the liquidation is not accomplished prior to the Exchange Date, the costs of the liquidation will be borne by the shareholders of the combined fund, including current shareholders of High Income Bond Fund. Putnam Management does not expect that High Income Bond Fund will require High Income Opportunities Trust to make any significant dispositions of securities in connection with the proposed merger.

Except for the trading costs associated with the liquidation described above, the fees and expenses for the merger and related transactions are estimated to be \$159,264, of which \$84,639 will be paid by the funds and the balance will be paid by Putnam Management. These fees and expenses, including legal and accounting expenses, portfolio transfer taxes (if any) or other similar expenses incurred in connection with the consummation of the proposed merger and related transactions contemplated by the Agreement, will be allocated ratably between the two funds in proportion to their net assets as of the Valuation Time, except that the costs of proxy materials and proxy solicitations for each fund will be borne by that fund. However, to the extent that any payment by either fund of such fees or expenses would result in the disqualification of High Income Bond Fund or High Income Opportunities Trust as a "regulated investment company" within the meaning of Section 851 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), such fees and expenses will be paid directly by the party incurring them.

Description of the Merger Shares. The Merger Shares, which are shares

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

of High Income Bond Fund, will be issued to High Income Opportunities Trust's shareholders in accordance with the procedures under the Agreement as described above. The Merger Shares are fully paid and nonassessable when issued and will have no preemptive or conversion rights. The Merger Shares will be transferable without restriction.

Under Massachusetts law, shareholders could, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable for the obligations of High Income Bond Fund. However, High Income Bond Fund's agreement and declaration of trust disclaims shareholder liability for acts or obligations of High Income Bond Fund and requires that notice of such disclaimer be given in each agreement, obligation or instrument entered into or executed by High Income Bond Fund or its Trustees. The Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides for indemnification out of fund property for all loss and expense of any shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of High Income Bond Fund. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which High Income Bond Fund would be unable to meet its obligations. The likelihood of such circumstances is remote. The shareholders of High Income Opportunities Trust are currently subject to this same risk of shareholder liability.

Federal Income Tax Consequences. As a condition to each fund's obligation to consummate the reorganization, each fund will receive a tax opinion from Ropes & Gray LLP, counsel to the funds (which opinion would be based on certain factual representations and certain customary assumptions), to the effect that, on the basis of the existing provisions of the Code, current administrative rules and court decisions, for federal income tax purposes:

(i) the acquisition by High Income Bond Fund of substantially all of the assets of High Income Opportunities Trust solely in exchange for Merger Shares and the assumption by High Income Bond Fund of liabilities of High Income Opportunities Trust followed by the distribution by High Income Opportunities Trust to its shareholders of Merger Shares in complete liquidation of High Income Opportunities Trust, all pursuant to the Agreement, constitutes a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code, and High Income Opportunities Trust and High Income Bond Fund will each be a "party to a reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(b) of the Code;

(ii) under Section 361 of the Code, no gain or loss will be recognized by High Income Bond Fund or High Income Opportunities Trust upon the transfer of High Income Opportunities Trust's assets to and the assumption of High Income Opportunities Trust's liabilities by High Income Bond Fund or upon the distribution of the Merger Shares to High Income Opportunities Trust's shareholders in liquidation of High Income Opportunities Trust;

(iii) under Section 354 of the Code, no gain or loss will be recognized by shareholders of High Income Opportunities Trust on the exchange of their shares of High Income Opportunities Trust for Merger Shares;

(iv) under Section 358 of the Code, the aggregate tax basis of the Merger Shares received by High Income Opportunities Trust's shareholders will be the same as the aggregate tax basis of High Income Opportunities Trust shares exchanged therefor;

(v) under Section 1223(1) of the Code, the holding periods of the Merger Shares received by the shareholders of High Income Opportunities Trust will include the holding periods of High Income Opportunities Trust

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

shares exchanged therefor, provided that at the time of the reorganization High Income Opportunities Trust shares are held by such shareholders as a capital asset;

(vi) under Section 1032 of the Code, no gain or loss will be recognized by High Income Bond Fund upon the receipt of assets of High Income Opportunities Trust in exchange for Merger Shares and the assumption by High Income Bond Fund of the liabilities of High Income Opportunities Trust;

(vii) under Section 362(b) of the Code, the tax basis in the hands of High Income Bond Fund of the assets of High Income Opportunities Trust transferred to High Income Bond Fund will be the same as the tax basis of such assets in the hands of High Income Opportunities Trust immediately prior to the transfer;

(viii) under Section 1223(2) of the Code, the holding periods of the assets of High Income Opportunities Trust in the hands of High Income Bond Fund will include the periods during which such assets were held by High Income Opportunities Trust; and

(ix) High Income Bond Fund will succeed to and take into account the items of High Income Opportunities Trust described in Section 381(c) of the Code, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in Sections 381, 382, 383 and 384 of the Code and Regulations thereunder.

Ropes & Gray LLP will express no view with respect to the effect of the reorganization on any transferred asset as to which any unrealized gain or loss is required to be recognized at the end of a taxable year (or on the termination or transfer thereof) under federal income tax principles.

High Income Bond Fund will file the tax opinion with the SEC at a future date. This description of the federal income tax consequences of the proposed merger is made without regard to the particular facts and circumstances of any shareholder. Shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors as to the specific consequences to them of the proposed merger, including the applicability and effect of state, local and other tax laws.

High Income Bond Fund's ability to carry forward the pre-merger losses of High Income Opportunities Trust will be limited as a result of the merger. The effect of this limitation, however, will depend on the amount of losses in each fund at the time of the merger. For example, if the merger were to have occurred on July 31, 2004, approximately 20% of High Income Opportunities Trust's losses would have been unavailable post-merger due to the tax law's loss limitation rules. High Income Bond Fund's losses, however, would have been available to help mitigate the effect of this limitation. If no merger occurred on July 31, 2004, High Income Opportunities Trust would have been able to realize gains equal to approximately 30% of its pre-merger net asset value over the years remaining until its capital loss carryforwards expire without creating any tax liability. In contrast, post-merger, the shareholders of High Income Opportunities Trust would have been shielded from realized gains of approximately 19% of post-merger net asset value.

Capitalization. The following table shows the capitalization of the funds as of February 29, 2004, and on a pro forma combined basis, giving effect to the proposed acquisition of assets at net asset value as of that date:

(UNAUDITED)

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

	High Income Bond Fund	High Income Opportunities Trust	Pro Forma Combined*
Net assets+ (000's omitted)	\$118,385	\$74,760	\$193,105
Shares outstanding (000's omitted)	13,826	3,713	22,559
Net asset value per share	\$8.56	\$20.14	\$8.56

+ Net assets for each fund reflect proxy-related costs and, in the case of High Income Bond Fund, the SEC registration fee.

* Pro forma combined net assets reflect legal and accounting merger-related costs.

Unaudited pro forma combining financial statements of the funds as of February 29, 2004, and for the twelve-month period then ended, are included in the SAI. Because the Agreement provides that High Income Bond Fund will be the surviving fund following the proposed merger and because High Income Bond Fund's investment objective and policies will remain unchanged, the pro forma combining financial statements reflect the transfer of the assets and liabilities of High Income Opportunities Trust to High Income Bond Fund as contemplated by the Agreement.

The Trustees, including the independent Trustees, unanimously recommend approval of the proposed merger.

IV. Information about the Funds

High Income Bond Fund and High Income Opportunities Trust are both Massachusetts business trusts and are both diversified, closed-end management investment companies. High Income Bond Fund was organized on April 28, 1987, and High Income Opportunities Trust was organized on February 23, 1995.

Financial Highlights. The financial highlights tables are intended to help you understand the funds' recent financial performance. Certain information reflects financial results for a single fund share. The total returns represent the rate that an investor would have earned or lost on an investment in the relevant fund, assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions. This information has been derived from the funds' financial statements. For High Income Bond Fund's last five fiscal years (excluding the unaudited information for this fund for the six months ended February 29, 2004), High Income Bond Fund's financial statements have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Its report and the fund's financial statements are included in the fund's annual report to shareholders, which is available upon request. For High Income Opportunities Trust's last five fiscal years, High Income Opportunities Trust's financial statements have been audited by KPMG LLP. Its report and the fund's financial statements are included in the fund's annual report to shareholders, which is available upon request.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND

(For a common share outstanding throughout the period)

Six months ended
February 29

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Per-share operating performance	(unaudited)		Year ended August 31			
	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$7.73	\$6.56	\$7.30	\$8.09	\$8.32	\$8.82
Investment operations:						
Net investment income (a)	0.29	0.58	0.60	0.67	0.74	0.82
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.82	1.15	(0.72)	(0.71)	(0.12)	(0.33)
Total from investment operations	1.11	1.73	(0.12)	(0.04)	0.62	0.49
Less distributions:						
From net investment income	--	--	--	--	--	(0.81)
From net realized gains on investments	--	--	--	--	--	(0.18)
Total distributions	(0.28)	(0.56)	(0.62)	(0.75)	(0.85)	(0.99)
Net asset value, end of period	\$8.56	\$7.73	\$6.56	\$7.30	\$8.09	\$8.32
Market price, end of period	\$7.92	\$7.31	\$6.35	\$7.45	\$7.94	\$8.81
Total return at market price (%) (b)	12.29*	24.73	(6.77)	3.91	0.78	10.29
Ratios and supplemental data						
Net assets, end of period (in thousands)	\$118,412	\$106,934	\$90,561	\$100,130	\$110,839	\$113,576
Ratio of expenses to average net assets (%) (c)	.53*	1.13	1.10	1.14	1.11	1.11
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets (%)	3.46*	8.20	8.65	8.91	9.03	9.72
Portfolio turnover (%)	30.02*	69.94	56.70	106.41	26.31	78.62

Per-share operating performance	Year ended August 31				
	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$10.35	\$9.48	\$9.49	\$9.13	\$9.52
Investment operations:					
Net investment income	0.90	0.86	0.88	0.79	0.78
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(1.20)	0.92	(0.04)	0.42	(0.30)
Total from investment operations	(0.30)	1.78	0.84	1.21	0.48
Less distributions:					
From net investment income	(0.85)	(0.85)	(0.85)	(0.85)	(0.87)
From net realized gains on investments	(0.38)	(0.06)	--	--	--
Total distributions	(1.23)	(0.91)	(0.85)	(0.85)	(0.87)
Net asset value, end of period	\$8.82	\$10.35	\$9.48	\$9.49	\$9.13
Market price, end of period	\$8.94	\$10.56	\$10.13	\$10.00	\$9.75
Total return at market price (%) (b)	(4.74)	14.29	10.63	12.60	6.84
Ratios and supplemental data					
Net assets, end of period (in thousands)	\$119,193	\$138,400	\$125,864	\$124,911	\$118,988
Ratio of expenses to average net assets (%) (c)	1.13	1.03	1.06	1.00	1.04
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets (%)	9.01	8.80	9.19	8.73	8.23
Portfolio turnover (%)	59.13	58.88	56.82	61.19	52.10

* Not annualized.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

- (a) Per share net investment income has been determined on the basis of the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the period.
- (b) Total return assumes dividend reinvestment.
- (c) The ratio of expenses to average net assets for the period ended August 31, 1996 and thereafter includes amounts paid through expense offset arrangements. Prior period ratios exclude these amounts.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITIES TRUST

(For a common share outstanding throughout the period)

Per-share operating performance	Year ended February 29 2004	Year ended February 28 2003	Year ended February 28 2002	Year ended February 28 2001	Year ended February 29 2000	Year e Februar 1999
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$16.39	\$17.56	\$19.81	\$24.03	\$22.93	\$27.57
Investment operations:						
Net investment income (a)	1.31	1.11	1.17	1.33	1.38	1.86
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	3.76	(1.06)	(2.20)	(3.69)	1.81	(3.69)
Total from investment operations	5.07	0.05	(1.03)	(2.36)	3.19	(1.83)
Less distributions:						
From net investment income	(1.32)	(1.22)	(1.22)	(1.58)	(1.73)	(1.91)
From net realized gain on investments	--	--	--	(0.28)	(0.36)	(0.90)
Total distributions	(1.32)	(1.22)	(1.22)	(1.86)	(2.09)	(2.81)
Net asset value, end of period	\$20.14	\$16.39	\$17.56	\$19.81	\$24.03	\$22.93
Market price, end of period	\$18.44	\$15.73	\$16.55	\$18.88	\$18.75	\$22.50
Total return at market price (%) (b)	26.26	2.77	(5.95)	11.00	(7.49)	(7.47)
Ratios and supplemental data						
Net assets, end of period (total funds) (in thousands)	\$74,778	\$60,837	\$65,192	\$73,540	\$89,214	\$85,134
Ratio of expenses to average net assets (%) (c)	1.79	1.81	1.78	1.72	1.71	1.78
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets (%)	7.09	6.75	6.34	6.13	5.89	7.31
Portfolio turnover (%)	68.16	111.75	116.87	99.42	65.85	56.58

+ Commencement of operations.

* Not annualized.

- (a) Per share net investment income has been determined on the basis of the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the period.
- (b) Total return assumes dividend reinvestment.
- (c) Includes amounts paid through expense offset and brokerage services arrangements.
- (d) Represents initial net asset value of \$25.00 less offering expenses of \$0.15. Original offering price was \$25.15.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

\$0.03 to reflect actual cost incurred.

Investment Restrictions. Each fund has adopted investment restrictions that may not be changed without the affirmative vote of a "majority of the outstanding voting securities" of the fund, which is defined in the 1940 Act to mean the affirmative vote of the lesser of (1) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the fund, or (2) 67% or more of the shares present at a meeting if more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the fund are represented at the meeting in person or by proxy. High Income Bond Fund may not:

(i) Borrow money or issue senior securities (as defined in the 1940 Act), except that the fund may borrow amounts not exceeding 15% of the value (taken at the lower of cost or current value) of its total assets (not including the amount borrowed) at the time the borrowing is made for temporary purposes (including repurchasing its shares while effecting an orderly liquidation of portfolio securities) or for emergency purposes.

(ii) Underwrite securities issued by other persons except to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of its portfolio investments, it may be deemed to be an underwriter under the federal securities laws.

(iii) Purchase securities restricted as to resale if, as a result, such investments would exceed 10% of the value of the fund's net assets.

(iv) Purchase or sell real estate, although it may purchase securities of issuers which deal in real estate, securities which are secured by interests in real estate and securities which represent interests in real estate or interests in real estate acquired through the exercise of its rights as a holder of debt obligations secured by real estate or interests therein.

(v) Purchase or sell commodities or commodity contracts, except that it may purchase or sell financial futures contracts and related options.

(vi) Make loans, except by purchase of debt obligations in which the fund may invest consistent with its investment policies (including without limitation debt obligations issued by other Putnam funds), by entering into repurchase agreements or by lending its portfolio securities.

(vii) With respect to 75% of its total assets, invest in the securities of any issuer if, immediately after such investment, more than 5% of the total assets of the fund (taken at current value) would be invested in the securities of such issuer; provided that this limitation does not apply to obligations issued or guaranteed as to interest or principal by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities.

(viii) With respect to 75% of its total assets, acquire more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any issuer.

(ix) Purchase securities (other than securities of the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities) if, as a result of such purchase, more than 25% of the fund's total assets would be invested in any one industry.

The following non-fundamental investment policy of High Income Bond Fund may be changed by the Trustees without shareholder approval:

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

The fund may not invest in the securities of registered open-end investment companies, except as they may be acquired as part of a merger or consolidation or acquisition of assets or by purchases in the open market involving only customary brokers' commissions.

High Income Opportunities Trust shares substantially the same fundamental investment restrictions with respect to restrictions (ii) and (iv) through (ix) above. However, High Income Opportunities Trust substitutes the following for High Income Bond Fund's restriction (i) above, so that High Income Opportunities Trust may not:

* Issue senior securities, as defined in the 1940 Act, other than shares of beneficial interest with preference rights, except to the extent such issuance might be involved with respect to borrowings described under the restriction below (borrowing money) or with respect to transactions involving futures contracts, options and other financial instruments.

* Borrow money in excess of 10% of the value (taken at the lower of cost or current value) of its total assets (not including the amount borrowed) at the time the borrowing is made, and then only from banks as a temporary measure (not for leverage) in situations which might otherwise require the untimely disposition of portfolio investments or for extraordinary or emergency purposes. Such borrowings will be repaid before any additional investments are purchased.

In addition, with respect to High Income Bond Fund's restriction (iii) above (a prohibition against purchasing securities restricted as to resale if, as a result, such investments would exceed 10% of the value of the fund's net assets), High Income Opportunities Trust has no similarly stated restriction. Instead, High Income Opportunities Trust has a non-fundamental policy under which it may invest up to 15% of its net assets in securities that are restricted as to resale.

Finally, with respect to High Income Bond Fund's non-fundamental investment policy regarding a prohibition against investing in the securities of registered open-end investment companies, except as they may be acquired as part of a merger or consolidation or acquisition of assets or by purchases in the open market involving only customary brokers' commissions, High Income Opportunities Trust has no corresponding restriction.

All percentage limitations on investments (other than pursuant to the non-fundamental investment restriction) will apply at the time of investment and shall not be considered violated unless an excess or deficiency occurs or exists immediately after and as a result of such investment. Except for the fundamental investment restrictions listed above, the other investment policies described in this Prospectus/Proxy Statement are not fundamental and may be changed by approval of the Trustees. As a matter of policy, the Trustees would not materially change the fund's investment objective without shareholder approval.

Management. Each fund's Trustees oversee the general conduct of each fund's business. The funds have the same Trustees. The Trustees have retained Putnam Management to be each fund's investment manager, responsible for making investment decisions for each fund and managing each fund's other affairs and business.

Putnam Management is paid for management and investment advisory services quarterly based on the average net assets of each fund. High Income Bond Fund pays such fee at the following annual rates: 0.75% on the first \$500 million of average weekly net assets, 0.65% of the next \$500 million, 0.60% of the next \$500 million and 0.55% of any excess

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

over \$1.5 billion of such average net asset value. High Income Opportunities Trust pays such fee at the annual rate of 1.10% of average weekly net assets. In addition, High Income Opportunities Trust pays a separate administrative services fee at the annual rate of 0.25% of average weekly net assets.

Putnam Management is one of America's oldest and largest money management firms. Putnam Management's staff of experienced portfolio managers and research analysts selects securities and constantly supervises each fund's portfolio. By pooling an investor's money with that of other investors, a greater variety of securities can be purchased than would be the case individually; the resulting diversification helps reduce investment risk. Putnam Management has been managing mutual funds since 1937.

Putnam Management is a subsidiary of Putnam Investments Trust, a Massachusetts business trust owned by Putnam, LLC, which is also the parent company of Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership, Putnam Advisory Company, LLC (a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Putnam Advisory Company Trust) and Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company. Putnam, LLC, which generally conducts business under the name Putnam Investments, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Investments Trust, a holding company that, except for a minority stake owned by employees, is owned by Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc., a publicly-owned holding company whose principal businesses are international insurance and reinsurance brokerage, employee benefit consulting and investment management.

Putnam Management's investment professionals are organized into investment management teams, with a particular team dedicated to a specific asset class. The members of the Large-Cap Value and Core Fixed Income Teams are responsible for the day-to-day management of each fund. The names of all team members can be found at www.putnaminvestments.com.

The following team members coordinate the teams' management of each fund's portfolio. Their experience as investment professionals over at least the last five years is shown.

Portfolio leader	Since	Experience	
David L. King	2002	1983 - Present	Putnam Management
Portfolio members	Since	Experience	
George P. Maris	2004	1999 - Present	Putnam Management
Robert L. Salvin	2004	2000 - Present Prior to July 2000	Putnam Management BancBoston Robertson Stephens

The funds pay all expenses not assumed by Putnam Management, including Trustees' fees, auditing, legal, custodial, investor servicing and shareholder reporting expenses. The funds also reimburse Putnam Management for the compensation and related expenses of certain fund officers and their staff who provide administrative services. The total reimbursement is determined annually by the Trustees.

Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company, One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, is the custodian of the funds' securities. Putnam Investor Services, P.O. Box 41203, Providence, Rhode Island 02940-1203, as division of Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company, is the investor servicing, transfer and dividend disbursing agent for the funds.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Regulatory Matters and Litigation. On April 8, 2004, Putnam Management entered into agreements with the SEC and the Massachusetts Securities Division representing a final settlement of all charges brought against Putnam Management by those agencies on October 28, 2003 in connection with excessive short-term trading by Putnam employees and, in the case of the charges brought by the Massachusetts Securities Division, by participants in some Putnam-administered 401(k) plans. The settlement with the SEC requires Putnam Management to pay \$5 million in disgorgement plus a civil monetary penalty of \$50 million, and the settlement with the Massachusetts Securities Division requires Putnam Management to pay \$5 million in restitution and an administrative fine of \$50 million. The settlements also leave intact the process established under an earlier partial settlement with the SEC under which Putnam Management agreed to pay the amount of restitution determined by an independent consultant, which may exceed the disgorgement and restitution amounts specified above, pursuant to a plan to be developed by the independent consultant.

Putnam Management, and not the investors in any Putnam fund, will bear all costs, including restitution, civil penalties and associated legal fees stemming from both of these proceedings. The SEC's and Massachusetts Securities Division's allegations and related matters also serve as the general basis for numerous lawsuits, including purported class action lawsuits filed against Putnam Management and certain related parties, including certain Putnam funds. Putnam Management has agreed to bear any costs incurred by Putnam funds in connection with these lawsuits. Based on currently available information, Putnam Management believes that the likelihood that the pending private lawsuits and purported class action lawsuits will have a material adverse financial impact on the fund is remote, and the pending actions are not likely to materially affect its ability to provide investment management services to its clients, including the Putnam funds.

Review of these matters by counsel for Putnam Management and by separate independent counsel for the Putnam funds and their independent Trustees is continuing.

Description of Fund Shares. The Trustees of each fund have authority to issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest without par value in such classes and series as may be provided for in the Bylaws. Except for the Merger Shares to be issued in the merger, neither fund has a present intention of offering additional shares. All other offerings of a fund's shares require approval of the Trustees. Any additional offering of common shares would be subject to the requirements of the 1940 Act that such shares may not be sold at a price per common share below the then current net asset value per share, exclusive of underwriting discounts and commissions, except in connection with an offering to existing common shareholders or with the consent of the holders of a majority of a fund's outstanding common shares.

The outstanding shares of each fund are, and the Merger Shares, when issued and sold, will be fully paid and non-assessable by the fund. The outstanding shares of each fund have, and the Merger Shares will have, no preemptive, conversion, exchange or redemption rights. Each share of a fund has one vote, with fractional shares voting proportionately, and is freely transferable. Common shares of High Income Bond Fund are traded on the NYSE, with an average weekly trading volume for the year ended December 31, 2003 of 99,993 shares. Common shares of High Income Opportunities Trust also are traded on the NYSE, with an average weekly trading volume for the year ended December 31, 2003 of 35,075 shares.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Set forth below is information about each fund's securities as of July 31, 2004 (except where otherwise noted):

HIGH INCOME BOND FUND

Title of Class	Amount Authorized	Amount Held by Fund	Amount Outstanding
Common Shares	unlimited	0	13,825,527

HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITIES TRUST

Title of Class	Amount Authorized	Amount Held by Fund	Amount Outstanding
Common Shares	unlimited	0	3,712,567

Repurchase of shares. Because each fund is a closed-end investment company, shareholders of each fund do not, and will not, have the right to redeem their shares. A fund, however, may repurchase its shares from time to time in open-market or private transactions when it can do so at prices below the current net asset value per share and on terms that represent a favorable investment opportunity. The funds currently are authorized to make periodic repurchases of shares in open-market transactions at times when discount levels make such purchases an attractive investment, although neither fund has recently done so or has any current plan to do so.

Shares of the funds trade in the open market at a price which will be a function of several factors, including yield and net asset value of the shares and the extent of market activity. Shares of closed-end investment companies frequently trade at a discount from net asset value, but in some cases trade at a premium. When a fund repurchases its shares at a price below their net asset value, the net asset value of those shares that remain outstanding will be increased, but this does not necessarily mean that the market price of those outstanding shares will be affected either positively or negatively.

Determination of net asset value. The net asset value of each fund's shares are valued as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE each day the exchange is open by dividing the total value of its assets, less liabilities, by the number of its shares outstanding.

Securities for which market quotations are readily available are valued at market values. Short-term investments that have remaining maturities of 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value. All other securities and assets are valued at their fair value following procedures approved by the Trustees.

Dividend reinvestment plan. Each fund offers a dividend reinvestment plan (each, a "Plan"). If a shareholder has elected to participate in a Plan, all income dividends and capital gains distributions are automatically reinvested in additional shares of a fund. Reinvestment transactions are executed by Investors Bank and Trust Company, 200 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA (617-937-6300) (the "Plan Agent"). If a shareholder is not participating in a Plan, every month the shareholder will receive all dividends and/or capital gains distributions in cash, paid by check and mailed directly to the shareholder. If a shareholder would like to participate in a Plan, the shareholder may instruct Putnam Investor Services (which provides certain administrative and bookkeeping services to a Plan) to enroll the shareholder. The Plan Agent will automatically reinvest subsequent distributions, and Putnam Investor Services will send

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

the shareholder a confirmation in the mail telling the shareholder how many additional shares were issued to the shareholder's account. For both High Income Bond Fund and High Income Opportunities Trust shareholders, shareholders are automatically enrolled in a Plan and must elect not to participate in a Plan. Holders of High Income Opportunities Trust shares who have elected not to participate in High Income Opportunities Trust's Plan will, if the merger is approved, be deemed to have elected not to participate in High Income Bond Fund's Plan.

Shareholders may contact Putnam Investor Services either in writing, at P.O. Box 41203, Providence, RI 02940-1203, or by telephone at 1-800-225-1581 during normal East Coast business hours.

If the market price of a fund's shares is equal to or exceed their net asset value on the payment date, the shareholder will be issued shares of the fund at a value equal to the higher of the net asset value or 95% of the market price on that date. This discount reflects savings in underwriting and other costs that the fund would otherwise incur. If net asset value exceeds the market price of the shares at the time, or if a fund declares any distribution payable only in cash, the Plan Agent will buy fund shares for participating accounts in the open market. If the market price of fund shares rises to exceed the net asset value before the open-market purchase has been completed, or if the Plan Agent is not able to complete the open-market purchases within a specified time (generally seven days), the Plan Agent will invest the uninvested portion in newly issued shares at a value equal to the greatest of:

- * The net asset value of the shares on the date they are issued,
- * 95% of the fair market value of shares on the payment date for the distribution, or
- * 95% of the fair market value of shares on the date they are issued.

Participants may withdraw from a Plan at any time by notifying Putnam Investor Services, either in writing or by telephone. If a participant withdraws from a Plan (or if a Plan is terminated), the participant will receive certificates for whole shares credited to the participant's account, as well as a cash payment for any fraction of a share credited to the participant's account. There is no penalty for withdrawing from or not participating in a Plan.

Putnam Investor Services maintains all participants' accounts in a Plan on behalf of the Plan Agent and furnishes written confirmation of all transactions, including information needed by participants for tax records. Each participant's shares will be held by Putnam Investor Services in the participant's name, and each participant's proxy will include those shares purchased through a Plan.

There are no brokerage charges applied to shares issued directly by a fund as a result of dividends or capital gains distributions. However, each participant pays a proportionate share of brokerage commissions incurred if the Plan Agent purchases additional shares on the open market, in accordance with a Plan. In each case, the cost of shares purchased for each participant's account will be the average cost (including brokerage commissions) of any shares so purchased, plus the cost of any shares issued by a fund. If a participant instructs the Plan Agent to sell the participant's shares, the participant will incur brokerage commissions for the sale.

Reinvesting dividends and capital gains distributions in shares of a fund does not relieve a participant of tax obligations, which are the

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

same as if the participant had received cash distributions. Putnam Investor Services supplies tax information to the participant and to the IRS annually and complies with all IRS withholding requirements. A fund reserves the right to amend a Plan to include service charges, to make other changes or to terminate a Plan upon 30-days' written notice.

If a shareholder's shares are held in the name of a broker or nominee offering a dividend reinvestment service, the shareholder should consult the shareholder's broker or nominee to ensure that an appropriate election is made on the shareholder's behalf. If the broker or nominee holding the shareholder's shares does not provide a reinvestment service, the shareholder may need to register the shareholder's shares in the shareholder's own name in order to participate in a Plan.

In situations where a bank, broker or nominee holds shares for others, a Plan will be administered according to instructions and information provided by the bank, broker or nominee.

It may be necessary to suspend operation of High Income Opportunities Trust's Plan for one or two dividend payments immediately prior to the combination so that all purchase activity under the Plan is settled in advance of the effective date of merger. In that event all shareholders, including those in the Plan, will receive those dividends in cash.

Dividends and distributions. Each fund has a policy to make monthly distributions to shareholders from net investment income.

Net investment income of each fund consists of all interest and other income (excluding capital gains and losses) accrued on portfolio assets, less all expenses of each fund allocable thereto. Income and expenses of each fund are accrued each day.

To permit each fund to maintain a more stable monthly distribution, each fund may from time to time pay out less than the entire amount of available net investment income to shareholders earned in any particular period. Any such amount retained by a fund would be available to stabilize future distributions. As a result, the distributions paid by a fund for any particular period may be more or less than the amount of net investment income actually earned by that fund during such period. For information concerning the tax treatment of distributions to common shareholders, see the discussion under "Taxation" below. Both funds intend, however, to make such distributions as are necessary to maintain qualification as a regulated investment company.

Common shareholders may have their dividend or distribution checks sent to parties other than themselves. A "Dividend Order" form is available from Putnam Investor Services, mailing address: P.O. Box 41203, Providence, Rhode Island 02940-1203. After Putnam Investor Services receives this completed form with all registered owners' signatures guaranteed, the shareholder's distribution checks will be sent to the bank or other person that the shareholder has designated.

For information concerning the tax treatment of such dividends and distributions to shareholders, see the discussion under "Taxation" below.

Declaration of Trust and Bylaws. Each fund's agreement and declaration of trust includes provisions that could have the effect of limiting the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the fund, or to cause it to engage in certain transactions or to modify its structure. The affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (three-fourths

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

in the case of High Income Opportunities Trust) of the outstanding shares of a fund is required to authorize any of the following actions:

- (1) merger or consolidation of the fund,
- (2) sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the fund,
- (3) liquidation or dissolution of the fund,
- (4) conversion of the fund to an open-end investment company, or
- (5) amendment of the agreement and declaration of trust to reduce the two-thirds (three-fourths in the case of High Income Opportunities Trust) vote required to authorize the actions in (1) through (4) above unless with respect to any of the foregoing such action has been authorized by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total number of Trustees (in the case of High Income Opportunities Trust, three-fourths of the total number of Trustees and three-fourths of the total number of Continuing Trustees, which is a Trustee (i) who is not a person or an affiliate of such a person who enters or proposes to enter into any transaction (e.g., a merger or consolidation) with the Trust and (ii) who has been a Trustee for a period of at least twelve months), in which case the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares entitled to vote (in the case of High Income Opportunities Trust, the lesser of (1) more than 50% of the outstanding fund shares or (2) 67% or more of the shares present at a meeting if more than 50% of the outstanding fund shares are represented at the meeting in person or by proxy) is required.

The Trustees have determined that the two-thirds and three-fourths voting requirements described above, which are greater than the minimum requirements under the 1940 Act, are in the best interests of High Income Bond Fund and High Income Opportunities Trust, respectively, and their respective shareholders generally. Reference is made to the agreement and declaration of trust of each fund, on file with the SEC, for the full text of these provisions.

These provisions could have the effect of depriving shareholders of an opportunity to sell their shares at a premium over prevailing market prices by discouraging a third party from seeking to obtain control of a fund in a tender offer or similar transaction and may have the net effect of inhibiting the fund's conversion to open-end status.

Taxation. The following federal tax discussion is based on the advice of Ropes & Gray LLP, counsel to the funds, and reflects provisions of the Code, existing treasury regulations, rulings published by the Service, and other applicable authority, as of the date of this Prospectus/Proxy Statement.

These authorities are subject to change by legislative or administrative action.

The following discussion is only a summary of some of the important tax considerations generally applicable to investments in High Income Bond Fund. For more detailed information regarding tax considerations, see the SAI. There may be other tax considerations applicable to particular investors. In addition, income earned through an investment in High Income Bond Fund may be subject to state and local taxes. Because High Income Bond Fund will be the surviving fund if the merger is approved, the discussion deals only with the taxation of High Income Bond Fund.

High Income Bond Fund intends to qualify each year for taxation as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code. If the

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

fund so qualifies, it will not be subject to federal income tax on income distributed timely to its shareholders in the form of dividends or capital gain distributions.

To satisfy the distribution requirement applicable to regulated investment companies, amounts paid as dividends by High Income Bond Fund to its shareholders must qualify for the dividends-paid deduction.

Fund distributions designated as "tax-exempt dividends" are not generally subject to federal income tax. In addition, an investment in the fund may result in liability for federal alternative minimum tax, both for individual and corporate shareholders.

The fund may at times buy tax-exempt investments at a discount from the price at which they were originally issued, especially during periods of rising interest rates. For federal income tax purposes, some or all of this market discount will be included in the fund's ordinary income and will be taxable to shareholders as such when it is distributed.

The fund's investments in certain debt obligations may cause the fund to recognize taxable income in excess of the cash generated by such obligations. Thus, the fund could be required at times to liquidate other investments in order to satisfy its distribution requirements.

The fund's investments in foreign securities may be subject to foreign withholding taxes. In that case, the fund's yield on those securities would be decreased. Shareholders generally will not be entitled to claim a credit or deduction with respect to foreign taxes. In addition, the fund's investments in foreign securities or foreign currencies may increase or accelerate the fund's recognition of ordinary income and may affect the timing or amount of the fund's distributions.

For federal income tax purposes, distributions of investment income other than "tax-exempt dividends" are taxable as ordinary income. Generally, gains realized by a fund on the sale or exchange of investments will be taxable to its shareholders, even though the income from such investments generally will be tax-exempt.

Taxes on distributions of capital gains are determined by how long the fund owned the investments that generated them, rather than how long a shareholder has owned his or her shares. Distributions are taxable to shareholders even if they are paid from income or gains earned by the fund before a shareholder's investment (and thus were included in the price the shareholder paid). Distributions of gains from investments that the fund owned for more than one year will be taxable as capital gains. Distributions of gains from investments that the fund owned for one year or less will be taxable as ordinary income. Distributions are taxable whether shareholders receive them in cash or reinvest them in additional shares through the Dividend Reinvestment Plan.

Any gain resulting from the sale of fund shares will generally also be subject to tax. You should consult your tax advisor for more information on your own tax situation, including possible state and local taxes.

For taxable years beginning on or before December 31, 2008, the fund may designate distributions of investment income derived from dividends of U.S. corporations and some foreign corporations as "qualified dividend income," provided the fund meets holding period and other requirements. Qualified dividend income will be taxed in the hands of individuals at the rates applicable to long-term capital gain, provided the shareholder meets the same holding period and other requirements. Fund dividends representing distributions of interest income and

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

short-term capital gains cannot be designated as qualified dividend income and will not qualify for the reduced rates. In light of this, the fund does not expect a significant portion of fund distributions to be derived from qualified dividend income.

The long-term capital gain rates applicable to most shareholders will be 15% (with lower rates applying to taxpayers in the 10% and 15% ordinary income tax brackets) for taxable years beginning on or before December 31, 2008.

Under current law, the backup withholding tax rate is 28% for amounts paid through 2010 and will be 31% for amounts paid after December 31, 2010. The fund is required to apply backup withholding to certain taxable distributions including, for example, distributions paid to any individual shareholder who fails to properly furnish the fund with a correct taxpayer identification number.

Trading Information. The following chart shows quarterly per share trading information for the past two fiscal years and the current fiscal year of the funds, as listed on the NYSE:

HIGH INCOME BOND FUND (Unaudited)

Quarter Ended	Market High Price (\$)	Market Low Price (\$)	Closing Market Price (\$)	Closing NAV (\$)	Premium or (Discount) to NAV (%)
8/31/02	7.09	5.75	6.35	6.56	(3.20)
11/30/02	6.52	5.80	6.47	6.69	(3.29)
2/28/03	6.97	6.30	6.87	6.91	(0.58)
5/31/03	7.43	6.80	7.39	7.52	(1.73)
8/31/03	7.90	7.10	7.31	7.73	(5.43)
11/30/03	7.70	7.27	7.38	8.14	(9.34)
2/29/04	8.16	7.36	7.92	8.56	(7.48)
5/31/04	8.02	6.95	7.33	8.27	(11.37)
8/31/04	7.68	7.16	7.62	8.37	(8.96)

HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITIES TRUST (Unaudited)

Quarter Ended	Market High Price (\$)	Market Low Price (\$)	Closing Market Price (\$)	Closing NAV (\$)	Premium or (Discount) to NAV (%)
2/28/02	17.25	16.35	16.55	17.56	(5.75)
5/31/02	16.87	16.24	16.39	17.63	(7.03)
8/31/02	16.44	14.14	15.20	15.81	(3.86)
11/30/02	15.70	14.00	15.31	15.97	(4.13)
2/28/03	15.74	14.59	15.73	16.39	(4.03)
5/31/03	17.15	15.50	17.04	17.92	(4.91)
8/31/03	18.00	16.90	17.40	18.30	(4.92)
11/30/03	18.22	17.29	17.47	19.20	(9.01)
2/29/04	19.23	17.70	18.44	20.14	(8.44)
5/31/04	18.77	16.42	17.30	19.44	(11.01)
8/31/04	17.53	16.95	17.50	19.67	(11.03)

On August 31, 2004, the latest practicable date for which such information is available, the market price, net asset value per share and discount to net asset value were \$7.62, \$8.37, and 8.96%, respectively, for High Income Bond Fund and \$17.50, \$19.67, and 11.03%, respectively, for High Income Opportunities Trust.

V. Information about Voting and the Shareholder Meeting

General. This Prospectus/Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the proposed merger of High Income Opportunities Trust into High Income Bond Fund and the solicitation of proxies by and on behalf of the Trustees for use at the Joint Meeting of Shareholders (the "Meeting"). The Meeting is to be held on [] at [] at One Post Office Square, 8th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts, or at such later time as is made necessary by adjournment. The Notice of the Meeting, the combined Prospectus/Proxy Statement and the enclosed form of proxy are being mailed to shareholders on or about [].

As of July 31, 2004, there were 3,712,567 outstanding shares of beneficial interest of High Income Opportunities Trust, and 13,825,527 outstanding shares of beneficial interest of High Income Bond Fund. Only shareholders of record on [] will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting. Each share is entitled to one vote, with fractional shares voting proportionally.

The Trustees know of no matters other than those set forth herein to be brought before the Meeting. If, however, any other matters properly come before the Meeting, it is the Trustees' intention that proxies will be voted on such matters in accordance with the judgment of the persons named in the enclosed form of proxy.

Required vote. Proxies are being solicited from each fund's shareholders by its Trustees for the Meeting. Unless revoked, all valid proxies will be voted in accordance with the specification thereon or, in the absence of specifications, FOR approval of the Agreement. The transactions contemplated by the Agreement will be consummated only if approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of:

* a majority of the outstanding shares of High Income Bond Fund voted, if holders of more than 50% of such shares vote, and

* the lesser of (1) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of High Income Opportunities Trust or (2) 67% or more of the shares present at a meeting if more than 50% of the outstanding shares are represented at the meeting in person or by proxy.

Record date, quorum and method of tabulation. Shareholders of record of each fund at the close of business on [] (the "Record Date") will be entitled to vote at the Meeting or any adjournment thereof. The holders of a majority of the shares of each fund outstanding at the close of business on the Record Date present in person or represented by proxy will constitute a quorum for action by shareholders of each fund at the Meeting.

Votes cast by proxy or in person at the meeting will be counted by persons appointed by the relevant fund as tellers for the Meeting. The tellers will count the total number of votes cast "for" approval of the proposal for purposes of determining whether sufficient affirmative votes have been cast. The tellers will count shares represented by proxies that reflect abstentions and "broker non-votes" (i.e., shares held by brokers or nominees as to which (i) instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or the persons entitled to vote and (ii) the broker or nominee does not have the discretionary voting power on a particular matter) as shares that are present and entitled to vote on the matter for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. Abstentions and broker non-votes have the effect of a negative vote on the proposal.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Share ownership. As of August 31, 2004, the officers and Trustees of each fund as a group beneficially owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of such fund and, to the knowledge of each fund, no person (other than The Depository Trust Company ("DTC")) owned of record or beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding shares of the fund. In addition, upon consummation of the proposed merger, to the knowledge of the fund, no such person (other than DTC) is expected to own of record or beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding shares of the combined fund.

Solicitation of proxies. In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, the Trustees of each fund and employees of Putnam Management, Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company and Putnam Retail Management may solicit proxies in person or by telephone. Each fund may also arrange to have a proxy solicitation firm call you to record your voting instructions by telephone. If you wish to speak to a representative, call []. The procedure for solicitation of proxies by telephone is designed to authenticate shareholders' identities, to allow them to authorize the voting of their shares in accordance with their instructions and to confirm that their instructions have been properly recorded. Each fund has been advised by counsel that these procedures are consistent with the requirements of applicable law. If these procedures were subject to a successful legal challenge, such votes would not be counted at the Meeting. Each fund is unaware of any such challenge at this time. Shareholders would be called at the phone number Putnam Management has in its records for their accounts, and would be asked for their Social Security number or other identifying information. The shareholders would then be given an opportunity to authorize the proxies to vote their shares at the meeting in accordance with their instructions. To ensure that shareholders' instructions have been recorded correctly, they will also receive a confirmation of their instructions in the mail. A special toll-free number will be available in case the information contained in the confirmation is incorrect.

Shareholders of each fund have the opportunity to submit their voting instructions via the Internet by utilizing a program provided by a third-party vendor hired by Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company, or by "touch-tone" telephone voting. The giving of such a proxy will not affect your right to vote in person should you decide to attend the Meeting. To vote via the Internet or by automated telephone, you will need the 14-digit "control" number that appears on your proxy card. To use the Internet, please access the Internet address found on your proxy card. To record your voting instructions by automated telephone, please call the toll-free number listed on your proxy card. The Internet and automated telephone voting instructions are designed to authenticate shareholder identities, to allow shareholders to give their voting instructions, and to confirm that shareholders' instructions have been recorded properly. Shareholders submitting their voting instructions via the Internet should understand that there may be costs associated with Internet access, such as usage charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies, that must be borne by the shareholders.

Each Fund's Trustees have adopted a general policy of maintaining confidentiality in the voting of proxies. Consistent with that policy, each fund may solicit proxies from shareholders who have not voted their shares or who have abstained from voting.

Persons holding shares as nominees will, upon request, be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses in soliciting instructions from their principals. Each fund has retained at its own expense [], to aid in

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

the solicitation of instructions for nominee and registered accounts for a fee not to exceed [\$] for High Income Bond Fund and [\$] for High Income Opportunities Trust, plus reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for mailing and phone costs. Subject to Putnam Management's agreement to limit such expenses, the expenses of the preparation of proxy statements and related materials, including printing and delivery costs, are borne by each fund.

Revocation of proxies. Proxies, including proxies given by telephone or over the Internet, may be revoked at any time before they are voted either (i) by a written revocation received by the Clerk of the funds (addressed to the funds' Clerk at the principal office of the funds, One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109), (ii) by properly executing a later-dated proxy, (iii) by recording later-dated voting instructions via the Internet or (iv) by attending the Meeting and voting in person.

Adjournment. If sufficient votes in favor of the proposal set forth in the Notice of the Meeting are not received by the time scheduled for the Meeting, the persons named as proxies may propose adjournments of the Meeting for a period or periods of not more than 60 days in the aggregate to permit further solicitation of proxies. Any adjournment will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast on the question in person or by proxy at the session of the Meeting to be adjourned. The persons named as proxies will vote in favor of such adjournment those proxies that they are entitled to vote in favor of the proposal. They will vote against adjournment those proxies required to be voted against the proposal. Each fund pays the costs of any additional solicitation and of any adjourned session for that fund subject to Putnam Management's agreement, as set forth in the Agreement, to limit the expenses incurred by each fund in connection with the transactions contemplated by the Agreement.

Appendix A

AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF REORGANIZATION

This Agreement and Plan of Reorganization (the "Agreement") is made as of [] in Boston, Massachusetts, by and among Putnam High Income Bond Fund, a Massachusetts business trust ("Acquiring Fund"), Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust, a Massachusetts business trust ("Acquired Fund") and Putnam Investment Management, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company.

PLAN OF REORGANIZATION

(a) Acquired Fund will sell, assign, convey, transfer and deliver to Acquiring Fund on the Exchange Date (as defined in Section 6) all of its properties and assets existing at the Valuation Time (as defined in Section 3(d)). In consideration therefor, Acquiring Fund shall, on the Exchange Date, assume all of the liabilities of Acquired Fund existing at the Valuation Time and deliver to Acquired Fund a number of full and fractional shares of beneficial interest of Acquiring Fund (the "Merger Shares") having an aggregate net asset value equal to the aggregate value of the assets of Acquired Fund transferred to Acquiring Fund on such date less the value of the liabilities of Acquired Fund assumed by Acquiring Fund on such date. It is intended that the reorganization described in this Plan shall be a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). Prior to the Exchange Date, Acquired Fund will declare and pay to its shareholders a dividend and/or other distribution in an amount such that it will have distributed all of its net investment income and

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

capital gains as described in Section 8(1) hereof.

(b) Upon consummation of the transactions described in paragraph (a) of this Agreement, Acquired Fund shall distribute in complete liquidation to its shareholders of record as of the Exchange Date Merger Shares, each shareholder being entitled to receive that proportion of such Merger Shares that the number of shares of beneficial interest of Acquired Fund held by such shareholder bears to the number of such shares of Acquired Fund outstanding on such date. Certificates representing the Merger Shares will be issued only if the shareholder so requests.

AGREEMENT

Acquiring Fund and Acquired Fund agree as follows:

1. Representations and warranties of Acquiring Fund. Acquiring Fund represents and warrants to and agrees with Acquired Fund that:

(a) Acquiring Fund is a business trust duly established and validly existing under the laws of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and has power to own all of its properties and assets and to carry out its obligations under this Agreement. Acquiring Fund is not required to qualify as a foreign association in any jurisdiction. Acquiring Fund has all necessary federal, state and local authorizations to carry on its business as now being conducted and to carry out this Agreement.

(b) Acquiring Fund is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), as a closed-end management investment company, and such registration has not been revoked or rescinded and is in full force and effect.

(c) A statement of assets and liabilities, statement of operations, statement of changes in net assets and schedule of investments (indicating their market values) of Acquiring Fund for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2003, such statements and schedule having been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, and an unaudited statement of assets and liabilities, statement of operations, statement of changes in net assets and schedule of investments (indicating their market values) of Acquiring Fund for the six months ended February 29, 2004 have been furnished to Acquired Fund. Such statements of assets and liabilities and schedules of investments fairly present the financial position of Acquiring Fund as of the dates thereof, and such statements of operations and changes in net assets fairly reflect the results of its operations and changes in net assets for the periods covered thereby in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

(d) There are no material legal, administrative or other proceedings pending or, to the knowledge of Acquiring Fund, threatened against Acquiring Fund which assert liability or may, if successfully prosecuted to their conclusion, result in liability on the part of Acquiring Fund, other than as have been disclosed in the Prospectuses (as defined below).

(e) Acquiring Fund has no known liabilities of a material nature, contingent or otherwise, other than those shown as belonging to it on its statement of assets and liabilities as of August 31, 2003 and those incurred in the ordinary course of Acquiring Fund's business as an investment company since such date.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

(f) No consent, approval, authorization or order of any court or governmental authority is required for the consummation by Acquiring Fund of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, except such as may be required under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act"), the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "1934 Act"), the 1940 Act, state securities or blue sky laws (which term as used herein shall include the laws of the District of Columbia and of Puerto Rico) or the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 (the "H-S-R Act").

(g) The registration statement and any amendment thereto (including any post-effective amendment) (the "Registration Statement") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") by Acquiring Fund on Form N-14 relating to the Merger Shares issuable hereunder, the proxy statement of Acquired Fund included therein (the "Acquired Fund Proxy Statement") and the proxy statement of Acquiring Fund included therein (the "Acquiring Fund Proxy Statement" and, together with the Acquired Fund Proxy Statement, the "Proxy Statements"), on the effective date of the Registration Statement (i) will comply in all material respects with the provisions of the 1933 Act, the 1934 Act and the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder and (ii) will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading; and at the time of the shareholders' meeting referred to in Section 7(a) and at the Exchange Date, each prospectus contained in the Registration Statement (collectively, the "Prospectuses"), as amended or supplemented by any amendments or supplements filed or requested to be filed with the Commission by Acquired Fund, will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading; provided however, that none of the representations and warranties in this subsection shall apply to statements in or omissions from the Registration Statement, the Prospectuses or the Proxy Statements made in reliance upon and in conformity with information furnished by Acquired Fund for use in the Registration Statement, the Prospectuses or the Proxy Statements.

(h) There are no material contracts outstanding to which Acquiring Fund is a party, other than as disclosed in the Registration Statement, the Prospectuses, or the Proxy Statements.

(i) All of the issued and outstanding shares of beneficial interest of Acquiring Fund have been offered for sale and sold in conformity with all applicable federal securities laws.

(j) Acquiring Fund is and will at all times through the Exchange Date qualify for taxation as a "regulated investment company" under Sections 851 and 852 of the Code.

(k) Acquiring Fund has filed or will file all federal and state tax returns which, to the knowledge of Acquiring Fund's officers, are required to be filed by Acquiring Fund and has paid or will pay all federal and state taxes shown to be due on said returns or on any assessments received by Acquiring Fund. All tax liabilities of Acquiring Fund have been adequately provided for on its books, and to the knowledge of Acquiring Fund, no tax deficiency or liability of Acquiring Fund has been asserted, and no question with respect thereto has been raised, by the Internal Revenue Service or by any state or local tax authority for taxes in excess of those already paid. As of the Exchange Date, Acquiring Fund is not under audit by the Internal Revenue Service or by any state or local tax authority for taxes in excess of those already paid.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

(l) The issuance of the Merger Shares pursuant to this Agreement will be in compliance with all applicable federal securities laws.

(m) The Merger Shares to be issued to Acquired Fund have been duly authorized and, when issued and delivered pursuant to this Agreement, will be legally and validly issued and will be fully paid and nonassessable by Acquiring Fund, and no shareholder of Acquiring Fund will have any preemptive right of subscription or purchase in respect thereof.

2. Representations and warranties of Acquired Fund. Acquired Fund represents and warrants to and agrees with Acquiring Fund that:

(a) Acquired Fund is a business trust duly established and validly existing under the laws of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and has power to own all of its properties and assets and to carry out its obligations under this Agreement. Acquired Fund is not required to qualify as a foreign association in any jurisdiction. Acquired Fund has all necessary federal, state and local authorizations to carry on its business as now being conducted and to carry out this Agreement.

(b) Acquired Fund is registered under the 1940 Act as a closed-end management investment company, and such registration has not been revoked or rescinded and is in full force and effect.

(c) A statement of assets and liabilities, statement of operations, statement of changes in net assets and schedule of investments (indicating their market values) of Acquired Fund for the fiscal year ended February 29, 2004, such statements and schedule having been audited by KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, have been furnished to Acquiring Fund. Such statements of assets and liabilities and schedules of investments fairly present the financial position of Acquired Fund as of February 29, 2004, and such statements of operations and changes in net assets fairly reflect the results of its operations and changes in net assets for the period covered thereby in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

(d) There are no material legal, administrative or other proceedings pending or, to the knowledge of Acquired Fund, threatened against Acquired Fund which assert liability or may, if successfully prosecuted to their conclusion, result in liability on the part of Acquired Fund, other than as have been disclosed in the Registration Statement.

(e) Acquired Fund has no known liabilities of a material nature, contingent or otherwise, other than those shown as belonging to it on its statement of assets and liabilities as of February 29, 2004 and those incurred in the ordinary course of Acquired Fund's business as an investment company since such date. Prior to the Exchange Date, Acquired Fund will advise Acquiring Fund of all material liabilities, contingent or otherwise, incurred by it subsequent to February 29, 2004, whether or not incurred in the ordinary course of business.

(f) No consent, approval, authorization or order of any court or governmental authority is required for the consummation by Acquired Fund of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, except such as may be required under the 1933 Act, the 1934 Act, the 1940 Act, state securities or blue sky laws, or the H-S-R Act.

(g) The Registration Statement, the Prospectuses and the Proxy Statements, on the Effective Date of the Registration Statement and insofar as they do not relate to Acquiring Fund (i) will comply in all

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

material respects with the provisions of the 1933 Act, the 1934 Act and the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder and (ii) will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading; and at the time of the shareholders' meeting referred to in Section 7(a) below and on the Exchange Date, the Prospectuses, as amended or supplemented by any amendments or supplements filed or requested to be filed with the Commission by Acquiring Fund, will not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading; provided however, that the representations and warranties in this subsection shall apply only to statements of fact relating to Acquired Fund contained in the Registration Statement, the Prospectuses or the Proxy Statements, or omissions to state in any thereof a material fact relating to Acquired Fund, as such Registration Statement, Prospectuses and Proxy Statements shall be furnished to Acquired Fund in definitive form as soon as practicable following effectiveness of the Registration Statement and before any public distribution of the Prospectuses or Proxy Statements.

(h) There are no material contracts outstanding to which Acquired Fund is a party, other than as will be disclosed in the Prospectuses or the Proxy Statements.

(i) All of the issued and outstanding shares of beneficial interest of Acquired Fund have been offered for sale and sold in conformity with all applicable federal securities laws.

(j) Acquired Fund is and will at all times through the Exchange Date qualify for taxation as a "regulated investment company" under Sections 851 and 852 of the Code.

(k) Acquired Fund has filed or will file all federal and state tax returns which, to the knowledge of Acquired Fund's officers, are required to be filed by Acquired Fund and has paid or will pay all federal and state taxes shown to be due on said returns or on any assessments received by Acquired Fund. All tax liabilities of Acquired Fund have been adequately provided for on its books, and to the knowledge of Acquired Fund, no tax deficiency or liability of Acquired Fund has been asserted, and no question with respect thereto has been raised, by the Internal Revenue Service or by any state or local tax authority for taxes in excess of those already paid. As of the Exchange Date, Acquired Fund is not under audit by the Internal Revenue Service or by any state or local tax authority for taxes in excess of those already paid.

(l) At both the Valuation Time and the Exchange Date, Acquired Fund will have full right, power and authority to sell, assign, transfer and deliver the Investments and any other assets and liabilities of Acquired Fund to be transferred to Acquiring Fund pursuant to this Agreement. At the Exchange Date, subject only to the delivery of the Investments and any such other assets and liabilities as contemplated by this Agreement, Acquiring Fund will acquire the Investments and any such other assets and liabilities subject to no encumbrances, liens or security interests whatsoever and without any restrictions upon the transfer thereof (except for such restrictions as previously disclosed to Acquiring Fund by Acquired Fund). As used in this Agreement, the term "Investments" shall mean Acquired Fund's investments shown on the schedule of its investments as of February 29, 2004 referred to in Section 2(c) hereof, as supplemented with such changes as Acquired Fund shall make, and changes resulting from stock dividends, stock splits, mergers and

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

similar corporate actions.

(m) No registration under the 1933 Act of any of the Investments would be required if they were, as of the time of such transfer, the subject of a public distribution by either of Acquiring Fund or Acquired Fund, except as previously disclosed to Acquiring Fund by Acquired Fund.

(n) At the Exchange Date, Acquired Fund will have sold such of its assets, if any, as may be necessary to ensure that, after giving effect to the acquisition of the assets of Acquired Fund pursuant to this Agreement, Acquiring Fund will remain in compliance with its investment restrictions as set forth in the Registration Statement.

3. Reorganization.

(a) Subject to the requisite approval of the shareholders of each of Acquired Fund and Acquiring Fund and to the other terms and conditions contained herein (including Acquired Fund's obligation to distribute to its shareholders all of its net investment income and capital gains as described in Section 8(1) hereof), Acquired Fund agrees to sell, assign, convey, transfer and deliver to Acquiring Fund, and Acquiring Fund agrees to acquire from Acquired Fund, on the Exchange Date all of the Investments and all of the cash and other properties and assets of Acquired Fund, whether accrued or contingent (including cash received by Acquired Fund upon the liquidation by Acquired Fund of any investments purchased by Acquired Fund after February 29, 2004 and designated by Acquiring Fund as being unsuitable for it to acquire), in exchange for that number of Merger Shares provided for in Section 4 and the assumption by Acquiring Fund of all of the liabilities of Acquired Fund, whether accrued or contingent, existing at the Valuation Time. Pursuant to this Agreement, Acquired Fund will, as soon as practicable after the Exchange Date, distribute all of the Merger Shares received by it to the shareholders of Acquired Fund, in complete liquidation of Acquired Fund.

(b) As soon as practicable following the requisite approval of the shareholders of each of Acquired Fund and Acquiring Fund, Acquired Fund will, at its expense, liquidate such of its portfolio securities as Acquiring Fund shall indicate it does not wish to acquire. Such liquidation will be substantially completed prior to the Exchange Date, unless otherwise agreed by Acquired Fund and Acquiring Fund.

(c) Acquired Fund will pay or cause to be paid to Acquiring Fund any interest, cash or such dividends, rights and other payments received by it on or after the Exchange Date with respect to the Investments and other properties and assets of Acquired Fund, whether accrued or contingent, received by it on or after the Exchange Date. Any such distribution shall be deemed included in the assets transferred to Acquiring Fund at the Exchange Date and shall not be separately valued unless the securities in respect of which such distribution is made shall have gone "ex" such distribution prior to the Valuation Time, in which case any such distribution which remains unpaid at the Exchange Date shall be included in the determination of the value of the assets of Acquired Fund acquired by Acquiring Fund.

(d) The Valuation Time shall be 4:00 p.m. Boston time on [] or such earlier or later day as may be mutually agreed upon in writing by the parties hereto (the "Valuation Time").

4. Exchange date; valuation time.

On the Exchange Date, Acquiring Fund will deliver to Acquired Fund a number of full and fractional Merger Shares having an aggregate net

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

asset value equal to the value of assets of Acquired Fund attributable to shares of Acquired Fund transferred to Acquiring Fund on such date less the value of the liabilities of Acquired Fund attributable to the shares of Acquired Fund assumed by Acquiring Fund on that date, determined as hereafter provided in this Section 4.

(a) The net asset value of the Merger Shares to be delivered to Acquired Fund, the value of the assets attributable to the shares of Acquired Fund and the value of the liabilities attributable to the shares of Acquired Fund to be assumed by Acquiring Fund shall in each case be determined as of the Valuation Time.

(b) The net asset value of the Merger Shares and the value of the assets and liabilities of the shares of Acquired Fund shall be determined by Acquiring Fund, in cooperation with Acquired Fund, pursuant to procedures customarily used by Acquiring Fund in determining the fair market value of Acquiring Fund's assets and liabilities.

(c) No adjustment shall be made in the net asset value of either Acquired Fund or Acquiring Fund to take into account differences in realized and unrealized gains and losses.

(d) The investment restrictions of Acquired Fund shall be temporarily amended to the extent necessary to effect the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

(e) Acquiring Fund shall issue the Merger Shares to Acquired Fund in a certificate registered in the name of Acquired Fund. Acquired Fund shall distribute the Merger Shares to the shareholders of Acquired Fund by redelivering such certificates to Acquiring Fund's transfer agent, which will as soon as practicable set up open accounts for each shareholder of Acquiring Fund in accordance with written instructions furnished by Acquired Fund. With respect to any Acquired Fund shareholder holding share certificates as of the Exchange Date, Acquiring Fund will not permit such shareholder to receive dividends and other distributions on the Merger Shares (although such dividends and other distributions shall be credited to the account of such shareholder), receive certificates representing the Merger Shares or pledge such Merger Shares until such shareholder has surrendered his or her outstanding Acquired Fund certificates or, in the event of lost, stolen or destroyed certificates, posted adequate bond. In the event that a shareholder shall not be permitted to receive dividends and other distributions on the Merger Shares as provided in the preceding sentence, Acquiring Fund shall pay any such dividends or distributions in additional shares, notwithstanding any election such shareholder shall have made previously with respect to the payment, in cash or otherwise, of dividends and distributions on shares of Acquired Fund. Acquired Fund will, at its expense, request the shareholders of Acquired Fund to surrender their outstanding Acquired Fund certificates, or post adequate bond, as the case may be.

(f) Acquiring Fund shall assume all liabilities of Acquired Fund, whether accrued or contingent, in connection with the acquisition of assets and subsequent dissolution of Acquired Fund or otherwise.

5. Expenses, fees, etc.

(a) All fees and expenses, including legal and accounting expenses, portfolio transfer taxes (if any) or other similar expenses incurred in connection with the consummation by Acquired Fund and Acquiring Fund of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement (together with the costs specified below in (i) below, "Expenses") will be allocated ratably between

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Acquiring Fund and Acquired Fund in proportion to their net assets as of the Valuation Time, except that (i) the costs of proxy materials and proxy solicitation for each fund will be borne by that fund, (ii) the cost of the SEC registration fee will be borne by Acquiring Fund and (iii) the costs of liquidating such of Acquired Fund's portfolio securities as Acquiring Fund shall indicate it does not wish to acquire prior to the Exchange Date shall be borne by Acquired Fund; provided, however, that the Expenses to be borne by the Acquired Fund will not exceed \$267,888, the Expenses to be borne by the Acquiring Fund will not exceed \$26,887 and the remainder of any Expenses will be borne by Putnam Investment Management, LLC; and provided further that such Expenses will in any event be paid by the party directly incurring such Expenses if and to the extent that the payment by the other party of such Expenses would result in the disqualification of Acquiring Fund or Acquired Fund, as the case may be, as a "regulated investment company" within the meaning of Section 851 of the Code.

(b) In the event the transactions contemplated by this Agreement are not consummated by reason of Acquiring Fund's being either unwilling or unable to go forward (other than by reason of the nonfulfillment or failure of any condition to Acquiring Fund's obligations referred to in Section 8), or by reason of the nonfulfillment or failure of any condition to Acquired Fund's obligations referred to in Section 9, Acquiring Fund shall pay directly all reasonable fees and expenses incurred by Acquired Fund in connection with such transactions, including, without limitation, legal, accounting and filing fees.

(c) In the event the transactions contemplated by this Agreement are not consummated by reason of Acquired Fund's being either unwilling or unable to go forward (other than by reason of the nonfulfillment or failure of any condition to Acquired Fund's obligations referred to in Section 9), or by reason of the nonfulfillment or failure of any condition to Acquiring Fund's obligations referred to in Section 8, Acquired Fund shall pay directly all reasonable fees and expenses incurred by Acquiring Fund in connection with such transactions, including without limitation legal, accounting and filing fees.

(d) In the event the transactions contemplated by this Agreement are not consummated for any reason other than (i) Acquiring Fund's or Acquired Fund's being either unwilling or unable to go forward or (ii) the nonfulfillment or failure of any condition to Acquiring Fund's or Acquired Fund's obligations referred to in Section 8 or Section 9 of this Agreement, then each of Acquiring Fund and Acquired Fund shall bear all of its own expenses incurred in connection with such transactions.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement, if for any reason the transactions contemplated by this Agreement are not consummated, no party shall be liable to the other party for any damages resulting therefrom, including without limitation consequential damages, except as specifically set forth above.

6. Exchange date.

Delivery of the assets of Acquired Fund to be transferred, assumption of the liabilities of Acquired Fund to be assumed and the delivery of the Merger Shares to be issued shall be made at the offices of Ropes & Gray LLP, One International Place, Boston, Massachusetts, at 10:00 A.M. on the next full business day following the Valuation Time, or at such other time and date agreed to by Acquiring Fund and Acquired Fund, the date and time upon which such delivery is to take place being referred to herein as the "Exchange Date."

7. Meeting of shareholders; dissolution.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

(a) Each of Acquired Fund and Acquiring Fund agrees to call a meeting of its shareholders as soon as is practicable after the effective date of the Registration Statement for, among other things, the purpose of considering the matters contemplated by this Agreement.

(b) Acquired Fund agrees that the liquidation and dissolution of Acquired Fund will be effected in the manner provided in the Agreement and Declaration of Trust of Acquired Fund in accordance with applicable law and that on and after the Exchange Date, Acquired Fund shall not conduct any business except in connection with its liquidation and dissolution.

(c) Acquiring Fund has, after the preparation and delivery to Acquiring Fund by Acquired Fund of a preliminary version of the Proxy Statement which was satisfactory to Acquiring Fund and to Ropes & Gray LLP for inclusion in the Registration Statement, filed the Registration Statement with the Commission. Each of Acquired Fund and Acquiring Fund will cooperate with the other, and each will furnish to the other the information relating to itself required by the 1933 Act, the 1934 Act and the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder set forth in the Registration Statement, including the Prospectuses and the Proxy Statements.

8. Conditions to Acquiring Fund's obligations. The obligations of Acquiring Fund hereunder shall be subject to the following conditions:

(a) That this Agreement shall have been adopted and the transactions contemplated hereby shall have been approved by the affirmative vote of (i) at least three-fourths of the total number of Trustees then in office and by at least three-fourths of the total number of Continuing Trustees (a "Continuing Trustee" being a Trustee (1) who is not a person or an affiliate of such a person who enters or proposes to enter into any transaction (e.g., a merger or consolidation) with the Trust and (2) who has been a Trustee for a period of at least twelve months) then in office of Acquired Fund (including a majority of those Trustees who are not "interested persons" of Acquired Fund, as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act); (ii) holders of the lesser of (1) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of Acquired Fund or (2) 67% or more of the shares present at a meeting if more than 50% of the outstanding shares of Acquired Fund are represented at the meeting in person or by proxy; (iii) holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Acquiring Fund voted, if holders of more than 50% of such shares are represented at the meeting in person or by proxy; and (iv) a majority of the Trustees of Acquiring Fund (including a majority of those Trustees who are not "interested persons" of Acquiring Fund, as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act).

(b) That Acquired Fund shall have furnished to Acquiring Fund a statement of Acquired Fund's net assets, with values determined as provided in Section 4 of this Agreement, together with a list of Investments with their respective tax costs, all as of the Valuation Time, certified on Acquired Fund's behalf by Acquired Fund's President (or any Vice President) and Treasurer (or any Assistant Treasurer) and a certificate of both such officers, dated the Exchange Date, to the effect that as of the Valuation Time and as of the Effective Date there has been no material adverse change in the financial position of Acquired Fund since October 31, 2003 other than changes in the Investments and other assets and properties since that date or changes in the market value of the Investments and other assets of Acquired Fund or changes due to dividends paid or losses from operations.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

(c) That Acquired Fund shall have furnished to Acquiring Fund a statement, dated the Exchange Date, signed on behalf of Acquired Fund by Acquired Fund's President (or any Vice President) and Treasurer (or any Assistant Treasurer) certifying that as of the Valuation Time and as of the Exchange Date all representations and warranties of Acquired Fund made in this Agreement are true and correct in all material respects as if made at and as of such dates, and that Acquired Fund has complied with all of the agreements and satisfied all of the conditions on its part to be performed or satisfied at or prior to each of such dates.

(d) That Acquired Fund shall have delivered to Acquiring Fund an agreed upon procedures letter from KPMG LLP dated the Exchange Date, setting forth findings of KPMG LLP pursuant to its performance of the agreed upon procedures set forth therein relating to management's assertions that (i) for the taxable period from March 1, 2004 to the Exchange Date Acquired Fund qualified as a regulated investment company under the Code, (ii) as of the Exchange Date, has no liability other than liabilities stated for federal or state income taxes and (iii) as of the Exchange Date, has no liability for federal excise tax purposes under section 4982 of the Code.

(e) That there shall not be any material litigation pending with respect to the matters contemplated by this Agreement.

(f) That Acquiring Fund shall have received an opinion of Ropes & Gray LLP, in form satisfactory to Acquiring Fund and dated the Exchange Date, to the effect that (i) Acquired Fund is a business trust duly established and validly existing under the laws of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and, to the knowledge of such counsel, is not required to qualify to do business as a foreign association in any jurisdiction except as may be required by state securities or blue sky laws, (ii) this Agreement has been duly authorized, executed, and delivered by Acquired Fund and, assuming that the Registration Statement, the Prospectuses and the Proxy Statements comply with the 1933 Act, the 1934 Act and the 1940 Act and assuming due authorization, execution and delivery of this Agreement by Acquiring Fund, is a valid and binding obligation of Acquired Fund, (iii) Acquired Fund has power to sell, assign, convey, transfer and deliver the assets contemplated hereby and, upon consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, Acquired Fund will have duly sold, assigned, conveyed, transferred and delivered such assets to Acquiring Fund, (iv) the execution and delivery of this Agreement did not, and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby will not, violate Acquired Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust or Bylaws or any provision of any agreement known to such counsel to which Acquired Fund is a party or by which it is bound, it being understood that with respect to investment restrictions as contained in Acquired Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust, Bylaws, then-current prospectus or statement of additional information or the Registration Statement, such counsel may rely upon a certificate of an officer of Acquired Fund's whose responsibility it is to advise Acquired Fund with respect to such matters, (v) no consent, approval, authorization or order of any court or governmental authority is required for the consummation by Acquired Fund of the transactions contemplated hereby, except such as have been obtained under the 1933 Act, the 1934 Act, the 1940 Act and such as may be required under state securities or blue sky laws and the H-S-R Act and (vi) such other matters as Acquiring Fund may reasonably deem necessary or desirable.

(g) That Acquiring Fund shall have received an opinion of Ropes & Gray LLP dated the Exchange Date (which opinion would be based upon certain factual representations and subject to certain qualifications), to the effect that, on the basis of the existing provisions of the Code,

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

current administrative rules and court decisions, for federal income tax purposes: (i) the acquisition by Acquiring Fund of substantially all of the assets of Acquired Fund solely in exchange for Merger Shares and the assumption by Acquiring Fund of liabilities of Acquired Fund followed by the distribution of Acquired Fund to its shareholders of Merger Shares in complete liquidation of Acquired Fund, all pursuant to the plan of reorganization, constitutes a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code and Acquired Fund and Acquiring Fund will each be a "party to a reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(b) of the Code, (ii) no gain or loss will be recognized by Acquiring Fund or its shareholders upon receipt of the Investments transferred to Acquiring Fund pursuant to this Agreement in exchange for the Merger Shares, (iii) the basis to Acquiring Fund of the Investments will be the same as the basis of the Investments in the hands of Acquired Fund immediately prior to such exchange (iv) Acquiring Fund's holding periods with respect to the Investments will include the respective periods for which the Investments were held by Acquired Fund and (v) Acquiring Fund will succeed to and take into account the items of Acquired Fund described in Section 381(c) of the Code, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in Sections 381, 382, 383 and 384 of the Code and Regulations thereunder.

(h) That the assets of Acquired Fund to be acquired by Acquiring Fund will include no assets which Acquiring Fund, by reason of charter limitations or of investment restrictions disclosed in the Registration Statement in effect on the Exchange Date, may not properly acquire.

(i) That the Registration Statement shall have become effective under the 1933 Act, and no stop order suspending such effectiveness shall have been instituted or, to the knowledge of Acquiring Fund, threatened by the Commission.

(j) That Acquiring Fund shall have received from the Commission, any relevant state securities administrator, the Federal Trade Commission (the "FTC") and the Department of Justice (the "Department") such order or orders as Ropes & Gray LLP deems reasonably necessary or desirable under the 1933 Act, the 1934 Act, the 1940 Act, any applicable state securities or blue sky laws and the H-S-R Act in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby, and that all such orders shall be in full force and effect.

(k) That all proceedings taken by Acquired Fund in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and all documents incidental thereto shall be satisfactory in form and substance to Acquiring Fund and Ropes & Gray LLP.

(l) That, prior to the Exchange Date, Acquired Fund shall have declared a dividend or dividends which, together with all previous such dividends, shall have the effect of distributing to the shareholders of Acquired Fund (i) all of the excess of (X) Acquired Fund's investment income excludable from gross income under Section 103 of the Code over (Y) Acquired Fund's deductions disallowed under Sections 265 and 171 of the Code, (ii) all of Acquired Fund's investment company taxable income (as defined in Section 852 of the Code) for its taxable years ending on or after February 29, 2004, and on or prior to the Exchange Date (computed in each case without regard to any deduction for dividends paid), and (iii) all of its net capital gain realized after reduction by any capital loss carryover in each of its taxable years ending on or after February 29, 2004, and on or prior to the Exchange Date.

(m) That Acquired Fund's custodian shall have delivered to Acquiring Fund a certificate identifying all of the assets of Acquired Fund held

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

by such custodian as of the Valuation Time.

(n) That Acquired Fund's transfer agent shall have provided to Acquiring Fund (i) the originals or true copies of all of the records of Acquired Fund in the possession of such transfer agent as of the Exchange Date, (ii) a certificate setting forth the number of shares of Acquired Fund outstanding as of the Valuation Time, and (iii) the name and address of each holder of record of any such shares and the number of shares held of record by each such shareholder.

(o) That all of the issued and outstanding shares of beneficial interest of Acquired Fund shall have been offered for sale and sold in conformity with all applicable state securities or blue sky laws and, to the extent that any audit of the records of Acquired Fund or its transfer agent by Acquiring Fund or its agents shall have revealed otherwise, either (i) Acquired Fund shall have taken all actions that in the opinion of Acquiring Fund or its counsel are necessary to remedy any prior failure on the part of Acquired Fund to have offered for sale and sold such shares in conformity with such laws or (ii) Acquired Fund shall have furnished (or caused to be furnished) surety, or deposited (or caused to be deposited) assets in escrow, for the benefit of Acquiring Fund in amounts sufficient and upon terms satisfactory, in the opinion of Acquiring Fund or its counsel, to indemnify Acquiring Fund against any expense, loss, claim, damage or liability whatsoever that may be asserted or threatened by reason of such failure on the part of Acquired Fund to have offered and sold such shares in conformity with such laws.

(p) That Acquiring Fund shall have received from KPMG LLP an agreed upon procedures letter addressed to Acquiring Fund dated as of the Exchange Date satisfactory in form and substance to Acquiring Fund setting forth the findings of KPMG LLP pursuant to its performance of the agreed upon procedures set forth therein relating to management's assertion that as of the Valuation Time the value of the assets of Acquired Fund to be exchanged for the Merger Shares has been determined in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, Section 5 of Acquiring Fund's Bylaws pursuant to the procedures customarily utilized by Acquiring Fund in valuing its assets and issuing its shares.

(q) That Acquired Fund shall have executed and delivered to Acquiring Fund an instrument of transfer dated as of the Exchange Date pursuant to which Acquired Fund will assign, transfer and convey all of the assets and other property to Acquiring Fund at the Valuation Time in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

(r) That the Merger Shares shall have been approved for listing by the New York Stock Exchange.

9. Conditions to Acquired Fund's obligations. The obligations of Acquired Fund hereunder shall be subject to the following conditions:

(a) That this Agreement shall have been adopted and the transactions contemplated hereby shall have been approved by the affirmative vote of (i) at least three-fourths of the total number of Trustees then in office and by at least three-fourths of the total number of Continuing Trustees (a "Continuing Trustee" being a Trustee (1) who is not a person or an affiliate of such a person who enters or proposes to enter into any transaction (e.g., a merger or consolidation) with the Trust and (2) who has been a Trustee for a period of at least twelve months) then in office of Acquired Fund (including a majority of those Trustees who are not "interested persons" of Acquired Fund, as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act); (ii) holders of the lesser of (1) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of Acquired Fund or (2) 67% or more of the

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

shares present at a meeting if more than 50% of the outstanding shares of Acquired Fund are represented at the meeting in person or by proxy; (iii) holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Acquiring Fund voted, if holders of more than 50% of such shares are represented at the meeting in person or by proxy; and (iv) a majority of the Trustees of Acquiring Fund (including a majority of those Trustees who are not "interested persons" of Acquiring Fund, as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act).

(b) That Acquiring Fund shall have furnished to Acquired Fund a statement of Acquiring Fund's net assets, together with a list of portfolio holdings with values determined as provided in Section 4 of this Agreement, all as of the Valuation Time, certified on behalf of Acquiring Fund by Acquiring Fund's President (or any Vice President) and Treasurer (or any Assistant Treasurer) and a certificate of both such officers, dated the Exchange Date, to the effect that as of the Valuation Time and as of the Exchange Date there has been no material adverse change in the financial position of Acquiring Fund since August 31, 2003, other than changes in its portfolio securities since that date, changes in the market value of its portfolio securities or changes due to dividends paid or losses from operations.

(c) That Acquiring Fund shall have executed and delivered to Acquired Fund an Assumption of Liabilities dated as of the Exchange Date pursuant to which Acquiring Fund will assume all of the liabilities of Acquired Fund existing at the Valuation Time in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

(d) That Acquiring Fund shall have furnished to Acquired Fund a statement, dated the Exchange Date, signed on behalf of Acquiring Fund by Acquiring Fund's President (or any Vice President) and Treasurer (or any Assistant Treasurer) certifying that as of the Valuation Time and as of the Exchange Date all representations and warranties of Acquiring Fund made in this Agreement are true and correct in all material respects as if made at and as of such dates, and that Acquiring Fund has complied with all of the agreements and satisfied all of the conditions on its part to be performed or satisfied at or prior to each of such dates.

(e) That there shall not be any material litigation pending or threatened with respect to the matters contemplated by this Agreement.

(f) That Acquired Fund shall have received an opinion of Ropes & Gray LLP, in form satisfactory to Acquired Fund and dated the Exchange Date, to the effect that (i) Acquiring Fund is a business trust duly established and validly existing in conformity with the laws of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and, to the knowledge of such counsel, is not required to qualify to do business as a foreign association in any jurisdiction except as may be required by state securities or blue sky laws, (ii) this Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by Acquiring Fund and, assuming that the Prospectuses, the Registration Statement and the Proxy Statements comply with the 1933 Act, the 1934 Act and the 1940 Act and assuming due authorization, execution and delivery of this Agreement by Acquired Fund, is a valid and binding obligation of Acquiring Fund, (iii) the Merger Shares to be delivered to Acquired Fund as provided for by this Agreement are duly authorized and upon such delivery will be validly issued and will be fully paid and nonassessable by Acquiring Fund and no shareholder of Acquiring Fund has any preemptive right to subscription or purchase in respect thereof, (iv) the execution and delivery of this Agreement did not, and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby will not, violate Acquiring Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust, as

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

amended, or Bylaws, or any provision of any agreement known to such counsel to which Acquiring Fund is a party or by which it is bound, it being understood that with respect to investment restrictions as contained in Acquiring Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust, as amended, Bylaws or the Registration Statement, such counsel may rely upon a certificate of an officer of Acquiring Fund whose responsibility it is to advise Acquiring Fund with respect to such matters, (v) no consent, approval, authorization or order of any court or governmental authority is required for the consummation by Acquiring Fund of the transactions contemplated herein, except such as have been obtained under the 1933 Act, the 1934 Act, and the 1940 Act and such as may be required under state securities or blue sky laws and the H-S-R Act and (vi) the Registration Statement has become effective under the 1933 Act, and to the best of the knowledge of such counsel, no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement has been issued and no proceedings for that purpose have been instituted or are pending or contemplated under the 1933 Act.

(g) That Acquired Fund shall have received an opinion of Ropes & Gray LLP dated the Exchange Date (which opinion would be based upon certain factual representations and subject to certain qualifications), to the effect that, on the basis of the existing provisions of the Code, current administrative rules and court decisions, subject to the qualification below, for federal income tax purposes: (i) the acquisition by Acquiring Fund of substantially all of the assets of Acquired Fund solely in exchange for Merger Shares and the assumption by Acquiring Fund of liabilities of Acquired Fund followed by the distribution of Acquired Fund to its shareholders of Merger Shares in complete liquidation of Acquired Fund, all pursuant to the plan of reorganization, constitutes a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code and Acquired Fund and Acquiring Fund will each be a "party to a reorganization" within the meaning of Section 368(b) of the Code, (ii) no gain or loss will be recognized by Acquired Fund upon the transfer of the Investments to Acquiring Fund and the assumption by Acquiring Fund of the liabilities of Acquired Fund, or upon the distribution of the Merger Shares by Acquired Fund to its shareholders, pursuant to this Agreement, (iii) no gain or loss will be recognized by Acquired Fund shareholders on the exchange of their shares of Acquired Fund for Merger Shares, (iv) the aggregate basis of the Merger Shares an Acquired Fund shareholder receives in connection with the transaction will be the same as the aggregate basis of his or her Acquired Fund shares exchanged therefor and (v) an Acquired Fund shareholder's holding period for his or her Merger Shares will be determined by including the period for which he or she held Acquired Fund shares exchanged therefor, provided that the shareholder held Acquired Fund's shares as a capital asset; however, Ropes & Gray LLP will express no view with respect to the effect of the reorganization on any transferred asset as to which any unrealized gain or loss is required to be recognized at the end of a taxable year (or on the termination or transfer thereof) under federal income tax principles.

(h) That all proceedings taken by or on behalf of Acquiring Fund in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement and all documents incidental thereto shall be satisfactory in form and substance to Acquired Fund and Ropes & Gray LLP.

(i) That the Registration Statement shall have become effective under the 1933 Act, and no stop order suspending such effectiveness shall have been instituted or, to the knowledge of Acquiring Fund, threatened by the Commission.

(j) That Acquired Fund shall have received from the Commission, any relevant state securities administrator, the FTC and the Department such

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

order or orders as Ropes & Gray LLP deems reasonably necessary or desirable under the 1933 Act, the 1934 Act, the 1940 Act, any applicable state securities or blue sky laws and the H-S-R Act in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby, and that all such orders shall be in full force and effect.

(k) That the Merger Shares shall have been approved for listing by the New York Stock Exchange.

10. Indemnification.

(a) Acquired Fund will indemnify and hold harmless, out of the assets of Acquired Fund but no other assets, Acquiring Fund, its trustees and its officers (for purposes of this subparagraph, the "Indemnified Parties") against any and all expenses, losses, claims, damages and liabilities at any time imposed upon or reasonably incurred by any one or more of the Indemnified Parties in connection with, arising out of, or resulting from any claim, action, suit or proceeding in which any one or more of the Indemnified Parties may be involved or with which any one or more of the Indemnified Parties may be threatened by reason of any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact relating to Acquired Fund contained in the Registration Statement, the Prospectuses, the Proxy Statements or any amendment or supplement to any of the foregoing, or arising out of or based upon the omission or alleged omission to state in any of the foregoing a material fact relating to Acquired Fund required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements relating to Acquired Fund therein not misleading, including, without limitation, any amounts paid by any one or more of the Indemnified Parties in a reasonable compromise or settlement of any such claim, action, suit or proceeding, or threatened claim, action, suit or proceeding made with the consent of Acquired Fund. The Indemnified Parties will notify Acquired Fund in writing within ten days after the receipt by any one or more of the Indemnified Parties of any notice of legal process or any suit brought against or claim made against such Indemnified Party as to any matters covered by this Section 10(a). Acquired Fund shall be entitled to participate at its own expense in the defense of any claim, action, suit or proceeding covered by this Section 10(a), or, if it so elects, to assume at its expense by counsel satisfactory to the Indemnified Parties the defense of any such claim, action, suit or proceeding, and if Acquired Fund elects to assume such defense, the Indemnified Parties shall be entitled to participate in the defense of any such claim, action, suit or proceeding at their expense. Acquired Fund's obligation under this Section 10(a) to indemnify and hold harmless the Indemnified Parties shall constitute a guarantee of payment so that Acquired Fund will pay in the first instance any expenses, losses, claims, damages and liabilities required to be paid by it under this Section 10(a) without the necessity of the Indemnified Parties' first paying the same.

(b) Acquiring Fund will indemnify and hold harmless, out of the assets of Acquiring Fund but no other assets, Acquired Fund, its trustees and its officers (for purposes of this subparagraph, the "Indemnified Parties") against any and all expenses, losses, claims, damages and liabilities at any time imposed upon or reasonably incurred by any one or more of the Indemnified Parties in connection with, arising out of, or resulting from any claim, action, suit or proceeding in which any one or more of the Indemnified Parties may be involved or with which any one or more of the Indemnified Parties may be threatened by reason of any untrue statement or alleged untrue statement of a material fact relating to Acquiring Fund contained in the Registration Statement, the Prospectuses, the Proxy Statements, or any amendment or supplement to any thereof, or arising out of, or based upon, the omission or alleged

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

omission to state in any of the foregoing a material fact relating to Acquiring Fund required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements relating to Acquiring Fund therein not misleading, including without limitation any amounts paid by any one or more of the Indemnified Parties in a reasonable compromise or settlement of any such claim, action, suit or proceeding, or threatened claim, action, suit or proceeding made with the consent of Acquiring Fund. The Indemnified Parties will notify Acquiring Fund in writing within ten days after the receipt by any one or more of the Indemnified Parties of any notice of legal process or any suit brought against or claim made against such Indemnified Party as to any matters covered by this Section 10(b). Acquiring Fund shall be entitled to participate at its own expense in the defense of any claim, action, suit or proceeding covered by this Section 10(b), or, if it so elects, to assume at its expense by counsel satisfactory to the Indemnified Parties the defense of any such claim, action, suit or proceeding, and, if Acquiring Fund elects to assume such defense, the Indemnified Parties shall be entitled to participate in the defense of any such claim, action, suit or proceeding at their own expense. Acquiring Fund's obligation under this Section 10(b) to indemnify and hold harmless the Indemnified Parties shall constitute a guarantee of payment so that Acquiring Fund will pay in the first instance any expenses, losses, claims, damages and liabilities required to be paid by it under this Section 10(b) without the necessity of the Indemnified Parties' first paying the same.

11. No broker, etc.

Each of Acquired Fund and Acquiring Fund represents that there is no person who has dealt with it who by reason of such dealings is entitled to any broker's or finder's or other similar fee or commission arising out of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

12. Termination.

Acquired Fund and Acquiring Fund may, by mutual consent of their trustees, terminate this Agreement, and Acquired Fund or Acquiring Fund, after consultation with counsel and by consent of their trustees or an officer authorized by such trustees, may waive any condition to their respective obligations hereunder. If the transactions contemplated by this Agreement have not been substantially completed by December 31, 2005, this Agreement shall automatically terminate on that date unless a later date is agreed to by Acquired Fund and Acquiring Fund.

13. Rule 145.

Pursuant to Rule 145 under the 1933 Act, Acquiring Fund will, in connection with the issuance of any Merger Shares to any person who at the time of the transaction contemplated hereby is deemed to be an affiliate of a party to the transaction pursuant to Rule 145(c), cause to be affixed upon the certificates issued to such person (if any) a legend as follows:

"THESE SHARES HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED, AND MAY NOT BE SOLD OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED EXCEPT TO PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND OR ITS PRINCIPAL UNDERWRITER UNLESS (I) A REGISTRATION STATEMENT WITH RESPECT THERETO IS EFFECTIVE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED, OR (II) IN THE OPINION OF COUNSEL REASONABLY SATISFACTORY TO PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND SUCH REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED."

and, further, Acquiring Fund will issue stop transfer instructions to

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Acquiring Fund's transfer agent with respect to such shares. Acquired Fund will provide Acquiring Fund on the Exchange Date with the name of any Acquired Fund shareholder who is to the knowledge of Acquired Fund an affiliate of Acquired Fund on such date.

14. Covenants, etc. deemed material.

All covenants, agreements, representations and warranties made under this Agreement and any certificates delivered pursuant to this Agreement shall be deemed to have been material and relied upon by each of the parties, notwithstanding any investigation made by them or on their behalf.

15. Sole agreement; amendments.

This Agreement supersedes all previous correspondence and oral communications between the parties regarding the subject matter hereof, constitutes the only understanding with respect to such subject matter, may not be changed except by a letter of agreement signed by each party hereto, and shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

16. Agreement and declaration of trust.

Copies of the Agreements and Declarations of Trust of Acquired Fund and Acquiring Fund are on file with the Secretary of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and notice is hereby given that this instrument is executed by the Trustees of each Trust, respectively, as Trustees and not individually and that the obligations of this instrument are not binding upon any of the Trustees, officers or shareholders of Acquired Fund or Acquiring Fund individually but are binding only upon the assets and property of Acquired Fund and Acquiring Fund, respectively.

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which, when executed and delivered, shall be deemed to be an original.

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND

By: _____
Executive Vice President

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITIES TRUST

By: _____
Executive Vice President

PUTNAM INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC

By: _____
Managing Director

For more information about
High Income Bond Fund and High Income Opportunities Trust

High Income Bond Fund's statement of additional information (SAI) and the funds' annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders include additional information about the funds. The SAI is incorporated by reference into this prospectus/proxy statement, which means it is part of this prospectus/proxy statement for legal purposes. The funds' annual and semi-annual reports discuss the market conditions and

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

investment strategies that significantly affected the fund's performance during the relevant period. Shareholders of the funds may get free copies of these materials, request other information about the funds, or make shareholder inquiries, by contacting their financial advisor, by visiting Putnam's Internet site, or by calling Putnam toll-free at 1-800-225-1581.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Synopsis	[]
II. Risk Factors	[]
III. Information about the Proposed Merger	[]
IV. Information about the Funds	[]
V. Information about Voting and the Shareholder Meeting	[]
Appendix A--Agreement and Plan of Reorganization	[]

[Putnam Scales Logo]

The Putnam Funds
One Post Office Square
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
Toll-free 1-800-225-1581

PUTNAM INVESTMENTS

P.O. BOX 9132
HINGHAM, MA 02043-9132

Your vote is important. For your convenience, you can vote your Proxy in any of these three ways:

1 TELEPHONE

Call us toll-free at
1-888-221-0697

- * Enter the 14-digit control number printed on your proxy card.
- * Follow the automated telephone directions.
- * There is no need for you to return your proxy card.

2 INTERNET

Go to
<https://www.proxyweb.com/Putnam>

- * Enter the 14-digit control number printed on your proxy card.
- * Follow the instructions on the site.
- * There is no need for you to return your proxy card. 3

MAIL

Mail in the proxy card attached below:

- * Please sign and date your proxy card.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

- * Detach the card from this proxy form.
- * Return the card in the postage-paid envelope provided.

PLEASE FOLD AND DETACH CARD AT PERFORATION BEFORE MAILING

This is your PROXY CARD.

To vote by mail, please record your voting instructions on this card, sign it below, and return it promptly in the envelope provided. Your vote is important.

This proxy is solicited on behalf of the Trustees of the Fund.

Proxy for a meeting of shareholders to be held on [], for Putnam High Income Bond Fund.

The undersigned shareholder hereby appoints John A. Hill and Robert E. Patterson, and each of them separately, Proxies, with power of substitution, and hereby authorizes them to represent such shareholder and to vote, as designated on the reverse side, at the meeting of shareholders of Putnam High Income Bond Fund on [] at 11:00 a.m., Boston time, and at any adjournments thereof, all of the shares of the fund that the undersigned shareholder would be entitled to vote if personally present.

PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN AND DATE THIS PROXY.

Shareholder/Co-owner sign(s) here Date

Please sign your name exactly as it appears on this card. If you are a joint owner, each owner should sign, When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee, or guardian, or as custodian for a minor, please give your full title as such. If you are signing for a corporation, please sign the full corporate name and indicate the signer's office. If you are a partner, sign in the partnership name.

Has your address changed?

Please use this form to notify us of any change in address or telephone number or to provide us with your comments. Detach this form from the proxy card and return it with your signed card in the enclosed envelope.

Name

Street

City State Zip

Telephone

Do you have any comments?

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

PLEASE FOLD AND DETACH CARD AT PERFORATION BEFORE MAILING

DEAR SHAREHOLDER:

Your vote is important. Please help us to eliminate the expense of follow-up mailings by recording your voting instructions via the Internet or Automated Telephone or by signing and returning this proxy card. A postage-paid envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Thank you!

If you complete and sign the proxy, we'll vote it exactly as you tell us. The Proxies are authorized to vote in their discretion upon any matters as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments of the meeting. If you simply sign the proxy, or fail to provide your voting instructions on the proposal, the Proxies will vote in the same manner as the Trustees recommend.

Please vote by filling in the appropriate box below.

THE TRUSTEES RECOMMEND A VOTE FOR PROPOSAL 1.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
[]	[]	[]

1. Approval of an Agreement and Plan of Reorganization and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the transfer of all of the assets of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust to Putnam High Income Bond Fund in exchange for the issuance and delivery of shares of beneficial interest of Putnam High Income Bond Fund and the assumption by Putnam High Income Bond Fund of the liabilities of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust, and the distribution of such shares to the shareholders of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust in complete liquidation of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust.

Note: If you have any questions on the proposal, please call 1-800-225-1581

PLEASE SIGN AND DATE ON THE REVERSE SIDE.

PUTNAM INVESTMENTS

P.O. BOX 9132
HINGHAM, MA 02043-9132

Your vote is important. For your convenience, you can vote your Proxy in any of these three ways:

1
TELEPHONE

Call us toll-free at
1-888-221-0697

- * Enter the 14-digit control number printed on your proxy card.
- * Follow the automated telephone directions.
- * There is no need for you to return your proxy card.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

2

INTERNET

Go to

<https://www.proxyweb.com/Putnam>

- * Enter the 14-digit control number printed on your proxy card.
- * Follow the instructions on the site.
- * There is no need for you to return your proxy card. 3

MAIL

Mail in the proxy card attached below:

- * Please sign and date your proxy card.
- * Detach the card from this proxy form.
- * Return the card in the postage-paid envelope provided.

PLEASE FOLD AND DETACH CARD AT PERFORATION BEFORE MAILING

This is your PROXY CARD.

To vote by mail, please record your voting instructions on this card, sign it below, and return it promptly in the envelope provided. Your vote is important.

This proxy is solicited on behalf of the Trustees of the Fund.

Proxy for a meeting of shareholders to be held on [], for Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust.

The undersigned shareholder hereby appoints John A. Hill and Robert E. Patterson, and each of them separately, Proxies, with power of substitution, and hereby authorizes them to represent such shareholder and to vote, as designated on the reverse side, at the meeting of shareholders of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust on [] at 11:00 a.m., Boston time, and at any adjournments thereof, all of the shares of the fund that the undersigned shareholder would be entitled to vote if personally present.

PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN AND DATE THIS PROXY.

Shareholder/Co-owner sign(s) here Date

Please sign your name exactly as it appears on this card. If you are a joint owner, each owner should sign, When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee, or guardian, or as custodian for a minor, please give your full title as such. If you are signing for a corporation, please sign the full corporate name and indicate the signer's office. If you are a partner, sign in the partnership name.

Has your address changed?

Please use this form to notify us of any change in address or telephone number or to provide us with your comments. Detach this form from the proxy card and return it with your signed card in the enclosed envelope.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____

Do you have any comments?

PLEASE FOLD AND DETACH CARD AT PERFORATION BEFORE MAILING

DEAR SHAREHOLDER:

Your vote is important. Please help us to eliminate the expense of follow-up mailings by recording your voting instructions via the Internet or Automated Telephone or by signing and returning this proxy card. A postage-paid envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Thank you!

If you complete and sign the proxy, we'll vote it exactly as you tell us. The Proxies are authorized to vote in their discretion upon any matters as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments of the meeting. If you simply sign the proxy, or fail to provide your voting instructions on the proposal, the Proxies will vote in the same manner as the Trustees recommend.

Please vote by filling in the appropriate box below.

THE TRUSTEES RECOMMEND A VOTE FOR PROPOSAL 1.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
[]	[]	[]

1. Approval of an Agreement and Plan of Reorganization and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the transfer of all of the assets of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust to Putnam High Income Bond Fund in exchange for the issuance and delivery of shares of beneficial interest of Putnam High Income Bond Fund and the assumption by Putnam High Income Bond Fund of the liabilities of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust, and the distribution of such shares to the shareholders of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust in complete liquidation of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust.

Note: If you have any questions on the proposal, please call 1-800-225-1581

PLEASE SIGN AND DATE ON THE REVERSE SIDE.

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

FORM N-14
PART B

STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[], 2004

This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") contains material that may be of interest to investors but that is not included in the Prospectus/Proxy Statement (the "Prospectus") of Putnam High Income Bond Fund ("High Income Bond Fund") dated [] relating to the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust ("High Income Opportunities Trust" and, together with High Income Bond Fund, the "funds") to High Income Bond Fund. This SAI is not a Prospectus and is authorized for distribution only when it accompanies or follows delivery of the Prospectus. This SAI should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus. Investors may obtain a free copy of the Prospectus by writing Putnam Investor Services, One Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109 or by calling 1-800-225-1581.

CHARGES AND EXPENSES.....[]
 MISCELLANEOUS INVESTMENTS, INVESTMENT PRACTICES AND RISKS.....[]
 TAXES..... []
 MANAGEMENT..... []
 INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRMS
 AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS..... []
 APPENDIX A..... []

CHARGES AND EXPENSES

Management fees

Under a Management Contract dated as of July 11, 1991, High Income Bond Fund pays a quarterly fee to Putnam Management based on the average net assets of the fund, as determined at the close of each business day during the quarter. Such fee is based on the annual rate of 0.75% of the first \$500 million of average weekly net assets.

Under a Management Contract dated as of May 5, 1995, High Income Opportunities Trust pays a quarterly fee to Putnam Management based on the average net assets of the fund, as determined at the close of each business day during the quarter. Such fee is based on the annual rate of 1.10% of average weekly net assets.

For the past three fiscal years, pursuant to its management contract, each fund incurred the following fees:

Fund name	Fiscal year	Management fee paid
HIGH INCOME BOND FUND	2003	\$728,049
	2002	\$719,134
	2001	\$777,389
HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITIES TRUST	2004	\$754,094
	2003	\$671,383
	2002	\$752,422

Brokerage commissions

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

The following table shows brokerage commissions paid during the fiscal periods indicated:

Fund name	Fiscal year	Brokerage commissions
HIGH INCOME BOND FUND	2003	\$13,900
	2002	\$12,156
	2001	\$41,001
HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITIES TRUST	2004	\$15,431
	2003	\$47,530
	2002	\$41,893

The brokerage commissions for High Income Bond Fund's two most recent fiscal years were lower than the brokerage commissions for the fund's 2001 fiscal year due to decreases in trading volume. The brokerage commissions for High Income Opportunities Trust's most recent fiscal year were lower than the brokerage commissions for the fund's 2002 and 2003 fiscal years due to a decrease in trading volume.

The following table shows transactions placed with brokers and dealers during the most recent fiscal year to recognize research, statistical and quotation services received by Putnam Management and its affiliates:

Fund name	Dollar value of these transactions	Percentage of total transactions	Amount of commissions
HIGH INCOME BOND FUND	\$662,966	4.75%	\$2,395
HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITIES TRUST	\$481,011	3.74%	\$665

Administrative Services Fees

Under an Administrative Services Contract dated as of May 5, 1995, High Income Opportunities Trust pays a quarterly fee to Putnam Management based on the average net assets of the fund, as determined at the close of each business day during the quarter. Such fee is based on the annual rate of 0.25% of average weekly net assets.

For the past three fiscal years, pursuant to its administrative services contract, High Income Opportunities Trust incurred the following fees:

Fiscal year	Administrative services fee paid
2004	\$172,216
2003	\$152,838
2002	\$171,165

Administrative expense reimbursement

Each fund reimbursed Putnam Management for administrative services during its most recent fiscal year, including compensation of certain fund officers and contributions to the Putnam Investments Profit Sharing Retirement Plan for their benefit, as follows:

Total	Portion of total reimbursement for compensation and

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Fund name	Reimbursement	contributions
HIGH INCOME BOND FUND	\$6,321	\$4,962
HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITIES TRUST	\$5,937	\$4,697

Trustee responsibilities and fees

The Trustees are responsible for generally overseeing the conduct of each fund's business. Subject to such policies as the Trustees may determine, Putnam Management furnishes a continuing investment program for each fund and makes investment decisions on its behalf. Subject to the control of the Trustees, Putnam Management also manages each fund's other affairs and business.

The table below shows the value of each Trustee's holdings in each fund and in all of the Putnam funds as of December 31, 2003.

Name of Trustee	Dollar range of High Income Bond Fund shares owned	Dollar range of High Income Opportunities Trust shares owned	Aggregate dollars range of shares held in all of the Putnam funds overseen by Trustee
Jameson A. Baxter	\$1-10,000	\$1-10,000	over \$100,000
Charles B. Curtis	\$1-10,000	\$1-10,000	over \$100,000
John A. Hill	\$1-10,000	\$1-10,000	over \$100,000
Ronald J. Jackson	\$1-10,000	\$1-10,000	over \$100,000
Paul L. Joskow	\$1-10,000	\$1-10,000	over \$100,000
Elizabeth T. Kennan	\$1-10,000	\$1-10,000	over \$100,000
John H. Mullin, III	\$1-10,000	\$1-10,000	over \$100,000
Robert E. Patterson	\$1-10,000	\$1-10,000	over \$100,000
W. Thomas Stephens	\$1-10,000	\$1-10,000	over \$100,000
*George Putnam, III	\$1-10,000	\$1-10,000	over \$100,000
*A.J.C. Smith	\$1-10,000	\$1-10,000	over \$100,000

* Trustees who are or may be deemed to be "interested persons" (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940) of the funds or Putnam Management. Messrs. Putnam, III and Smith are deemed "interested persons" by virtue of their positions as officers of the funds, Putnam Management, Putnam Retail Management or Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. and as shareholders of Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. Mr. Putnam, III is the President of the funds and each of the other Putnam funds. Mr. Smith is the Chairman of Putnam Investments and serves as a Director of and Consultant to Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

Each independent Trustee of the funds receives a fee for his or her services to each fund. Each independent Trustee of a fund also receives fees for serving as Trustee of other Putnam funds. Each independent Trustee of the Putnam funds receives an annual retainer fee and an additional meeting fee for each Trustees' meeting attended. Independent Trustees who serve on board committees receive additional fees for attendance at certain committee meetings and for special services rendered in that connection. All of the current independent Trustees are Trustees of all the Putnam funds and receive fees for their services from each Putnam fund. Mr. Putnam also receives the foregoing fees for his service as Trustee of each Putnam fund.

The Trustees periodically review their fees to ensure that such fees continue to be appropriate in light of their responsibilities as well as in relation to fees paid to trustees of other mutual fund complexes. The Trustees meet monthly over a two-day period, except in August. The

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Board Policy and Nominating Committee, which consists solely of independent Trustees, estimates that committee and Trustee meeting time, together with the appropriate preparation, requires the equivalent of at least three business days per Trustee meeting.

HIGH INCOME BOND FUND

Audit and Pricing Committee	23
Board Policy and Nominating Committee	8
Brokerage and Custody Committee	7
Communication, Service and Marketing Committee	11
Contract Committee	16
Distributions Committee	5
Executive Committee	1
Investment Oversight Committee	31

HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITIES TRUST

Audit and Pricing Committee	16
Board Policy and Nominating Committee	6
Brokerage and Custody Committee	4
Communication, Service and Marketing Committee	10
Contract Committee	15
Distributions Committee	6
Executive Committee	1
Investment Oversight Committees	30

The following table shows the year each Trustee was first elected a Trustee of the Putnam funds, the fees paid to each Trustee by each fund for its most recent fiscal year, and the fees paid to each Trustee by all of the Putnam funds during calendar year 2003:

Trustees/Year	Aggregate Compensation from High Income Bond Fund (1)	Pension or retirement benefits accrued as part of High Income Bond Fund expenses	Aggregate Compensation from High Income Opportunities Trust (1)	Pension or retirement benefits accrued as part of High Income Opportunities Trust expenses	Estimated annual benefits from all Putnam funds upon retirement (2)
Jameson A. Baxter/ 1994 (5)	\$871	\$231	\$628	\$191	\$100,000
Charles B. Curtis/ 2001	\$859	\$288	\$619	\$185	\$100,000
John A. Hill/ 1985 (5) (7)	\$1,346	\$291	\$1,022	\$225	\$200,000
Ronald J. Jackson/ 1996 (5)	\$861	\$235	\$626	\$180	\$100,000
Paul L. Joskow/ 1997 (5)	\$852	\$168	\$621	\$128	\$100,000
Elizabeth T. Kennan/ 1992	\$868	\$299	\$614	\$232	\$100,000

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Lawrence J. Lasser/ 1992 (8)	--	\$36	--	\$88	\$93,333
John H. Mullin, III/ 1997 (5)	\$861	\$258	\$619	\$198	\$100,000
Robert E. Patterson/ 1984	\$849	\$162	\$622	\$127	\$100,000
George Putnam, III/ 1984 (7)	\$1,062	\$134	\$771	\$104	\$125,000
A.J.C. Smith/ 1986 (6)	--	\$312	--	\$241	--
W. Thomas Stephens/ 1997 (5)	\$852	\$235	\$613	\$179	\$100,000
W. Nicholas Thorndike/ 1992 (9)	\$672	\$385	\$622	\$300	\$100,000

(1) Includes an annual retainer and an attendance fee for each meeting attended.

(2) Assumes that each Trustee retires at the normal retirement date. For Trustees who are not within three years of retirement, estimated benefits for each Trustee are based on Trustee fee rates in effect during calendar 2003.

(3) As of December 31, 2003, there were 101 funds in the Putnam family. For Mr. Hill, amounts shown also include compensation for service as a trustee of TH Lee, Putnam Emerging Opportunities Portfolio, a closed-end fund advised by an affiliate of Putnam Management.

(4) Includes amounts (ranging from \$2,000 to \$11,000 per Trustee) for which the Putnam funds were reimbursed by Putnam Management for special Board and committee meetings in connection with certain regulatory and other matters relating to alleged improper trading by certain Putnam Management employees and participants in certain 401(k) plans administered by Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company.

(5) Includes compensation deferred pursuant to a Trustee Compensation Deferral Plan.

(6) Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. compensates Mr. Smith for his service as Trustee. Mr. Smith has waived any retirement benefits that he is entitled to receive under the Retirement Plan for Trustees of the Putnam funds.

(7) Includes additional compensation to Messrs. Hill and Putnam for service as Chairman of the Trustees and President of the funds, respectively.

(8) Mr. Lasser resigned from the Board of Trustees of the Putnam funds on November 3, 2003. The estimated annual retirement benefits shown in this table for Mr. Lasser reflects benefits earned under the funds' retirement plan prior to July 1, 2000.

(9) Mr. Thorndike resigned from the Board of Trustees of the Putnam

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

funds on June 30, 2004.

Under a Retirement Plan for Trustees of the Putnam funds (the "Plan"), each Trustee who retires with at least five years of service as a Trustee of the funds is entitled to receive an annual retirement benefit equal to one-half of the average annual compensation paid to such Trustee for the last three years of service prior to retirement. This retirement benefit is payable during a Trustee's lifetime, beginning the year following retirement, for a number of years equal to such Trustee's years of service. A death benefit, also available under the Plan, ensures that the Trustee and his or her beneficiaries will receive benefit payments for the lesser of an aggregate period of (i) ten years or (ii) such Trustee's total years of service.

The Plan Administrator (currently the Board Policy and Nominating Committee) may terminate or amend the Plan at any time, but no termination or amendment will result in a reduction in the amount of benefits (i) currently being paid to a Trustee at the time of such termination or amendment, or (ii) to which a current Trustee would have been entitled had he or she retired immediately prior to such termination or amendment. The Trustees have terminated the Plan with respect to any Trustee first elected to the board after 2003.

For additional information concerning the Trustees, see "Management."

Share ownership

At August 31, 2004, the officers and Trustees of High Income Bond Fund as a group owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of the fund, and no person owned of record or to the knowledge of the fund beneficially 5% or more of the shares of the fund. At August 31, 2004 the officers and Trustees of High Income Opportunities Trust as a group owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of the fund, and no person owned of record or to the knowledge of the fund beneficially 5% or more of the shares of the fund.

Investor servicing and custody fees and expenses

During its most recent fiscal year, each fund incurred the following fees and out-of-pocket expenses for investor servicing and custody services provided by Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company:

HIGH INCOME BOND FUND	\$194,952
HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITIES TRUST	\$162,222

MISCELLANEOUS INVESTMENTS, INVESTMENT PRACTICES AND RISKS

In addition to the principal investment strategies and principal risks described in the Prospectus, each fund may employ other investment practices and may be subject to other risks, which are described below. Certain investment strategies and risks that are described briefly in the Prospectus are described in greater detail below.

Foreign Investments

Foreign securities are normally denominated and traded in foreign currencies. As a result, the value of each fund's foreign investments and the value of its shares may be affected favorably or unfavorably by changes in currency exchange rates relative to the U.S. dollar. There may be less information publicly available about a foreign issuer than about a U.S. issuer, and foreign issuers may not be subject to accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and practices

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

comparable to those in the United States. The securities of some foreign issuers are less liquid and at times more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. issuers. Foreign brokerage commissions and other fees are also generally higher than in the United States. Foreign settlement procedures and trade regulations may involve certain risks (such as delay in payment or delivery of securities or in the recovery of the fund's assets held abroad) and expenses not present in the settlement of investments in U.S. markets.

In addition, foreign securities may be subject to the risk of nationalization or expropriation of assets, imposition of currency exchange controls, foreign withholding taxes or restrictions on the repatriation of foreign currency, confiscatory taxation, political or financial instability and diplomatic developments which could affect the value of the fund's investments in certain foreign countries. Dividends or interest on, or proceeds from the sale of, foreign securities may be subject to foreign withholding taxes, and special U.S. tax considerations may apply.

Legal remedies available to investors in certain foreign countries may be more limited than those available with respect to investments in the United States or in other foreign countries. The laws of some foreign countries may limit each fund's ability to invest in securities of certain issuers organized under the laws of those foreign countries.

The risks described above, including the risks of nationalization or expropriation of assets, typically are increased in connection with investments in "emerging markets." For example, political and economic structures in these countries may be in their infancy and developing rapidly, and such countries may lack the social, political and economic stability characteristic of more developed countries. Certain of these countries have in the past failed to recognize private property rights and have at times nationalized and expropriated the assets of private companies. High rates of inflation or currency devaluations may adversely affect the economies and securities markets of such countries. Investments in emerging markets may be considered speculative.

The currencies of certain emerging market countries have experienced devaluations relative to the U.S. dollar, and future devaluations may adversely affect the value of assets denominated in such currencies. Many emerging market countries have experienced substantial, and in some periods extremely high, rates of inflation or deflation for many years, and future inflation may adversely affect the economies and securities markets of such countries.

In addition, unanticipated political or social developments may affect the value of investments in emerging markets and the availability of additional investments in these markets. The small size, limited trading volume and relative inexperience of the securities markets in these countries may make investments in securities traded in emerging markets illiquid and more volatile than investments in securities traded in more developed countries, and each fund may be required to establish special custodial or other arrangements before making investments in securities traded in emerging markets. There may be little financial or accounting information available with respect to issuers of emerging market securities, and it may be difficult as a result to assess the value of prospects of an investment in such securities.

Certain of the foregoing risks may also apply to some extent to securities of U.S. issuers that are denominated in foreign currencies or that are traded in foreign markets, or securities of U.S. issuers having significant foreign operations.

Foreign Currency Transactions

To manage its exposure to foreign currencies, each fund may engage in foreign currency exchange transactions, including purchasing and selling foreign currency, foreign currency options, foreign currency forward contracts and foreign currency futures contracts and related options. In addition, each fund may write covered call and put options on foreign currencies for the purpose of increasing its current return.

Generally, each fund may engage in both "transaction hedging" and "position hedging." Each fund may also engage in foreign currency transactions for non-hedging purposes, subject to applicable law. When it engages in transaction hedging, a fund enters into foreign currency transactions with respect to specific receivables or payables, generally arising in connection with the purchase or sale of portfolio securities.

Each fund will engage in transaction hedging when it desires to "lock in" the U.S. dollar price of a security it has agreed to purchase or sell, or the U.S. dollar equivalent of a dividend or interest payment in a foreign currency. By transaction hedging a fund will attempt to protect itself against a possible loss resulting from an adverse change in the relationship between the U.S. dollar and the applicable foreign currency during the period between the date on which the security is purchased or sold, or on which the dividend or interest payment is earned, and the date on which such payments are made or received.

Each fund may purchase or sell a foreign currency on a spot (or cash) basis at the prevailing spot rate in connection with the settlement of transactions in portfolio securities denominated in that foreign currency. If conditions warrant, for transaction hedging purposes a fund may also enter into contracts to purchase or sell foreign currencies at a future date ("forward contracts") and purchase and sell foreign currency futures contracts. A foreign currency forward contract is a negotiated agreement to exchange currency at a future time at a rate or rates that may be higher or lower than the spot rate. Foreign currency futures contracts are standardized exchange-traded contracts and have margin requirements.

For transaction hedging purposes a fund may also purchase or sell exchange-listed and over-the-counter call and put options on foreign currency futures contracts and on foreign currencies. A put option on a futures contract gives a fund the right to assume a short position in the futures contract until the expiration of the option. A put option on a currency gives a fund the right to sell the currency at an exercise price until the expiration of the option. A call option on a futures contract gives a fund the right to assume a long position in the futures contract until the expiration of the option. A call option on a currency gives a fund the right to purchase the currency at the exercise price until the expiration of the option.

Each fund may engage in position hedging to protect against a decline in the value relative to the U.S. dollar of the currencies in which its portfolio securities are denominated or quoted (or an increase in the value of the currency in which the securities a fund intends to buy are denominated, when a fund holds cash or short-term investments). For position hedging purposes, a fund may purchase or sell, on exchanges or in over-the-counter markets, foreign currency futures contracts, foreign currency forward contracts and options on foreign currency futures contracts and on foreign currencies. In connection with position hedging, a fund may also purchase or sell foreign currency on a spot basis.

It is impossible to forecast with precision the market value of portfolio securities at the expiration or maturity of a forward or futures contract. Accordingly, it may be necessary for a fund to purchase additional foreign currency on the spot market (and bear the expense of such purchase) if the market value of the security or securities being hedged is less than the amount of foreign currency the fund is obligated to deliver and a decision is made to sell the security or securities and make delivery of the foreign currency. Conversely, it may be necessary to sell on the spot market some of the foreign currency received upon the sale of the portfolio security or securities if the market value of such security or securities exceeds the amount of foreign currency a fund is obligated to deliver.

Transaction and position hedging do not eliminate fluctuations in the underlying prices of the securities that a fund owns or intends to purchase or sell. They simply establish a rate of exchange which one can achieve at some future point in time. Additionally, although these techniques tend to minimize the risk of loss due to a decline in the value of the hedged currency, they tend to limit any potential gain which might result from the increase in value of such currency. See "Risk factors in options transactions."

Each fund may seek to increase its current return or to offset some of the costs of hedging against fluctuations in current exchange rates by writing covered call options and covered put options on foreign currencies. A fund receives a premium from writing a call or put option, which increases a fund's current return if the option expires unexercised or is closed out at a net profit. A fund may terminate an option that it has written prior to its expiration by entering into a closing purchase transaction in which it purchases an option having the same terms as the option written.

A fund's currency hedging transactions may call for the delivery of one foreign currency in exchange for another foreign currency and may at times not involve currencies in which its portfolio securities are then denominated. Putnam Management will engage in such "cross hedging" activities when it believes that such transactions provide significant hedging opportunities for a fund. Cross hedging transactions by a fund involve the risk of imperfect correlation between changes in the values of the currencies to which such transactions relate and changes in the value of the currency or other asset or liability which is the subject of the hedge.

Each fund may also engage in non-hedging currency transactions. For example, Putnam Management may believe that exposure to a currency is in a fund's best interest but that securities denominated in that currency are unattractive. In that case a fund may purchase a currency forward contract or option in order to increase its exposure to the currency. In accordance with SEC regulations, a fund will segregate liquid assets in its portfolio to cover forward contracts used for non-hedging purposes.

The value of any currency, including U.S. dollars and foreign currencies, may be affected by complex political and economic factors applicable to the issuing country. In addition, the exchange rates of foreign currencies (and therefore the values of foreign currency options, forward contracts and futures contracts) may be affected significantly, fixed, or supported directly or indirectly by U.S. and foreign government actions. Government intervention may increase risks involved in purchasing or selling foreign currency options, forward contracts and futures contracts, since exchange rates may not be free to

fluctuate in response to other market forces.

The value of a foreign currency option, forward contract or futures contract reflects the value of an exchange rate, which in turn reflects relative values of two currencies -- the U.S. dollar and the foreign currency in question. Because foreign currency transactions occurring in the interbank market involve substantially larger amounts than those that may be involved in the exercise of foreign currency options, forward contracts and futures contracts, investors may be disadvantaged by having to deal in an odd-lot market for the underlying foreign currencies in connection with options at prices that are less favorable than for round lots. Foreign governmental restrictions or taxes could result in adverse changes in the cost of acquiring or disposing of foreign currencies.

There is no systematic reporting of last sale information for foreign currencies and there is no regulatory requirement that quotations available through dealers or other market sources be firm or revised on a timely basis. Available quotation information is generally representative of very large round-lot transactions in the interbank market and thus may not reflect exchange rates for smaller odd-lot transactions (less than \$1 million) where rates may be less favorable. The interbank market in foreign currencies is a global, around-the-clock market. To the extent that options markets are closed while the markets for the underlying currencies remain open, significant price and rate movements may take place in the underlying markets that cannot be reflected in the options markets.

The decision as to whether and to what extent a fund will engage in foreign currency exchange transactions will depend on a number of factors, including prevailing market conditions, the composition of the fund's portfolio and the availability of suitable transactions. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that a fund will engage in foreign currency exchange transactions at any given time or from time to time.

Currency forward and futures contracts. A forward foreign currency contract involves an obligation to purchase or sell a specific currency at a future date, which may be any fixed number of days from the date of the contract as agreed by the parties, at a price set at the time of the contract. In the case of a cancelable forward contract, the holder has the unilateral right to cancel the contract at maturity by paying a specified fee. The contracts are traded in the interbank market conducted directly between currency traders (usually large commercial banks) and their customers. A forward contract generally has no deposit requirement, and no commissions are charged at any stage for trades. A foreign currency futures contract is a standardized contract for the future delivery of a specified amount of a foreign currency at a price set at the time of the contract. Foreign currency futures contracts traded in the United States are designed by and traded on exchanges regulated by the CFTC, such as the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Forward foreign currency exchange contracts differ from foreign currency futures contracts in certain respects. For example, the maturity date of a forward contract may be any fixed number of days from the date of the contract agreed upon by the parties, rather than a predetermined date in a given month. Forward contracts may be in any amount agreed upon by the parties rather than predetermined amounts. Also, forward foreign exchange contracts are traded directly between currency traders so that no intermediary is required. A forward contract generally requires no margin or other deposit.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

At the maturity of a forward or futures contract, a fund either may accept or make delivery of the currency specified in the contract, or at or prior to maturity enter into a closing transaction involving the purchase or sale of an offsetting contract. Closing transactions with respect to forward contracts are usually effected with the currency trader who is a party to the original forward contract. Closing transactions with respect to futures contracts are effected on a commodities exchange; a clearing corporation associated with the exchange assumes responsibility for closing out such contracts.

Positions in the foreign currency futures contracts may be closed out only on an exchange or board of trade which provides a secondary market in such contracts. Although each fund intends to purchase or sell foreign currency futures contracts only on exchanges or boards of trade where there appears to be an active secondary market, there is no assurance that a secondary market on an exchange or board of trade will exist for any particular contract or at any particular time. In such event, it may not be possible to close a futures position and, in the event of adverse price movements, a fund would continue to be required to make daily cash payments of variation margin.

Foreign currency options. In general, options on foreign currencies operate similarly to options on securities and are subject to many of the risks described above. Foreign currency options are traded primarily in the over-the-counter market, although options on foreign currencies are also listed on several exchanges. Options are traded not only on the currencies of individual nations, but also on the euro, the joint currency of most countries in the European Union.

Each fund will only purchase or write foreign currency options when Putnam Management believes that a liquid secondary market exists for such options. There can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for a particular option at any specific time. Options on foreign currencies are affected by all of those factors which influence foreign exchange rates and investments generally.

Settlement procedures. Settlement procedures relating to a fund's investments in foreign securities and to a fund's foreign currency exchange transactions may be more complex than settlements with respect to investments in debt or equity securities of U.S. issuers, and may involve certain risks not present in a fund's domestic investments. For example, settlement of transactions involving foreign securities or foreign currencies may occur within a foreign country, and a fund may be required to accept or make delivery of the underlying securities or currency in conformity with any applicable U.S. or foreign restrictions or regulations, and may be required to pay any fees, taxes or charges associated with such delivery. Such investments may also involve the risk that an entity involved in the settlement may not meet its obligations.

Foreign currency conversion. Although foreign exchange dealers do not charge a fee for currency conversion, they do realize a profit based on the difference (the "spread") between prices at which they are buying and selling various currencies. Thus, a dealer may offer to sell a foreign currency to a fund at one rate, while offering a lesser rate of exchange should the fund desire to resell that currency to the dealer.

Options on Securities

Writing covered options. Each fund may write covered call options and covered put options on optionable securities held in its portfolio or that it has an absolute and immediate right to acquire without additional cash

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

consideration (or, if additional cash consideration is required, cash or other assets determined to be liquid by Putnam Management in accordance with procedures established by the Trustees, in such amount are segregated by its custodian), when in the opinion of Putnam Management such transactions are consistent with the fund's investment objective(s) and policies. Call options written by a fund give the purchaser the right to buy the underlying securities from the fund at a stated exercise price; put options give the purchaser the right to sell the underlying securities to the fund at a stated price.

Each fund may write only covered options, which means that, so long as the fund is obligated as the writer of a call option, it will own the underlying securities subject to the option (or comparable securities satisfying the cover requirements of securities exchanges) or have an absolute and immediate right to acquire without additional cash consideration (or, if additional cash consideration is required, cash or other assets determined to be liquid by Putnam Management in accordance with procedures established by the Trustees, in such amount are segregated by its custodian). In the case of put options, a fund will segregate assets determined to be liquid by Putnam Management in accordance with procedures established by the Trustees equal to the price to be paid if the option is exercised. In addition, a fund will be considered to have covered a put or call option if and to the extent that it holds an option that offsets some or all of the risk of the option it has written. A fund may write combinations of covered puts and calls on the same underlying security.

A fund will receive a premium from writing a put or call option, which increases the fund's return on the underlying security in the event the option expires unexercised or is closed out at a profit. The amount of the premium reflects, among other things, the relationship between the exercise price and the current market value of the underlying security, the volatility of the underlying security, the amount of time remaining until expiration, current interest rates, and the effect of supply and demand in the options market and in the market for the underlying security. By writing a call option, if the fund holds the security, the fund limits its opportunity to profit from any increase in the market value of the underlying security above the exercise price of the option but continues to bear the risk of a decline in the value of the underlying security. If the fund does not hold the underlying security, the fund bears the risk that, if the market price exceeds the option strike price, the fund will suffer a loss equal to the difference at the time of exercise. By writing a put option, a fund assumes the risk that it may be required to purchase the underlying security for an exercise price higher than its then-current market value, resulting in a potential capital loss unless the security subsequently appreciates in value.

A fund may terminate an option that it has written prior to its expiration by entering into a closing purchase transaction, in which it purchases an offsetting option. A fund realizes a profit or loss from a closing transaction if the cost of the transaction (option premium plus transaction costs) is less or more than the premium received from writing the option. If a fund writes a call option but does not own the underlying security, and when it writes a put option, the fund may be required to deposit cash or securities with its broker as "margin," or collateral, for its obligation to buy or sell the underlying security. As the value of the underlying security varies, the fund may have to deposit additional margin with the broker. Margin requirements are complex and are fixed by individual brokers, subject to minimum requirements currently imposed by the Federal Reserve Board and by stock exchanges and other self-regulatory organizations.

Purchasing put options. Each fund may purchase put options to protect its portfolio holdings in an underlying security against a decline in market value. Such protection is provided during the life of the put option since a fund, as holder of the option, is able to sell the underlying security at the put exercise price regardless of any decline in the underlying security's market price. In order for a put option to be profitable, the market price of the underlying security must decline sufficiently below the exercise price to cover the premium and transaction costs. By using put options in this manner, a fund will reduce any profit it might otherwise have realized from appreciation of the underlying security by the premium paid for the put option and by transaction costs.

Purchasing call options. Each fund may purchase call options to hedge against an increase in the price of securities that a fund wants ultimately to buy. Such hedge protection is provided during the life of the call option since a fund, as holder of the call option, is able to buy the underlying security at the exercise price regardless of any increase in the underlying security's market price. In order for a call option to be profitable, the market price of the underlying security must rise sufficiently above the exercise price to cover the premium and transaction costs.

Risk Factors in Options Transactions

The successful use of a fund's options strategies depends on the ability of Putnam Management to forecast correctly interest rate and market movements. For example, if a fund were to write a call option based on Putnam Management's expectation that the price of the underlying security would fall, but the price were to rise instead, the fund could be required to sell the security upon exercise at a price below the current market price. Similarly, if a fund were to write a put option based on Putnam Management's expectation that the price of the underlying security would rise, but the price were to fall instead, the fund could be required to purchase the security upon exercise at a price higher than the current market price.

When a fund purchases an option, it runs the risk that it will lose its entire investment in the option in a relatively short period of time, unless the fund exercises the option or enters into a closing sale transaction before the option's expiration. If the price of the underlying security does not rise (in the case of a call) or fall (in the case of a put) to an extent sufficient to cover the option premium and transaction costs, the fund will lose part or all of its investment in the option. This contrasts with an investment by the fund in the underlying security, since the fund will not realize a loss if the security's price does not change.

The effective use of options also depends on a fund's ability to terminate option positions at times when Putnam Management deems it desirable to do so. There is no assurance that a fund will be able to effect closing transactions at any particular time or at an acceptable price.

If a secondary market in options were to become unavailable, a fund could no longer engage in closing transactions. Lack of investor interest might adversely affect the liquidity of the market for particular options or series of options. A market may discontinue trading of a particular option or options generally. In addition, a market could become temporarily unavailable if unusual events -- such as volume in excess of trading or clearing capability -- were to interrupt

its normal operations.

A market may at times find it necessary to impose restrictions on particular types of options transactions, such as opening transactions. For example, if an underlying security ceases to meet qualifications imposed by the market or the Options Clearing Corporation, new series of options on that security will no longer be opened to replace expiring series, and opening transactions in existing series may be prohibited. If an options market were to become unavailable, a fund as a holder of an option would be able to realize profits or limit losses only by exercising the option, and the fund, as option writer, would remain obligated under the option until expiration or exercise.

Disruptions in the markets for the securities underlying options purchased or sold by a fund could result in losses on the options. If trading is interrupted in an underlying security, the trading of options on that security is normally halted as well. As a result, a fund as purchaser or writer of an option will be unable to close out its positions until options trading resumes, and it may be faced with considerable losses if trading in the security reopens at a substantially different price. In addition, the Options Clearing Corporation or other options markets may impose exercise restrictions. If a prohibition on exercise is imposed at the time when trading in the option has also been halted, a fund as purchaser or writer of an option will be locked into its position until one of the two restrictions has been lifted. If the Options Clearing Corporation were to determine that the available supply of an underlying security appears insufficient to permit delivery by the writers of all outstanding calls in the event of exercise, it may prohibit indefinitely the exercise of put options. A fund, as holder of such a put option, could lose its entire investment if the prohibition remained in effect until the put option's expiration.

Foreign-traded options are subject to many of the same risks presented by internationally-traded securities. In addition, because of time differences between the United States and various foreign countries, and because different holidays are observed in different countries, foreign options markets may be open for trading during hours or on days when U.S. markets are closed. As a result, option premiums may not reflect the current prices of the underlying interest in the United States.

Over-the-counter ("OTC") options purchased by a fund and assets held to cover OTC options written by the fund may, under certain circumstances, be considered illiquid securities for purposes of any limitation on the fund's ability to invest in illiquid securities.

Investments in Miscellaneous Fixed-Income Securities

If a fund may invest in inverse floating obligations, premium securities, or interest-only or principal-only classes of mortgage-backed securities (IOs and POs), it may do so without limit. Each fund, however, currently does not intend to invest more than 15% of its assets in inverse floating obligations or more than 35% of its assets in IOs and POs under normal market conditions.

Lower-rated Securities

Each fund may invest in lower-rated fixed-income securities (commonly known as "junk bonds"). The lower ratings of certain securities held by a fund reflect a greater possibility that adverse changes in the financial condition of the issuer or in general economic conditions, or both, or an unanticipated rise in interest rates, may impair the ability of the issuer to make payments of interest and principal. The inability (or perceived inability) of issuers to make timely payment of interest and principal would likely make the values

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

of securities held by a fund more volatile and could limit the fund's ability to sell its securities at prices approximating the values the fund had placed on such securities. In the absence of a liquid trading market for securities held by it, a fund at times may be unable to establish the fair value of such securities.

Securities ratings are based largely on the issuer's historical financial condition and the rating agencies' analysis at the time of rating. Consequently, the rating assigned to any particular security is not necessarily a reflection of the issuer's current financial condition, which may be better or worse than the rating would indicate. In addition, the rating assigned to a security by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or Standard & Poor's (or by any other nationally recognized securities rating agency) does not reflect an assessment of the volatility of the security's market value or the liquidity of an investment in the security. See "Securities ratings."

Like those of other fixed-income securities, the values of lower-rated securities fluctuate in response to changes in interest rates. A decrease in interest rates will generally result in an increase in the value of a fund's assets. Conversely, during periods of rising interest rates, the value of a fund's assets will generally decline. The values of lower-rated securities may often be affected to a greater extent by changes in general economic conditions and business conditions affecting the issuers of such securities and their industries. Negative publicity or investor perceptions may also adversely affect the values of lower-rated securities. Changes by nationally recognized securities rating agencies in their ratings of any fixed-income security and changes in the ability of an issuer to make payments of interest and principal may also affect the value of these investments. Changes in the value of portfolio securities generally will not affect income derived from these securities, but will affect a fund's net asset value. A fund will not necessarily dispose of a security when its rating is reduced below its rating at the time of purchase. However, Putnam Management will monitor the investment to determine whether its retention will assist in meeting a fund's investment objective(s).

Issuers of lower-rated securities are often highly leveraged, so that their ability to service their debt obligations during an economic downturn or during sustained periods of rising interest rates may be impaired. Such issuers may not have more traditional methods of financing available to them and may be unable to repay outstanding obligations at maturity by refinancing. The risk of loss due to default in payment of interest or repayment of principal by such issuers is significantly greater because such securities frequently are unsecured and subordinated to the prior payment of senior indebtedness.

At times, a substantial portion of a fund's assets may be invested in an issue of which the fund, by itself or together with other funds and accounts managed by Putnam Management or its affiliates, holds all or a major portion. Although Putnam Management generally considers such securities to be liquid because of the availability of an institutional market for such securities, it is possible that, under adverse market or economic conditions or in the event of adverse changes in the financial condition of the issuer, a fund could find it more difficult to sell these securities when Putnam Management believes it advisable to do so or may be able to sell the securities only at prices lower than if they were more widely held. Under these circumstances, it may also be more difficult to determine the fair value of such securities for purposes of computing a fund's net asset value. In order to enforce its rights in the event of a default, a fund may be required to participate in various legal proceedings or take possession of and manage assets securing the

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

issuer's obligations on such securities. This could increase the fund's operating expenses and adversely affect the fund's net asset value. The ability of a holder of a tax-exempt security to enforce the terms of that security in a bankruptcy proceeding may be more limited than would be the case with respect to securities of private issuers. In addition, a fund's intention to qualify as a "regulated investment company" under the Internal Revenue Code may limit the extent to which the fund may exercise its rights by taking possession of such assets.

Certain securities held by a fund may permit the issuer at its option to "call," or redeem, its securities. If an issuer were to redeem securities held by a fund during a time of declining interest rates, the fund may not be able to reinvest the proceeds in securities providing the same investment return as the securities redeemed.

Each fund may invest without limit in so-called "zero-coupon" bonds and "payment-in-kind" bonds. Zero-coupon bonds are issued at a significant discount from their principal amount in lieu of paying interest periodically. Payment-in-kind bonds allow the issuer, at its option, to make current interest payments on the bonds either in cash or in additional bonds. Because zero-coupon and payment-in-kind bonds do not pay current interest in cash, their value is subject to greater fluctuation in response to changes in market interest rates than bonds that pay interest currently. Both zero-coupon and payment-in-kind bonds allow an issuer to avoid the need to generate cash to meet current interest payments. Accordingly, such bonds may involve greater credit risks than bonds paying interest currently in cash. Each fund is required to accrue interest income on such investments and to distribute such amounts at least annually to shareholders even though such bonds do not pay current interest in cash. Thus, it may be necessary at times for a fund to liquidate investments in order to satisfy its dividend requirements.

To the extent a fund invests in securities in the lower rating categories, the achievement of the fund's goals is more dependent on Putnam Management's investment analysis than would be the case if the fund were investing in securities in the higher rating categories. This also may be true with respect to tax-exempt securities, as the amount of information about the financial condition of an issuer of tax-exempt securities may not be as extensive as that which is made available by corporations whose securities are publicly traded.

Loan Participations and Other Floating Rate Loans

Each fund may invest in "loan participations." By purchasing a loan participation, a fund acquires some or all of the interest of a bank or other lending institution in a loan to a particular borrower. Many such loans are secured, and most impose restrictive covenants which must be met by the borrower. These loans are typically made by a syndicate of banks, represented by an agent bank which has negotiated and structured the loan and which is responsible generally for collecting interest, principal, and other amounts from the borrower on its own behalf and on behalf of the other lending institutions in the syndicate, and for enforcing its and their other rights against the borrower. Each of the lending institutions, including the agent bank, lends to the borrower a portion of the total amount of the loan, and retains the corresponding interest in the loan.

A fund's ability to receive payments of principal and interest and other amounts in connection with loan participations held by it will depend primarily on the financial condition of the borrower. The failure by a fund to receive scheduled interest or principal payments on a loan

participation would adversely affect the income of the fund and would likely reduce the value of its assets, which would be reflected in a reduction in the fund's net asset value. Banks and other lending institutions generally perform a credit analysis of the borrower before originating a loan or participating in a lending syndicate. In selecting the loan participations in which a fund will invest, however, Putnam Management will not rely solely on that credit analysis, but will perform its own investment analysis of the borrowers. Putnam Management's analysis may include consideration of the borrower's financial strength and managerial experience, debt coverage, additional borrowing requirements or debt maturity schedules, changing financial conditions, and responsiveness to changes in business conditions and interest rates. Putnam Management will be unable to access non-public information to which other investors in syndicated loans may have access. Because loan participations in which a fund may invest are not generally rated by independent credit rating agencies, a decision by the fund to invest in a particular loan participation will depend almost exclusively on Putnam Management's, and the original lending institution's, credit analysis of the borrower. Investments in loan participations may be of any quality, including "distressed" loans, and will be subject to a fund's credit quality policy.

Loan participations may be structured in different forms, including novations, assignments and participating interests. In a novation, a fund assumes all of the rights of a lending institution in a loan, including the right to receive payments of principal and interest and other amounts directly from the borrower and to enforce its rights as a lender directly against the borrower. The fund assumes the position of a co-lender with other syndicate members. As an alternative, a fund may purchase an assignment of a portion of a lender's interest in a loan. In this case, the fund may be required generally to rely upon the assigning bank to demand payment and enforce its rights against the borrower, but would otherwise be entitled to all of such bank's rights in the loan. A fund may also purchase a participating interest in a portion of the rights of a lending institution in a loan. In such case, it will be entitled to receive payments of principal, interest and premium, if any, but will not generally be entitled to enforce its rights directly against the agent bank or the borrower, and must rely for that purpose on the lending institution. A fund may also acquire a loan participation directly by acting as a member of the original lending syndicate.

A fund will in many cases be required to rely upon the lending institution from which it purchases the loan participation to collect and pass on to the fund such payments and to enforce the fund's rights under the loan. As a result, an insolvency, bankruptcy or reorganization of the lending institution may delay or prevent a fund from receiving principal, interest and other amounts with respect to the underlying loan. When a fund is required to rely upon a lending institution to pay to the fund principal, interest and other amounts received by it, Putnam Management will also evaluate the creditworthiness of the lending institution.

The borrower of a loan in which a fund holds a participation interest may, either at its own election or pursuant to terms of the loan documentation, prepay amounts of the loan from time to time. There is no assurance that a fund will be able to reinvest the proceeds of any loan prepayment at the same interest rate or on the same terms as those of the original loan participation.

Corporate loans in which a fund may purchase a loan participation are made generally to finance internal growth, mergers, acquisitions, stock

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

repurchases, leveraged buy-outs and other corporate activities. Under current market conditions, most of the corporate loan participations purchased by a fund will represent interests in loans made to finance highly leveraged corporate acquisitions, known as "leveraged buy-out" transactions. The highly leveraged capital structure of the borrowers in such transactions may make such loans especially vulnerable to adverse changes in economic or market conditions. In addition, loan participations generally are subject to restrictions on transfer, and only limited opportunities may exist to sell such participations in secondary markets. As a result, a fund may be unable to sell loan participations at a time when it may otherwise be desirable to do so or may be able to sell them only at a price that is less than their fair market value.

Certain of the loan participations acquired by a fund may involve revolving credit facilities under which a borrower may from time to time borrow and repay amounts up to the maximum amount of the facility. In such cases, a fund would have an obligation to advance its portion of such additional borrowings upon the terms specified in the loan participation. To the extent that a fund is committed to make additional loans under such a participation, it will at all times hold and maintain in a segregated account liquid assets in an amount sufficient to meet such commitments. Certain of the loan participations acquired by a fund may also involve loans made in foreign currencies. A fund's investment in such participations would involve the risks of currency fluctuations described above with respect to investments in the foreign securities.

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

Notwithstanding its intention generally not to receive material, non-public information with respect to its management of investments in floating rate loans, Putnam may from time to time come into possession of material, non-public information about the issuers of loans that may be held in a fund's portfolio. Possession of such information may in some instances occur despite Putnam's efforts to avoid such possession, but in other instances Putnam 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, Putnam's ability to trade in these loans for the account of a fund could potentially be limited by its possession of such information. Such limitations on Putnam's ability to trade could have an adverse effect on a 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.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

In some instances, other accounts managed by Putnam may hold other securities issued by borrowers whose floating rate loans may be held in a fund's portfolio. These other securities may include, for example, debt securities that are subordinate to the floating rate loans held in a fund's portfolio, convertible debt or common or preferred equity securities. In certain circumstances, such as if the credit quality of the issuer deteriorates, the interests of holders of these other securities may conflict with the interests of the holders of the issuer's floating rate loans. In such cases, Putnam may owe conflicting fiduciary duties to a fund and other client accounts. Putnam will endeavor to carry out its obligations to all of its clients to the fullest extent possible, recognizing that in some cases certain clients may achieve a lower economic return, as a result of these conflicting client interests, than if Putnam's client accounts collectively held only a single category of the issuer's securities.

Floating Rate and Variable Rate Demand Notes

Floating rate and variable rate demand notes and bonds may have a stated maturity in excess of one year, but may have features that permit a holder to demand payment of principal plus accrued interest upon a specified number of days notice. Frequently, such obligations are secured by letters of credit or other credit support arrangements provided by banks. The issuer has a corresponding right, after a given period, to prepay in its discretion the outstanding principal of the obligation plus accrued interest upon a specific number of days notice to the holders. The interest rate of a floating rate instrument may be based on a known lending rate, such as a bank's prime rate, and is reset whenever such rate is adjusted. The interest rate on a variable rate demand note is reset at specified intervals at a market rate.

Mortgage Related and Asset-backed Securities

Mortgage-backed securities, including collateralized mortgage obligations ("CMOs") and certain stripped mortgage-backed securities represent a participation in, or are secured by, mortgage loans. Asset-backed securities are structured like mortgage-backed securities, but instead of mortgage loans or interests in mortgage loans, the underlying assets may include such items as motor vehicle installment sales or installment loan contracts, leases of various types of real and personal property and receivables from credit card agreements. The ability of an issuer of asset-backed securities to enforce its security interest in the underlying assets may be limited.

Mortgage-backed securities have yield and maturity characteristics corresponding to the underlying assets. Unlike traditional debt securities, which may pay a fixed rate of interest until maturity, when the entire principal amount comes due, payments on certain mortgage-backed securities include both interest and a partial repayment of principal. Besides the scheduled repayment of principal, repayments of principal may result from the voluntary prepayment, refinancing or foreclosure of the underlying mortgage loans. If property owners make unscheduled prepayments of their mortgage loans, these prepayments will result in early payment of the applicable mortgage-related securities. In that event a fund may be unable to invest the proceeds from the early payment of the mortgage-related securities in an investment that provides as high a yield as the mortgage-related securities. Consequently, early payment associated with mortgage-related securities may cause these securities to experience significantly greater price and yield volatility than that experienced by traditional fixed-income securities. The occurrence of mortgage prepayments is affected by factors including the level of interest rates, general economic

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

conditions, the location and age of the mortgage and other social and demographic conditions. During periods of falling interest rates, the rate of mortgage prepayments tends to increase, thereby tending to decrease the life of mortgage-related securities. During periods of rising interest rates, the rate of mortgage prepayments usually decreases, thereby tending to increase the life of mortgage-related securities. If the life of a mortgage-related security is inaccurately predicted, a fund may not be able to realize the rate of return it expected.

Mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities are less effective than other types of securities as a means of "locking in" attractive long-term interest rates. One reason is the need to reinvest prepayments of principal; another is the possibility of significant unscheduled prepayments resulting from declines in interest rates. These prepayments would have to be reinvested at lower rates. As a result, these securities may have less potential for capital appreciation during periods of declining interest rates than other securities of comparable maturities, although they may have a similar risk of decline in market value during periods of rising interest rates. Prepayments may also significantly shorten the effective maturities of these securities, especially during periods of declining interest rates.

Conversely, during periods of rising interest rates, a reduction in prepayments may increase the effective maturities of these securities, subjecting them to a greater risk of decline in market value in response to rising interest rates than traditional debt securities, and, therefore, potentially increasing the volatility of a fund.

Prepayments may cause losses on securities purchased at a premium. At times, some mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities will have higher than market interest rates and therefore will be purchased at a premium above their par value.

CMOs may be issued by a U.S. government agency or instrumentality or by a private issuer. Although payment of the principal of, and interest on, the underlying collateral securing privately issued CMOs may be guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities, these CMOs represent obligations solely of the private issuer and are not insured or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities or any other person or entity.

Prepayments could cause early retirement of CMOs. CMOs are designed to reduce the risk of prepayment for investors by issuing multiple classes of securities, each having different maturities, interest rates and payment schedules, and with the principal and interest on the underlying mortgages allocated among the several classes in various ways. Payment of interest or principal on some classes or series of CMOs may be subject to contingencies or some classes or series may bear some or all of the risk of default on the underlying mortgages. CMOs of different classes or series are generally retired in sequence as the underlying mortgage loans in the mortgage pool are repaid. If enough mortgages are repaid ahead of schedule, the classes or series of a CMO with the earliest maturities generally will be retired prior to their maturities.

Thus, the early retirement of particular classes or series of a CMO would have the same effect as the prepayment of mortgages underlying other mortgage-backed securities. Conversely, slower than anticipated prepayments can extend the effective maturities of CMOs, subjecting them to a greater risk of decline in market value in response to rising interest rates than traditional debt securities, and, therefore, potentially increasing their volatility.

Prepayments could result in losses on stripped mortgage-backed securities. Stripped mortgage-backed securities are usually structured with two classes that receive different portions of the interest and principal distributions on a pool of mortgage loans. The yield to maturity on an interest only or "IO" class of stripped mortgage-backed securities is extremely sensitive not only to changes in prevailing interest rates but also to the rate of principal payments (including prepayments) on the underlying assets. A rapid rate of principal prepayments may have a measurable adverse effect on a fund's yield to maturity to the extent it invests in IOs. If the assets underlying the IO experience greater than anticipated prepayments of principal, a fund may fail to recoup fully its initial investment in these securities. Conversely, principal only or "POs" tend to increase in value if prepayments are greater than anticipated and decline if prepayments are slower than anticipated.

The secondary market for stripped mortgage-backed securities may be more volatile and less liquid than that for other mortgage-backed securities, potentially limiting a fund's ability to buy or sell those securities at any particular time.

Hybrid Instruments

These instruments are generally considered derivatives and include indexed or structured securities, and combine the elements of futures contracts or options with those of debt, preferred equity or a depository instrument. A hybrid instrument may be a debt security, 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, articles or commodities (collectively, "underlying assets"), or by another objective index, economic factor or other measure, including interest rates, currency exchange rates, or commodities or securities indices (collectively, "benchmarks"). Hybrid instruments may take a number of forms, including, but not limited to, debt instruments with interest or principal payments or redemption terms determined by reference to the value of an index at a future time, preferred stock with dividend rates determined by reference to the value of a currency, or convertible securities with the conversion terms related to a particular commodity.

The risks of investing in hybrid instruments reflect a combination of the risks of investing in securities, 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 assets 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 assets and interest rate movements. Hybrid instruments may be highly volatile and their use by a fund may not be successful.

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 asset 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.

Hybrid instruments can be an efficient means of creating exposure to a particular market, or segment of a market, with the objective of enhancing total return. For example, a fund may wish to take advantage of expected declines in interest rates in several European countries, but avoid the transaction costs associated with buying and currency-hedging the foreign bond positions. One solution would be to purchase a U.S. dollar-denominated hybrid instrument whose redemption price is linked to the average three year interest rate in a designated group of countries. The redemption price formula would provide for payoffs of less than par if rates were above the specified level. Furthermore, a fund could limit the downside risk of the security by establishing a minimum redemption price so that the principal paid at maturity could not be below a predetermined minimum level if interest rates were to rise significantly. The purpose of this arrangement, known as a structured security with an embedded put option, would be to give the fund the desired European bond exposure while avoiding currency risk, limiting downside market risk, and lowering transaction costs. Of course, there is no guarantee that the strategy will be successful and a fund could lose money if, for example, interest rates do not move as anticipated or credit problems develop with the issuer of the hybrid instrument.

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 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 or underlying asset may not move in the same direction or at the same time.

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 securities. 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, the creditworthiness of the counterparty of the issuer of the hybrid instrument would be an additional risk factor a fund would have to consider and monitor. 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.

Structured investments. A structured investment is a security having a return tied to an underlying index or other security or asset class. Structured investments generally are individually negotiated agreements and may be traded over-the-counter. Structured investments are organized and operated to restructure the investment characteristics of

the underlying security. This restructuring involves the deposit with or purchase by an entity, such as a corporation or trust, or specified instruments (such as commercial bank loans) and the issuance by that entity or one or more classes of securities ("structured securities") backed by, or representing interests in, the underlying instruments. The cash flow on the underlying instruments may be apportioned among the newly issued structured securities to create securities with different investment characteristics, such as varying maturities, payment priorities and interest rate provisions, and the extent of such payments made with respect to structured securities is dependent on the extent of the cash flow on the underlying instruments. Because structured securities typically involve no credit enhancement, their credit risk generally will be equivalent to that of the underlying instruments. Investments in structured securities are generally of a class of structured securities that is either subordinated or unsubordinated to the right of payment of another class. Subordinated structured securities typically have higher yields and present greater risks than unsubordinated structured securities. Structured securities are typically sold in private placement transactions, and there currently is no active trading market for structured securities. Investments in government and government-related and restructured debt instruments are subject to special risks, including the inability or unwillingness to repay principal and interest, requests to reschedule or restructure outstanding debt and requests to extend additional loan amounts.

Securities of Other Investment Companies. Securities of other investment companies, including shares of closed-end investment companies, unit investment trusts and open-end investment companies, represent interests in professionally managed portfolios that may invest in any type of instrument. These types of instruments are often structured to perform in a similar fashion to a broad based securities index. Investing in these types of securities involves substantially the same risks as investing directly in the underlying instruments, but may involve additional expenses at the investment company-level, such as portfolio management fees and operating expenses. In addition, these types of investments involve the risk that they will not perform in exactly the same fashion, or in response to the same factors, as the index or underlying instruments. Certain types of investment companies, such as closed-end investment companies, issue a fixed number of shares that trade on a stock exchange or over-the-counter at a premium or a discount to their net asset value. Others are continuously offered at net asset value, but may also be traded in the secondary market. The extent to which a fund can invest in securities of other investment companies is limited by federal securities laws.

Tax-exempt Securities

General description. As used in this SAI, the term "Tax-exempt securities" includes debt obligations issued by a state, its political subdivisions (for example, counties, cities, towns, villages, districts and authorities) and their agencies, instrumentalities or other governmental units, the interest from which is, in the opinion of bond counsel, exempt from federal income tax and the corresponding state's personal income tax. Such obligations are issued to obtain funds for various public purposes, including the construction of a wide range of public facilities, such as airports, bridges, highways, housing, hospitals, mass transportation, schools, streets and water and sewer works. Other public purposes for which Tax-exempt securities may be issued include the refunding of outstanding obligations or the payment of general operating expenses.

Short-term Tax-exempt securities are generally issued by state and local

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

governments and public authorities as interim financing in anticipation of tax collections, revenue receipts or bond sales to finance such public purposes.

In addition, certain types of "private activity" bonds may be issued by public authorities to finance projects such as privately operated housing facilities; certain local facilities for supplying water, gas or electricity; sewage or solid waste disposal facilities; student loans; or public or private institutions for the construction of educational, hospital, housing and other facilities. Such obligations are included within the term Tax-exempt securities if the interest paid thereon is, in the opinion of bond counsel, exempt from federal income tax and state personal income tax (such interest may, however, be subject to federal alternative minimum tax). Other types of private activity bonds, the proceeds of which are used for the construction, repair or improvement of, or to obtain equipment for, privately operated industrial or commercial facilities, may also constitute Tax-exempt securities, although the current federal tax laws place substantial limitations on the size of such issues.

Stand-by commitments. When a fund purchases Tax-exempt securities, it has the authority to acquire stand-by commitments from banks and broker-dealers with respect to those Tax-exempt securities. A stand-by commitment may be considered a security independent of the Tax-exempt security to which it relates. The amount payable by a bank or dealer during the time a stand-by commitment is exercisable, absent unusual circumstances, would be substantially the same as the market value of the underlying Tax-exempt security to a third party at any time. A fund expects that stand-by commitments generally will be available without the payment of direct or indirect consideration. A fund does not expect to assign any value to stand-by commitments.

Yields. The yields on Tax-exempt securities depend on a variety of factors, including general money market conditions, effective marginal tax rates, the financial condition of the issuer, general conditions of the Tax-exempt security market, the size of a particular offering, the maturity of the obligation and the rating of the issue. The ratings of nationally recognized securities rating agencies represent their opinions as to the credit quality of the Tax-exempt securities which they undertake to rate. It should be emphasized, however, that ratings are general and are not absolute standards of quality. Consequently, Tax-exempt securities with the same maturity and interest rate but with different ratings may have the same yield. Yield disparities may occur for reasons not directly related to the investment quality of particular issues or the general movement of interest rates and may be due to such factors as changes in the overall demand or supply of various types of Tax-exempt securities or changes in the investment objectives of investors. Subsequent to purchase by a fund, an issue of Tax-exempt securities or other investments may cease to be rated, or its rating may be reduced below the minimum rating required for purchase by the fund. Neither event will require the elimination of an investment from a fund's portfolio, but Putnam Management will consider such an event in its determination of whether a fund should continue to hold an investment in its portfolio.

"Moral obligation" bonds. Each fund does not currently intend to invest in so-called "moral obligation" bonds, where repayment is backed by a moral commitment of an entity other than the issuer, unless the credit of the issuer itself, without regard to the "moral obligation," meets the investment criteria established for investments by a fund.

Municipal leases. Each fund may acquire participations in lease

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

obligations or installment purchase contract obligations (collectively, "lease obligations") of municipal authorities or entities. Lease obligations do not constitute general obligations of the municipality for which the municipality's taxing power is pledged. Certain of these lease obligations contain "non-appropriation" clauses, which provide that the municipality has no obligation to make lease or installment purchase payments in future years unless money is appropriated for such purpose on a yearly basis. In the case of a "non-appropriation" lease, a fund's ability to recover under the lease in the event of non-appropriation or default will be limited solely to the repossession of the leased property, and in any event, foreclosure of that property might prove difficult.

Inverse Floaters have variable interest rates that typically move in the opposite direction from movements in prevailing short-term interest rate levels - rising when prevailing short-term interest rate fall, and vice versa. The prices of inverse floaters can be considerably more volatile than the prices of bonds with comparable maturities.

Additional risks. Securities in which a fund may invest, including Tax-exempt securities, are subject to the provisions of bankruptcy, insolvency and other laws affecting the rights and remedies of creditors, such as the federal Bankruptcy Code (including special provisions related to municipalities and other public entities), and laws, if any, that may be enacted by Congress or state legislatures extending the time for payment of principal or interest, or both, or imposing other constraints upon enforcement of such obligations. There is also the possibility that, as a result of litigation or other conditions, the power, ability or willingness of issuers to meet their obligations for the payment of interest and principal on their Tax-exempt securities may be materially affected.

From time to time, proposals have been introduced before Congress for the purpose of restricting or eliminating the federal income tax exemption for interest on debt obligations issued by states and their political subdivisions. Federal tax laws limit the types and amounts of tax-exempt bonds issuable for certain purposes, especially industrial development bonds and private activity bonds. Such limits may affect the future supply and yields of these types of Tax-exempt securities. Further proposals limiting the issuance of Tax-exempt securities may well be introduced in the future. If it appeared that the availability of Tax-exempt securities for investment by a fund and the value of a fund's portfolio could be materially affected by such changes in law, the Trustees of a fund would reevaluate its investment objective and policies and consider changes in the structure of a fund or its dissolution.

Convertible Securities

Convertible securities include bonds, debentures, notes, preferred stocks and other securities that may be converted into or exchanged for, at a specific price or formula within a particular period of time, a prescribed amount of common stock or other equity securities of the same or a different issuer. Convertible securities entitle the holder to receive interest paid or accrued on debt or dividends paid or accrued on preferred stock until the security matures or is redeemed, converted or exchanged.

The market value of a convertible security is a function of its "investment value" and its "conversion value." A security's "investment value" represents the value of the security without its conversion feature (i.e., a nonconvertible fixed income security). The investment

value may be determined by reference to its credit quality and the current value of its yield to maturity or probable call date. At any given time, investment value is dependent upon such factors as the general level of interest rates, the yield of similar nonconvertible securities, the financial strength of the issuer and the seniority of the security in the issuer's capital structure. A security's "conversion value" is determined by multiplying the number of shares the holder is entitled to receive upon conversion or exchange by the current price of the underlying security.

If the conversion value of a convertible security is significantly below its investment value, the convertible security will trade like nonconvertible debt or preferred stock and its market value will not be influenced greatly by fluctuations in the market price of the underlying security. Conversely, if the conversion value of a convertible security is near or above its investment value, the market value of the convertible security will be more heavily influenced by fluctuations in the market price of the underlying security.

A fund's investments in convertible securities may at times include securities that have a mandatory conversion feature, pursuant to which the securities convert automatically into common stock or other equity securities at a specified date and a specified conversion ratio, or that are convertible at the option of the issuer. Because conversion of the security is not at the option of the holder, a fund may be required to convert the security into the underlying common stock even at times when the value of the underlying common stock or other equity security has declined substantially.

A fund's investments in convertible securities, particularly securities that are convertible into securities of an issuer other than the issuer of the convertible security, may be illiquid. A fund may not be able to dispose of such securities in a timely fashion or for a fair price, which could result in losses to the fund.

Alternative Investment Strategies

Under normal market conditions, each fund seeks to remain fully invested and to minimize its cash holdings. However, at times Putnam Management may judge that market conditions make pursuing a fund's investment strategies inconsistent with the best interests of its shareholders. Putnam Management then may temporarily use alternative strategies that are mainly designed to limit the fund's losses. In implementing these strategies, the funds may invest primarily in debt securities, preferred stocks, U.S. Government and agency obligations, cash or money market instruments, or any other securities Putnam Management considers consistent with such defensive strategies.

Money market instruments, or short-term debt instruments, consist of obligations such as commercial paper, bank obligations (i.e., certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances), repurchase agreements and various government obligations, such as Treasury bills. These instruments have a remaining maturity of one year or less and are generally of high credit quality. 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

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

regulatory determinations could adversely affect the value, liquidity, or tax treatment of the income received from these securities or the nature and timing of distributions made by the funds.

Private Placements and Restricted Securities

A fund may invest in securities that are purchased in private placements and, accordingly, are subject to restrictions on resale as a matter of contract or under federal securities laws. Because there may be relatively few potential purchasers for such investments, especially under adverse market or economic conditions or in the event of adverse changes in the financial condition of the issuer, a fund could find it more difficult to sell such securities when Putnam Management believes it advisable to do so or may be able to sell such securities only at prices lower than if such securities were more widely held. At times, it may also be more difficult to determine the fair value of such securities for purposes of computing the fund's net asset value.

While such private placements may often offer attractive opportunities for investment not otherwise available on the open market, the securities so purchased are often "restricted securities," i.e., securities which cannot be sold to the public without registration under the Securities Act of 1933 or the availability of an exemption from registration (such as Rules 144 or 144A), or which are "not readily marketable" because they are subject to other legal or contractual delays in or restrictions on resale.

The absence of a trading market can make it difficult to ascertain a market value for illiquid investments. Disposing of illiquid investments may involve time-consuming negotiation and legal expenses, and it may be difficult or impossible for a fund to sell them promptly at an acceptable price. A fund may have to bear the extra expense of registering such securities for resale and the risk of substantial delay in effecting such registration. Also market quotations are less readily available. The judgment of Putnam Management may at times play a greater role in valuing these securities than in the case of publicly traded securities.

Generally speaking, restricted securities may be sold only to qualified institutional buyers, or in a privately negotiated transaction to a limited number of purchasers, or in limited quantities after they have been held for a specified period of time and other conditions are met pursuant to an exemption from registration, or in a public offering for which a registration statement is in effect under the Securities Act of 1933. A fund may be deemed to be an "underwriter" for purposes of the Securities Act of 1933 when selling restricted securities to the public, and in such event the fund may be liable to purchasers of such securities if the registration statement prepared by the issuer, or the prospectus forming a part of it, is materially inaccurate or misleading.

The SEC Staff currently takes the view that any delegation by the Trustees of the authority to determine that a restricted security is readily marketable (as described in the investment restrictions of the funds) must be pursuant to written procedures established by the Trustees and the Trustees have delegated such authority to Putnam Management.

Futures Contracts and Related Options

Subject to applicable law each fund may invest without limit in futures contracts and related options for hedging and non-hedging purposes, such as to manage the effective duration of the fund's portfolio or as a

substitute for direct investment. A financial futures contract sale creates an obligation by the seller to deliver the type of financial instrument called for in the contract in a specified delivery month for a stated price. A financial futures contract purchase creates an obligation by the purchaser to take delivery of the type of financial instrument called for in the contract in a specified delivery month at a stated price. The specific instruments delivered or taken, respectively, at settlement date are not determined until on or near that date. The determination is made in accordance with the rules of the exchange on which the futures contract sale or purchase was made. Futures contracts are traded in the United States only on commodity exchanges or boards of trade -- known as "contract markets" -- approved for such trading by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the "CFTC"), and must be executed through a futures commission merchant or brokerage firm which is a member of the relevant contract market.

Although futures contracts (other than index futures) by their terms call for actual delivery or acceptance of commodities or securities, in most cases the contracts are closed out before the settlement date without the making or taking of delivery. Closing out a futures contract sale is effected by purchasing a futures contract for the same aggregate amount of the specific type of financial instrument or commodity with the same delivery date. If the price of the initial sale of the futures contract exceeds the price of the offsetting purchase, the seller is paid the difference and realizes a gain. Conversely, if the price of the offsetting purchase exceeds the price of the initial sale, the seller realizes a loss. If a fund is unable to enter into a closing transaction, the amount of the fund's potential loss is unlimited. The closing out of a futures contract purchase is effected by the purchaser's entering into a futures contract sale. If the offsetting sale price exceeds the purchase price, the purchaser realizes a gain, and if the purchase price exceeds the offsetting sale price, he realizes a loss. In general, 40% of the gain or loss arising from the closing out of a futures contract traded on an exchange approved by the CFTC is treated as short-term gain or loss, and 60% is treated as long-term gain or loss.

Unlike when a fund purchases or sells a security, no price is paid or received by a fund upon the purchase or sale of a futures contract. Upon entering into a contract, a fund is required to deposit with its custodian in a segregated account in the name of the futures broker an amount of liquid assets. This amount is known as "initial margin." The nature of initial margin in futures transactions is different from that of margin in security transactions in that futures contract margin does not involve the borrowing of funds to finance the transactions. Rather, initial margin is similar to a performance bond or good faith deposit which is returned to a fund upon termination of the futures contract, assuming all contractual obligations have been satisfied. Futures contracts also involve brokerage costs.

Subsequent payments, called "variation margin" or "maintenance margin," to and from the broker (or the custodian) are made on a daily basis as the price of the underlying security or commodity fluctuates, making the long and short positions in the futures contract more or less valuable, a process known as "marking to the market." For example, when a fund has purchased a futures contract on a security and the price of the underlying security has risen, that position will have increased in value and the fund will receive from the broker a variation margin payment based on that increase in value. Conversely, when a fund has purchased a security futures contract and the price of the underlying security has declined, the position would be less valuable and the fund would be required to make a variation margin payment to the broker.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

A fund may elect to close some or all of its futures positions at any time prior to their expiration in order to reduce or eliminate a hedge position then currently held by the fund. The fund may close its positions by taking opposite positions which will operate to terminate the fund's position in the futures contracts. Final determinations of variation margin are then made, additional cash is required to be paid by or released to the fund, and the fund realizes a loss or a gain. Such closing transactions involve additional commission costs.

Each fund does not intend to purchase or sell futures or related options for other than hedging purposes, if, as a result, the sum of the initial margin deposits on a fund's existing futures and related options positions and premiums paid for outstanding options on futures contracts would exceed 5% of a fund's net assets.

Each fund has claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term "commodity pool operator" under the Commodity Exchange Act (the "CEA"), and therefore, is not subject to registration or regulation as a pool operator under the CEA.

Options on futures contracts. Each fund may purchase and write call and put options on futures contracts it may buy or sell and enter into closing transactions with respect to such options to terminate existing positions. In return for the premium paid, options on futures contracts give the purchaser the right to assume a position in a futures contract at the specified option exercise price at any time during the period of the option. A fund may use options on futures contracts in lieu of writing or buying options directly on the underlying securities or purchasing and selling the underlying futures contracts. For example, to hedge against a possible decrease in the value of its portfolio securities, a fund may purchase put options or write call options on futures contracts rather than selling futures contracts. Similarly, a fund may purchase call options or write put options on futures contracts as a substitute for the purchase of futures contracts to hedge against a possible increase in the price of securities which the fund expects to purchase. Such options generally operate in the same manner as options purchased or written directly on the underlying investments.

As with options on securities, the holder or writer of an option may terminate his position by selling or purchasing an offsetting option. There is no guarantee that such closing transactions can be effected.

A fund will be required to deposit initial margin and maintenance margin with respect to put and call options on futures contracts written by it pursuant to brokers' requirements similar to those described above in connection with the discussion of futures contracts.

Risks of transactions in futures contracts and related options. Successful use of futures contracts by a fund is subject to Putnam Management's ability to predict movements in various factors affecting securities markets, including interest rates. Compared to the purchase or sale of futures contracts, the purchase of call or put options on futures contracts involves less potential risk to a fund because the maximum amount at risk is the premium paid for the options (plus transaction costs). However, there may be circumstances when the purchase of a call or put option on a futures contract would result in a loss to a fund when the purchase or sale of a futures contract would not, such as when there is no movement in the prices of the hedged investments. The writing of an option on a futures contract involves risks similar to those risks relating to the sale of futures contracts.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

The use of options and futures strategies also involves the risk of imperfect correlation among movements in the prices of the securities underlying the futures and options purchased and sold by a fund, of the options and futures contracts themselves, and, in the case of hedging transactions, of the securities which are the subject of a hedge. The successful use of these strategies further depends on the ability of Putnam Management to forecast interest rates and market movements correctly.

There is no assurance that higher than anticipated trading activity or other unforeseen events might not, at times, render certain market clearing facilities inadequate, and thereby result in the institution by exchanges of special procedures which may interfere with the timely execution of customer orders.

To reduce or eliminate a position held by a fund, a fund may seek to close out such a position. The ability to establish and close out positions will be subject to the development and maintenance of a liquid secondary market. It is not certain that this market will develop or continue to exist for a particular futures contract or option. Reasons for the absence of a liquid secondary market on an exchange include the following: (i) there may be insufficient trading interest in certain contracts or options; (ii) restrictions may be imposed by an exchange on opening transactions or closing transactions or both; (iii) trading halts, suspensions or other restrictions may be imposed with respect to particular classes or series of contracts or options, or underlying securities; (iv) unusual or unforeseen circumstances may interrupt normal operations on an exchange; (v) the facilities of an exchange or a clearing corporation may not at all times be adequate to handle current trading volume; or (vi) one or more exchanges could, for economic or other reasons, decide or be compelled at some future date to discontinue the trading of contracts or options (or a particular class or series of contracts or options), in which event the secondary market on that exchange for such contracts or options (or in the class or series of contracts or options) would cease to exist, although outstanding contracts or options on the exchange that had been issued by a clearing corporation as a result of trades on that exchange would continue to be exercisable in accordance with their terms.

U.S. Treasury security futures contracts and options. U.S. Treasury security futures contracts require the seller to deliver, or the purchaser to take delivery of, the type of U.S. Treasury security called for in the contract at a specified date and price. Options on U.S. Treasury security futures contracts give the purchaser the right in return for the premium paid to assume a position in a U.S. Treasury security futures contract at the specified option exercise price at any time during the period of the option.

Successful use of U.S. Treasury security futures contracts by a fund is subject to Putnam Management's ability to predict movements in the direction of interest rates and other factors affecting markets for debt securities. For example, if a fund has sold U.S. Treasury security futures contracts in order to hedge against the possibility of an increase in interest rates which would adversely affect securities held in its portfolio, and the prices of the fund's securities increase instead as a result of a decline in interest rates, the fund will lose part or all of the benefit of the increased value of its securities which it has hedged because it will have offsetting losses in its futures positions. In addition, in such situations, if a fund has insufficient cash, it may have to sell securities to meet daily maintenance margin requirements at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so.

There is also a risk that price movements in U.S. Treasury security futures contracts and related options will not correlate closely with price movements in markets for particular securities. For example, if a fund has hedged against a decline in the values of tax-exempt securities held by it by selling Treasury security futures and the values of Treasury securities subsequently increase while the values of its tax-exempt securities decrease, the fund would incur losses on both the Treasury security futures contracts written by it and the tax-exempt securities held in its portfolio.

Index futures contracts. An index futures contract is a contract to buy or sell units of an index at a specified future date at a price agreed upon when the contract is made. Entering into a contract to buy units of an index is commonly referred to as buying or purchasing a contract or holding a long position in the index. Entering into a contract to sell units of an index is commonly referred to as selling a contract or holding a short position. A unit is the current value of the index. A fund may enter into stock index futures contracts, debt index futures contracts, or other index futures contracts appropriate to its objective(s). A fund may also purchase and sell options on index futures contracts.

For example, the Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Stock Price Index ("S&P 500") is composed of 500 selected common stocks, most of which are listed on the New York Stock Exchange. The S&P 500 assigns relative weightings to the common stocks included in the Index, and the value fluctuates with changes in the market values of those common stocks. In the case of the S&P 500, contracts are to buy or sell 500 units. Thus, if the value of the S&P 500 were \$150, one contract would be worth \$75,000 (500 units x \$150). The stock index futures contract specifies that no delivery of the actual stocks making up the index will take place. Instead, settlement in cash must occur upon the termination of the contract, with the settlement being the difference between the contract price and the actual level of the stock index at the expiration of the contract. For example, if a fund enters into a futures contract to buy 500 units of the S&P 500 at a specified future date at a contract price of \$150 and the S&P 500 is at \$154 on that future date, the fund will gain \$2,000 (500 units x gain of \$4). If a fund enters into a futures contract to sell 500 units of the stock index at a specified future date at a contract price of \$150 and the S&P 500 is at \$152 on that future date, the fund will lose \$1,000 (500 units x loss of \$2).

There are several risks in connection with the use by a fund of index futures. One risk arises because of the imperfect correlation between movements in the prices of the index futures and movements in the prices of securities which are the subject of the hedge. Putnam Management will, however, attempt to reduce this risk by buying or selling, to the extent possible, futures on indices the movements of which will, in its judgment, have a significant correlation with movements in the prices of the securities sought to be hedged.

Successful use of index futures by a fund is also subject to Putnam Management's ability to predict movements in the direction of the market. For example, it is possible that, where a fund has sold futures to hedge its portfolio against a decline in the market, the index on which the futures are written may advance and the value of securities held in the fund's portfolio may decline. If this occurred, a fund would lose money on the futures and also experience a decline in value in its portfolio securities. It is also possible that, if a fund has hedged against the possibility of a decline in the market adversely affecting securities held in its portfolio and securities prices

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

increase instead, the fund will lose part or all of the benefit of the increased value of those securities it has hedged because it will have offsetting losses in its futures positions. In addition, in such situations, if a fund has insufficient cash, it may have to sell securities to meet daily variation margin requirements at a time when it is disadvantageous to do so.

In addition to the possibility that there may be an imperfect correlation, or no correlation at all, between movements in the index futures and the portion of the portfolio being hedged, the prices of index futures may not correlate perfectly with movements in the underlying index due to certain market distortions. First, all participants in the futures market are subject to margin deposit and maintenance requirements. Rather than meeting additional margin deposit requirements, investors may close futures contracts through offsetting transactions which could distort the normal relationship between the index and futures markets. Second, margin requirements in the futures market are less onerous than margin requirements in the securities market, and as a result the futures market may attract more speculators than the securities market does. Increased participation by speculators in the futures market may also cause temporary price distortions. Due to the possibility of price distortions in the futures market and also because of the imperfect correlation between movements in the index and movements in the prices of index futures, even a correct forecast of general market trends by Putnam Management may still not result in a profitable position over a short time period.

Options on stock index futures. Options on index futures are similar to options on securities except that options on index futures give the purchaser the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in an index futures contract (a long position if the option is a call and a short position if the option is a put) at a specified exercise price at any time during the period of the option. Upon exercise of the option, the delivery of the futures position by the writer of the option to the holder of the option will be accompanied by delivery of the accumulated balance in the writer's futures margin account which represents the amount by which the market price of the index futures contract, at exercise, exceeds (in the case of a call) or is less than (in the case of a put) the exercise price of the option on the index future. If an option is exercised on the last trading day prior to its expiration date, the settlement will be made entirely in cash equal to the difference between the exercise price of the option and the closing level of the index on which the future is based on the expiration date. Purchasers of options who fail to exercise their options prior to the exercise date suffer a loss of the premium paid.

Options on Indices

As an alternative to purchasing call and put options on index futures, each fund may purchase and sell call and put options on the underlying indices themselves. Such options would be used in a manner identical to the use of options on index futures.

Index Warrants

Each fund may purchase put warrants and call warrants whose values vary depending on the change in the value of one or more specified securities indices ("index warrants"). Index warrants are generally issued by banks or other financial institutions and give the holder the right, at any time during the term of the warrant, to receive upon exercise of the warrant a cash payment from the issuer based on the value of the underlying index at the time of exercise. In general, if the value of

the underlying index rises above the exercise price of the index warrant, the holder of a call warrant will be entitled to receive a cash payment from the issuer upon exercise based on the difference between the value of the index and the exercise price of the warrant; if the value of the underlying index falls, the holder of a put warrant will be entitled to receive a cash payment from the issuer upon exercise based on the difference between the exercise price of the warrant and the value of the index. The holder of a warrant would not be entitled to any payments from the issuer at any time when, in the case of a call warrant, the exercise price is greater than the value of the underlying index, or, in the case of a put warrant, the exercise price is less than the value of the underlying index. If a fund were not to exercise an index warrant prior to its expiration, then the fund would lose the amount of the purchase price paid by it for the warrant.

A fund will normally use index warrants in a manner similar to its use of options on securities indices. The risks of a fund's use of index warrants are generally similar to those relating to its use of index options. Unlike most index options, however, index warrants are issued in limited amounts and are not obligations of a regulated clearing agency, but are backed only by the credit of the bank or other institution which issues the warrant. Also, index warrants generally have longer terms than index options. Although a fund will normally invest only in exchange-listed warrants, index warrants are not likely to be as liquid as certain index options backed by a recognized clearing agency. In addition, the terms of index warrants may limit a fund's ability to exercise the warrants at such time, or in such quantities, as the fund would otherwise wish to do.

Short-term Trading

In seeking each fund's objective(s), Putnam Management will buy or sell portfolio securities whenever Putnam Management believes it appropriate to do so. From time to time a fund will buy securities intending to seek short-term trading profits. A change in the securities held by a fund is known as "portfolio turnover" and generally involves some expense to the fund. This expense may include brokerage commissions or dealer markups and other transaction costs on both the sale of securities and the reinvestment of the proceeds in other securities. If sales of portfolio securities cause a fund to realize net short-term capital gains, such gains will be taxable as ordinary income. As a result of a fund's investment policies, under certain market conditions a fund's portfolio turnover rate may be higher than that of other mutual funds. Portfolio turnover rate for a fiscal year is the ratio of the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities to the monthly average of the value of portfolio securities -- excluding securities whose maturities at acquisition were one year or less. A fund's portfolio turnover rate is not a limiting factor when Putnam Management considers a change in a fund's portfolio.

Securities Loans

Each fund may make secured loans of its portfolio securities, on either a short-term or long-term basis, amounting to not more than 25% of its total assets, thereby realizing additional income. The risks in lending portfolio securities, as with other extensions of credit, consist of possible delay in recovery of the securities or possible loss of rights in the collateral should the borrower fail financially. As a matter of policy, securities loans are made to broker-dealers pursuant to agreements requiring that the loans be continuously secured by collateral consisting of cash or short-term debt obligations at least equal at all times to the value of the securities on loan,

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

"marked-to-market" daily. The borrower pays to a fund an amount equal to any dividends or interest received on securities lent. The fund retains all or a portion of the interest received on investment of the cash collateral or receives a fee from the borrower. Although voting rights, or rights to consent, with respect to the loaned securities may pass to the borrower, the fund retains the right to call the loans at any time on reasonable notice, and it will do so to enable the fund to exercise voting rights on any matters materially affecting the investment. The fund may also call such loans in order to sell the securities.

Repurchase Agreements

Each fund may enter into repurchase agreements, amounting to not more than 25% of its total assets. Money market funds may invest without limit in repurchase agreements. A repurchase agreement is a contract under which a fund acquires a security for a relatively short period (usually not more than one week) subject to the obligation of the seller to repurchase and the fund to resell such security at a fixed time and price (representing the fund's cost plus interest). It is each fund's present intention to enter into repurchase agreements only with commercial banks and registered broker-dealers and only with respect to obligations of the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities. Repurchase agreements may also be viewed as loans made by a fund which are collateralized by the securities subject to repurchase. Putnam Management will monitor such transactions to ensure that the value of the underlying securities will be at least equal at all times to the total amount of the repurchase obligation, including the interest factor. If the seller defaults, a fund could realize a loss on the sale of the underlying security to the extent that the proceeds of the sale including accrued interest are less than the resale price provided in the agreement including interest. In addition, if the seller should be involved in bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, a fund may incur delay and costs in selling the underlying security or may suffer a loss of principal and interest if the fund is treated as an unsecured creditor and required to return the underlying collateral to the seller's estate.

Pursuant to an exemptive order issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission, a fund may transfer uninvested cash balances into a joint account, along with cash of other Putnam funds and certain other accounts. These balances may be invested in one or more repurchase agreements and/or short-term money market instruments.

Forward Commitments

Each fund may enter into contracts to purchase securities for a fixed price at a future date beyond customary settlement time ("forward commitments") if a fund sets aside, on the books and records of its custodian, liquid assets in an amount sufficient to meet the purchase price, or if a fund enters into offsetting contracts for the forward sale of other securities it owns. In the case of to-be-announced ("TBA") purchase commitments, the unit price and the estimated principal amount are established when a fund enters into a contract, with the actual principal amount being within a specified range of the estimate. Forward commitments may be considered securities in themselves, and involve a risk of loss if the value of the security to be purchased declines prior to the settlement date, which risk is in addition to the risk of decline in the value of a fund's other assets. Where such purchases are made through dealers, a fund relies on the dealer to consummate the sale. The dealer's failure to do so may result in the loss to the fund of an advantageous yield or price. Although a fund will generally enter into forward commitments with the intention of acquiring securities for its portfolio or for delivery pursuant to

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

options contracts it has entered into, the fund may dispose of a commitment prior to settlement if Putnam Management deems it appropriate to do so. A fund may realize short-term profits or losses upon the sale of forward commitments.

Each fund may enter into TBA sale commitments to hedge its portfolio positions or to sell securities it owns under delayed delivery arrangements. Proceeds of TBA sale commitments are not received until the contractual settlement date. During the time a TBA sale commitment is outstanding, equivalent deliverable securities, or an offsetting TBA purchase commitment deliverable on or before the sale commitment date, are held as "cover" for the transaction. Unsettled TBA sale commitments are valued at current market value of the underlying securities. If the TBA sale commitment is closed through the acquisition of an offsetting purchase commitment, the fund realizes a gain or loss on the commitment without regard to any unrealized gain or loss on the underlying security. If a fund delivers securities under the commitment, the fund realizes a gain or loss from the sale of the securities based upon the unit price established at the date the commitment was entered into.

Swap Agreements

Each fund may enter into swap agreements and other types of over-the-counter transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions. Depending on their structures, swap agreements may increase or decrease a fund's exposure to long-or short-term interest rates (in the United States or abroad), foreign currency values, mortgage securities, corporate borrowing rates, or other factors such as security prices or inflation rates. The value of a fund's swap positions would increase or decrease depending on the changes in value of the underlying rates, currency values, or other indices or measures. A fund's ability to engage in certain swap transactions may be limited by tax considerations.

A fund's ability to realize a profit from such transactions will depend on the ability of the financial institutions with which it enters into the transactions to meet their obligations to the fund. Under certain circumstances, suitable transactions may not be available to a fund, or a fund may be unable to close out its position under such transactions at the same time, or at the same price, as if it had purchased comparable publicly traded securities.

Derivatives

Certain of the instruments in which a fund may invest, such as futures contracts, options and forward contracts, are considered to be "derivatives." Derivatives are financial instruments whose value depends upon, or is derived from, the value of an underlying asset, such as a security or an index. Further information about these instruments and the risks involved in their use is included elsewhere in the Prospectus or in this SAI. A fund's use of derivatives may cause the fund to recognize higher amounts of short-term capital gains, generally taxed to shareholders at ordinary income tax rates. Investments in derivatives may be applied toward meeting a requirement to invest in a particular kind of investment if the derivatives have economic characteristics similar to that investment.

Industry and Sector Groups

Putnam uses a customized set of industry and sector groups for classifying securities ("Putnam Investment Codes"). The Putnam Investment Codes are based on an expanded Standard & Poor's industry

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

classification model, modified to be more representative of global investing and more applicable to both large and small capitalization securities.

TAXES

The following discussion of U.S. Federal income tax consequences is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), existing U.S. Treasury regulations, and other applicable authority, as of the date of this SAI. These authorities are subject to change by legislative or administrative action, possibly with retroactive effect. The following discussion is only a summary of some of the important U.S. Federal tax considerations generally applicable to investments in each fund. There may be other tax considerations applicable to particular shareholders. Shareholders should consult their own tax advisers regarding their particular situation and the possible application of foreign, state and local tax laws.

Taxation of the funds. Each fund intends to qualify each year as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code. In order to qualify for the special tax treatment accorded regulated investment companies and their shareholders, a fund must, among other things:

(a) derive at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, and gains from the sale of stock, securities and foreign currencies, or other income (including but not limited to gains from options, futures, or forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities, or currencies;

(b) distribute with respect to each taxable year at least 90% of the sum of its taxable net investment income, its net tax-exempt income, and the excess, if any, of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses for such year; and

(c) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each fiscal quarter, (i) at least 50% of the market value of the fund's assets is represented by cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities limited in respect of any one issuer to a value not greater than 5% of the value of the fund's total assets and to not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of its assets is invested in the securities (other than those of the U.S. Government or other regulated investment companies) of any one issuer or of two or more issuers which the fund controls and which are engaged in the same, similar, or related trades or businesses.

If a fund qualifies as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment, the fund will not be subject to federal income tax on income distributed in a timely manner, to its shareholders in the form of dividends (including capital gain dividends).

If a fund failed to qualify as a regulated investment company accorded special tax treatment in any taxable year, the fund would be subject to tax on its taxable income at corporate rates, and all distributions from earnings and profits, including any distributions of net tax-exempt income and net long-term capital gains, would be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. In addition, the fund could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make substantial distributions before requalifying as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

If a fund fails to distribute in a calendar year substantially all of its ordinary income for such year and substantially all of its capital gain net income for the one-year period ending October 31 (or later if the fund is permitted so to elect and so elects), plus any retained amount from the prior year, the fund will be subject to a 4% excise tax on the undistributed amounts. A dividend paid to shareholders by the fund in January of a year generally is deemed to have been paid by the fund on December 31 of the preceding year, if the dividend was declared and payable to shareholders of record on a date in October, November or December of that preceding year. Each fund intends generally to make distributions sufficient to avoid imposition of the 4% excise tax.

Fund distributions. Distributions from each fund (other than exempt-interest dividends, as discussed below) will be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income to the extent derived from the fund's investment income and net short-term capital gains. Distributions of net capital gains (that is, the excess of net gains from the sale of capital assets held more than one year over net losses from the sale of capital assets held for not more than one year) will be taxable to shareholders as such, regardless of how long a shareholder has held the shares in a fund.

For taxable years beginning on or before December 31, 2008, "qualified dividend income" received by an individual will be taxed at the rates applicable to long-term capital gain. In order for some portion of the dividends received by a fund shareholder to be qualified dividend income, a fund must meet holding period and other requirements with respect to some portion of the dividend paying stocks in its portfolio and the shareholder must meet holding period and other requirements with respect to a fund's shares. A dividend will not be treated as qualified dividend income (at either the fund or shareholder level) (1) if the dividend is received with respect to any share of stock held for fewer than 61 days during the 120-day period beginning on the date which is 60 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend (or, in the case of certain preferred stock, 91 days during the 180-day period beginning 90 days before such date), (2) to the extent that the recipient is under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property, (3) if the recipient elects to have the dividend income treated as investment income for purposes of the limitation on deductibility of investment interest, or (4) if the dividend is received from a foreign corporation that is (a) not eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States (with the exception of dividends paid on stock of such a foreign corporation readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States) or (b) treated as a foreign personal holding company, foreign investment company, or passive foreign investment company.

In general, distributions of investment income designated by a fund as derived from qualified dividend income will be treated as qualified dividend income by a shareholder taxed as an individual provided the shareholder meets the holding period and other requirements described above with respect to the fund's shares. Only qualified dividend income received by a fund after December 31, 2002 is eligible for pass-through treatment. If the aggregate qualified dividends received by a fund during any taxable year are 95% or more of its gross income, then 100% of the fund's dividends (other than properly designated capital gain dividends) will be eligible to be treated as qualified dividend income. For this purpose, the only gain included in the term "gross income" is the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Long-term capital gain rates applicable to individuals have been temporarily reduced--in general, to 15% with lower rates applying to taxpayers in the 10% and 15% rate brackets-- for taxable years beginning on or before December 31, 2008.

Exempt-interest dividends. Each fund will be qualified to pay exempt-interest dividends to its shareholders only if, at the close of each quarter of a fund's taxable year, at least 50% of the total value of the fund's assets consists of obligations the interest on which is exempt from federal income tax. Distributions that a fund properly designates as exempt-interest dividends are treated as interest excludable from shareholders' gross income for federal income tax purposes but may be taxable for federal alternative minimum tax purposes and for state and local purposes. If a fund intends to be qualified to pay exempt-interest dividends, the fund may be limited in its ability to enter into taxable transactions involving forward commitments, repurchase agreements, financial futures and options contracts on financial futures, tax-exempt bond indices and other assets.

Part or all of the interest on indebtedness, if any, incurred or continued by a shareholder to purchase or carry shares of a fund paying exempt-interest dividends is not deductible. The portion of interest that is not deductible is equal to the total interest paid or accrued on the indebtedness, multiplied by the percentage of a fund's total distributions (not including distributions from net long-term capital gains) paid to the shareholder that are exempt-interest dividends. Under rules used by the Internal Revenue Service to determine when borrowed funds are considered used for the purpose of purchasing or carrying particular assets, the purchase of shares may be considered to have been made with borrowed funds even though such funds are not directly traceable to the purchase of shares.

In general, exempt-interest dividends, if any, attributable to interest received on certain private activity obligations and certain industrial development bonds will not be tax-exempt to any shareholders who are "substantial users" of the facilities financed by such obligations or bonds or who are "related persons" of such substantial users.

A fund that is qualified to pay exempt-interest dividends will inform investors within 60 days of the fund's fiscal year-end of the percentage of its income distributions designated as tax-exempt. The percentage is applied uniformly to all distributions made during the year. The percentage of income designated as tax-exempt for any particular distribution may be substantially different from the percentage of the fund's income that was tax-exempt during the period covered by the distribution.

Hedging transactions. If a fund engages in hedging transactions, including hedging transactions in options, futures contracts, and straddles, or other similar transactions, it will be subject to special tax rules (including constructive sale, mark-to-market, straddle, wash sale, and short sale rules), the effect of which may be to accelerate income to the fund, defer losses to the fund, cause adjustments in the holding periods of the fund's securities, convert long-term capital gains into short-term capital gains or convert short-term capital losses into long-term capital losses. These rules could therefore affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders. Each fund will endeavor to make any available elections pertaining to such transactions in a manner believed to be in the best interests of the fund.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Certain of a fund's hedging activities (including its transactions, if any, in foreign currencies or foreign currency-denominated instruments) are likely to produce a difference between its book income and its taxable income. If a fund's book income exceeds its taxable income, the distribution (if any) of such excess will be treated as (i) a dividend to the extent of the fund's remaining earnings and profits (including earnings and profits arising from tax-exempt income), (ii) thereafter as a return of capital to the extent of the recipient's basis in the shares, and (iii) thereafter as gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset. If a fund's book income is less than its taxable income, (or, for tax-exempt funds, the sum of its net tax-exempt and taxable income), the fund could be required to make distributions exceeding book income to qualify as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment.

Return of capital distributions. If a fund makes a distribution to you in excess of its current and accumulated "earnings and profits" in any taxable year, the excess distribution will be treated as a return of capital to the extent of your tax basis in your shares, and thereafter as capital gain. A return of capital is not taxable, but it reduces your tax basis in your shares, thus reducing any loss or increasing any gain on a subsequent taxable disposition by you of your shares.

Dividends and distributions on a fund's shares are generally subject to federal income tax as described herein to the extent they do not exceed the fund's realized income and gains, even though such dividends and distributions may economically represent a return of a particular shareholder's investment. Such distributions are likely to occur in respect of shares purchased at a time when a fund's net asset value reflects gains that are either unrealized, or realized but not distributed. Distributions are taxable to a shareholder even if they are paid from income or gains earned by a fund prior to the shareholder's investment (and thus included in the price paid by the shareholder).

Securities issued or purchased at a discount. A fund's investment in securities issued at a discount and certain other obligations will (and investments in securities purchased at a discount may) require the fund to accrue and distribute income not yet received. In order to generate sufficient cash to make the requisite distributions, a fund may be required to sell securities in its portfolio that it otherwise would have continued to hold.

Capital loss carryover. Distributions from capital gains are generally made after applying any available capital loss carryovers. The amounts and expiration dates of any capital loss carryovers available to a fund are shown in Note 1 (Federal income taxes) to the financial statements included in this SAI or incorporated by reference into this SAI.

Foreign currency-denominated securities and related hedging transactions. A fund's transactions in foreign currencies, foreign currency-denominated debt securities and certain foreign currency options, futures contracts and forward contracts (and similar instruments) may give rise to ordinary income or loss to the extent such income or loss results from fluctuations in the value of the foreign currency concerned.

If more than 50% of a fund's assets at year end consists of the securities of foreign corporations, the fund may elect to permit shareholders to claim a credit or deduction on their income tax returns for their pro rata portion of qualified taxes paid by the fund to foreign countries in respect of foreign securities the fund has held for

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

at least the minimum period specified in the Code. In such a case, shareholders will include in gross income from foreign sources their pro rata shares of such taxes. A shareholder's ability to claim a foreign tax credit or deduction in respect of foreign taxes paid by a fund may be subject to certain limitations imposed by the Code, as a result of which a shareholder may not get a full credit or deduction for the amount of such taxes. In particular, shareholders must hold their fund shares (without protection from risk of loss) on the ex-dividend date and for at least 15 additional days during the 30-day period surrounding the ex-dividend date to be eligible to claim a foreign tax credit with respect to a given dividend. Shareholders who do not itemize on their federal income tax returns may claim a credit (but no deduction) for such foreign taxes.

Investment by a fund in "passive foreign investment companies" could subject the fund to a U.S. federal income tax or other charge on the proceeds from the sale of its investment in such a company; however, this tax can be avoided by making an election to mark such investments to market annually or to treat the passive foreign investment company as a "qualified electing fund."

A "passive foreign investment company" is any foreign corporation: (i) 75 percent or more of the income of which for the taxable year is passive income, or (ii) the average percentage of the assets of which (generally by value, but by adjusted tax basis in certain cases) that produce or are held for the production of passive income is at least 50 percent. Generally, passive income for this purpose means dividends, interest (including income equivalent to interest), royalties, rents, annuities, the excess of gains over losses from certain property transactions and commodities transactions, and foreign currency gains. Passive income for this purpose does not include rents and royalties received by the foreign corporation from active business and certain income received from related persons.

Sale or redemption of shares. The sale of fund shares may give rise to a gain or loss. In general, any gain or loss realized upon a taxable disposition of shares will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than 12 months. Otherwise the gain or loss on the sale of fund shares will be treated as short-term capital gain or loss. However, if a shareholder sells shares at a loss within six months of purchase, any loss will be disallowed for Federal income tax purposes to the extent of any exempt-interest dividends received on such shares. In addition, any loss (not already disallowed as provided in the preceding sentence) realized upon a taxable disposition of shares held for six months or less will be treated as long-term, rather than short-term, to the extent of any long-term capital gain distributions received by the shareholder with respect to the shares. All or a portion of any loss realized upon a taxable disposition of fund shares will be disallowed if other shares of the same fund are purchased within 30 days before or after the disposition. In such a case, the basis of the newly purchased shares will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss.

Shares purchased through tax-qualified plans. Special tax rules apply to investments through defined contribution plans and other tax-qualified plans. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers to determine the suitability of shares of a fund as an investment through such plans and the precise effect of an investment on their particular tax situation.

Backup withholding. Each fund generally is required to withhold and remit to the U.S. Treasury a percentage of the taxable dividends and other distributions paid to any individual shareholder who fails to furnish the fund with a correct taxpayer identification number (TIN),

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

who has under-reported dividends or interest income, or who fails to certify to the fund that he or she is not subject to such withholding. The back-up withholding tax rate is 28% for amounts paid through 2010. This legislation will expire and the back-up withholding rate will be 31% for amounts paid after December 31, 2010, unless Congress enacts tax legislation providing otherwise.

In order for a foreign investor to qualify for exemption from the back-up withholding tax rates and for reduced withholding tax rates under income tax treaties, the foreign investor must comply with special certification and filing requirements. Foreign investors in a fund should consult their tax advisers in this regard.

Tax shelter reporting regulations. Under U.S. Treasury regulations issued on February 28, 2003, if a shareholder realizes a loss on disposition of fund shares of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder, the shareholder must file with the Internal Revenue Service a disclosure statement on Form 8886. Direct shareholders of portfolio securities are in many cases excepted from this reporting requirement, but under current guidance, shareholders of a regulated investment company are not excepted. Future guidance may extend the current exception from this reporting requirement to shareholders of most or all regulated investment companies.

MANAGEMENT

Trustees

Name, Address (1), Date of Birth, Position(s) Held with Fund and Length of Service as a Putnam Fund Trustee (2)

Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years

Other Directorships Held by Trustee

Jameson A. Baxter
(9/6/43), Trustee since 1994

President of Baxter Associates, Inc., a private investment firm that she founded in 1986.

Director of ASHTA Chemicals, Inc., Banc Corporation (a printing and digital imaging firm), Ryerson Tull, Inc. (a steel service corporation), Advocate Health Care and BoardSource (formerly the National Center for Nonprofit Boards). She is Chairman Emeritus of Board of Trustees, Mount Holyoke College having served as Chairman for five years as a board member for thirteen years. 2002, Ms. Baxter was a Director of International Corporation (a manufacturer of energy products).

Charles B. Curtis
(4/27/40), Trustee since 2001

President and Chief Operating Officer, Nuclear Threat Initiative (a private foundation dealing with national security issues) and serves as Senior Advisor to the United Nations Foundation. From August

Member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trustee Advisory Council of the Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University. Until 2003, Mr. Curtis was a Member of the Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Council and the University of Chicago Board of Governors for Argonne National Laboratory. Prior to 2002, Mr. Curtis was a Member of the Board of Directors

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

	<p>1997 to December 1999, Mr. Curtis was a partner at Hogan & Hartson L.L.P., a Washington, DC law firm.</p>	<p>Gas Technology Institute and the Board Directors of the Environment and Natural Resources Program Steering Committee, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Until 2001, Mr. Curtis was of the Department of Defense Policy Board Director of EG&G Technical Services, Inc. (a fossil energy research and development support company).</p>
<p>John A. Hill (1/31/42), Trustee since 1985 and Chairman since 2000</p>	<p>Vice Chairman, First Reserve Corporation (a private equity buyout firm that specializes in energy investments in the diversified world-wide energy industry).</p>	<p>Director of Devon Energy Corporation, TransMontaigne Oil Company, Continuum Health Partners of New York and various private companies controlled by First Reserve Corporation, as well as a Trustee of TH Lee Putnam Investment Trust (a closed-end investment company advised affiliate of Putnam Management). He is a Trustee of Sarah Lawrence College.</p>
<p>Ronald J. Jackson (12/17/43), Trustee since 1996</p>	<p>Private investor.</p>	<p>President of the Kathleen and Ronald Jackson Foundation (a charitable trust). He is a Member of the Board of Overseers of public television and radio station) and a Member of the Board of Overseers of Peabody Essex Museum.</p>
<p>Paul L. Joskow (6/30/47), Trustee since 1997</p>	<p>Elizabeth and James Killian Professor of Economics and Management and Director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.</p>	<p>Director of National Grid Transco (a utility holding company with interests in electric gas transmission and distribution and telecommunications infrastructure) and TransCanada Corporation (an energy company focused on natural gas transmission and services). He also serves on the board of Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research (a non-profit research institution) and has been President of the Yale University since 1993. Prior to February 2002, he was Director of State Farm Indemnity Company (automobile insurance company), and prior to March 2000, he was a Director of New England Electric System (a public utility holding company).</p>
<p>Elizabeth T. Kennan (2/25/38), Trustee since 1992</p>	<p>Partner in Cambus-Kenneth Farm (thoroughbred horse and cattle breeding). She is President Emeritus of Mount Holyoke College.</p>	<p>Lead Director of Northeast Utilities and Director of Talbots, Inc. (a distributor of women's apparel). She is a Trustee of the Trust for Historic Preservation, of Centre College and of Midway College (in Midway, Kentucky). She is also a Member of the Board of Reservations. Prior to 2001, Dr. Kennan served on the oversight committee of the Shakespeare Library. Prior to September 2000, she was a Director of Chastain Real Estate. Prior to June 2000, she was a Director of Atlantic Corp.; and prior to November 2000, she was a Director of Kentucky Home Life Insurance Co.</p>
<p>John H. Mullin, III (6/15/41), Trustee since 1997</p>	<p>Chairman and CEO of Ridgeway Farm (a limited liability company engaged</p>	<p>Director of The Liberty Corporation (a broadcasting company), Progress Energy utility company, formerly known as Carolina</p>

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

in timber and farming). Power & Light) and Sonoco Products, Inc. (a packaging company). Mr. Mullin is Trustee Emeritus of The National Humanities Center, Washington & Lee University, where he was Chairman of the Investment Committee. In February 2004 and May 2001, he was a Director of Alex Brown Realty, Inc. and Graphic Packaging International Corp., respectively.

<p>Robert E. Patterson (3/15/45), Trustee since 1984</p>	<p>Senior Partner of Cabot Properties, L.P. and Chairman of Cabot Properties, Inc. (a private equity firm specializing in real estate investments). Prior to December 2001, he was President of Cabot Industrial Trust (a publicly traded real estate investment trust).</p>	<p>Chairman of the Joslin Diabetes Center and Director of Brandywine Trust Company. In June 2003 and December 2001, Mr. Patterson served as a Trustee of Sea Education Association and Cabot Industrial Trust, respectively.</p>
--	--	--

<p>W. Thomas Stephens (9/2/42), Trustee since 1997</p>	<p>Serves on a number of corporate boards.</p>	<p>Director of Xcel Energy Incorporated (a utility company) and TransCanada Pipelines Limited. Until 2004, Mr. Stephens was Chairman of Qwest Communications and Norske Cement (a paper manufacturer). Until 2003, Mr. Stephens was a Director of Mail-Well, a diversified printing company). Prior to 2001, Mr. Stephens was Chairman of Mail-Well and prior to October 1999, he was CEO of MacMillan-Bloedel, Ltd. (a forest products company).</p>
--	--	---

Interested Trustees

<p>*George Putnam III (8/10/51), Trustee since 1984 and President since 2000</p>	<p>President of New Generation Research, Inc. (a publisher of financial advisory and other research services) and Chairman of New Generation Advisers, Inc. (a registered investment adviser to private funds). Both firms he founded in 1986.</p>	<p>Director of The Boston Family Office, (a registered investment advisor), and Chairman of St. Mark's School and Shore Country Day School. Until 2002, Mr. Putnam was a Trustee of the Education Association.</p>
--	--	--

<p>*A.J.C. Smith (4/13/34), Trustee since 1986</p>	<p>Chairman of Putnam Investments and Director of and Consultant to Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. Prior to May 2000 and November 1999, Mr. Smith was Chairman and CEO, respectively, of Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.</p>	<p>Director of Trident Corp. (a limited partnership) with over thirty institutional investors. He is also a Trustee of the Carnegie Hall Foundation, the Educational Broadcasting Corporation, the National Museums of Scotland. He is Chairman of the Central Park Conservancy and a Member of the Board of Overseers of the Joan and Sanford Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences at Cornell University.</p>
--	---	---

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

1 The address of each Trustee is One Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109. As of December 31, 2003, there were 101 Putnam funds.

2 Each Trustee serves for an indefinite term, until his or her resignation, retirement at age 72, death or removal.

* Trustees who are or may be deemed to be "interested persons" (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940) of the funds, Putnam Management, Putnam Retail Management or Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc., the parent company of Putnam Investments and its affiliated companies. Messrs. Putnam, III, and Smith are deemed "interested persons" by virtue of their positions as officers of the funds, Putnam Management, Putnam Retail Management or Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. and as shareholders of Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. Mr. Putnam, III is the President of each fund and each of the other Putnam funds. Mr. Smith is Chairman of Putnam Investments and serves as Director of and Consultant to Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

Officers

In addition to George Putnam, III, the other officers of the fund are shown below:

Name, Address (1), Date of Birth, Position(s) Held with Fund	Length of service with the Putnam Funds	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years
Charles E. Porter (7/26/38), Executive Vice President, Associate Treasurer and Principal Executive Officer	Since 1989	Managing Director, Putnam Investments and Putnam Management.
Jonathan S. Horwitz (6/4/55), Senior Vice President and Treasurer	Since 2004	Managing Director, Putnam Investments.
Steven D. Krichmar (6/27/58), Vice President and Principal Financial Officer	Since 2002	Senior Managing Director, Putnam Investments. Prior to 2001, Mr. Krichmar was a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.
Michael T. Healy (1/24/58), Assistant Treasurer and Principal Accounting Officer	Since 2000	Managing Director, Putnam Investments.
Beth S. Mazor (4/6/58), Vice President	Since 2002	Senior Vice President, Putnam Investments.
Daniel T. Gallagher (2/27/62), Vice President and Legal and Compliance Liaison Officer	Since 2004	Vice President, Putnam Investments. Prior to 2004, Mr. Gallagher was an attorney for Ropes & Gray LLP; prior to 2000, he was a law clerk for the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Mark C. Trenchard (6/5/62), Vice President and BSA Compliance Officer	Since 2002	Senior Vice President, Putnam Investment
Francis J. McNamara, III (8/19/55), Vice President and Chief Legal Officer	Since 2004	Senior Managing Director, Putnam Investm Putnam Management and Putnam Retail Mana Prior to 2004, Mr. McNamara was General of State Street Research & Management Co
Charles A. Ruys de Perez (6/17/57), Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer	Since 2004	Managing Director, Putnam Investments.
James P. Pappas (2/24/53), Vice President	Since 2004	Managing Director, Putnam Investments an Management. During 2002, Mr. Pappas was Operating Officer of Atalanta/Sosnoff Ma Corporation. Prior to 2001, he was Presi Chief Executive Officer of UAM Investmen Services, Inc.
Richard S. Robie, III (3/30/60), Vice President	Since 2004	Senior Managing Director, Putnam Investm Putnam Management and Putnam Retail Mana Prior to 2003, Mr. Robie was Senior Vice of United Asset Management Corporation.
Judith Cohen (6/7/45), Clerk and Assistant Treasurer	Since 1993	Clerk and Assistant Treasurer, The Putna

1 The address of each Officer is One Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109.

Except as stated above, the principal occupations of the officers and Trustees for the last five years have been with the employers as shown above, although in some cases they have held different positions with such employers.

Committees of the Board of Trustees

Audit and Pricing Committee. The Audit and Pricing Committee provides oversight on matters relating to the preparation of the funds' financial statements, compliance matters and Code of Ethics issues. This oversight is discharged by regularly meeting with management and the funds' independent registered public accounting firms and keeping current on industry developments. Duties of this Committee also include the review and evaluation of all matters and relationships pertaining to the funds' independent registered public accounting firms, including their independence. The members of the Committee include only Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the funds or Putnam Management. Each member of the Committee is "independent" as defined in Sections 303.01(B)(2)(a) and (3) of the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange and as defined in Section 121(A) of the listing standards of the American Stock Exchange. The Trustees have adopted a written charter for the Committee. The Committee also reviews the funds' policies and procedures for achieving accurate and timely pricing of the funds' shares, including oversight of fair value determinations of individual securities made by Putnam Management or other designated agents of the funds. The Committee oversees compliance by money market funds with Rule 2a-7, interfund transactions pursuant to Rule 17a-7, and the correction of occasional pricing errors.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

The Committee also receives reports regarding the liquidity of portfolio securities. The Audit and Pricing Committee currently consists of Drs. Joskow (Chairperson) and Kennan, and Messrs. Patterson and Stephens.

Board Policy and Nominating Committee. The Board Policy and Nominating Committee reviews matters pertaining to the operations of the Board of Trustees and its Committees, the compensation of the Trustees and their staff, and the conduct of legal affairs for the funds. The Committee evaluates and recommends all candidates for election as Trustees and recommends the appointment of members and chairs of each board committee. The Committee also reviews policy matters affecting the operation of the Board and its independent staff and makes recommendations to the Board as appropriate. The Committee consists only of Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the funds or Putnam Management. The Committee also oversees the voting of proxies associated with portfolio investments of the Putnam funds with the goal of ensuring that these proxies are voted in the best interest of the funds' shareholders. The Board Policy and Nominating Committee currently consists of Dr. Kennan (Chairperson), Ms. Baxter and Messrs. Hill, Mullin and Patterson. The Board Policy and Nominating Committee will consider nominees for trustee recommended by shareholders of a fund provided shareholders submit their recommendations by the date disclosed in the fund's proxy statement and provided the shareholders' recommendations otherwise comply with applicable securities laws, including Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Brokerage and Custody Committee. The Brokerage and Custody Committee reviews the policies and procedures of the funds regarding the execution of portfolio transactions for the funds, including policies regarding the allocation of brokerage commissions and soft dollar credits. The Committee reviews periodic reports regarding the funds' activities involving derivative securities. The Committee also reviews and evaluates matters relating to the funds' custody arrangements. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Jackson (Chairperson), Curtis and Mullin, Ms. Baxter and Dr. Kennan.

Communication, Service, and Marketing Committee. This Committee examines the quality, cost and levels of services provided to the shareholders of the Putnam funds. The Committee also reviews communications sent from the funds to their shareholders, including shareholder reports, prospectuses, newsletters and other materials. In addition, this Committee oversees marketing and sales communications of the funds' distributor. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Putnam (Chairperson), Smith and Stephens and Dr. Joskow.

Contract Committee. The Contract Committee reviews and evaluates at least annually all arrangements pertaining to (i) the engagement of Putnam Investment Management and its affiliates to provide services to the funds, (ii) the expenditure of the funds' assets for distribution purposes pursuant to the Distribution Plans of the funds, and (iii) the engagement of other persons to provide material services to the funds, including in particular those instances where the cost of services is shared between the funds and Putnam Investment Management and its affiliates or where Putnam Investment Management or its affiliates have a material interest. The Committee recommends to the Trustees such changes in arrangements that it deems appropriate. After review and evaluation, the Committee recommends to the Trustees the proposed organization of new fund products, and proposed structural changes to existing funds. The Committee is comprised exclusively of Independent Trustees. The Committee currently consists of Ms. Baxter (Chairperson), Messrs. Curtis, Jackson, and Mullin and Dr. Kennan.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Distributions Committee. This Committee oversees all fund distributions and the management of the closed-end funds. In regard to distributions, the Committee approves the amount and timing of distributions paid by all the funds to the shareholders when the Trustees are not in session. This Committee also meets regularly with representatives of Putnam Investments to review distribution levels and the funds' distribution policies. Its oversight of the closed-end funds includes (i) investment performance, (ii) trading activity, (iii) determinations with respect to sunroof provisions, (iv) disclosure practices, and (v) the use of leverage. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Patterson (Chairperson) and Jackson and Dr. Joskow.

Executive Committee. The functions of the Executive Committee are twofold. The first is to ensure that the funds' business may be conducted at times when it is not feasible to convene a meeting of the Trustees or for the Trustees to act by written consent. The Committee may exercise any or all of the power and authority of the Trustees when the Trustees are not in session. The second is to establish annual and ongoing goals, objectives and priorities for the Board of Trustees and to insure coordination of all efforts between the Trustees and Putnam Investments on behalf of the shareholders of the Putnam funds. The Committee currently consists of Messrs. Hill (Chairman), Jackson, and Putnam, Dr. Joskow and Ms. Baxter.

Investment Oversight Committees. These Committees regularly meet with investment personnel of Putnam Investment Management to review the investment performance and strategies of the Putnam funds in light of their stated investment objectives and policies. Investment Oversight Committee A currently consists of Ms. Baxter (Acting Chairperson), and Mr. Smith. Investment Oversight Committee B currently consists of Messrs. Curtis (Chairperson), Hill and Stephens. Investment Committee C currently consists of Messrs. Mullin (Chairperson) and Putnam, and Dr. Kennan. Investment Oversight Committee D currently consists of Messrs. Patterson (Chairperson) and Jackson and Dr. Joskow.

Each independent Trustee of the funds receives a fee for his or her services to each fund. Each independent Trustee of a fund also receives fees for serving as Trustee of other Putnam funds. Each independent Trustee of the Putnam funds receives an annual retainer fee and an additional meeting fee for each Trustees' meeting attended. Independent Trustees who serve on board committees receive additional fees for attendance at certain committee meetings and for special services rendered in that connection. All of the current independent Trustees are Trustees of all the Putnam funds and receive fees for their services from each Putnam fund. Mr. Putnam also receives the foregoing fees for his service as Trustee of each Putnam fund. For details of Trustees' fees paid by each fund and information concerning retirement guidelines for the Trustees, see "Charges and expenses."

The Agreement and Declaration of Trust of each fund provides that the fund will indemnify its Trustees and officers against liabilities and expenses incurred in connection with litigation in which they may be involved because of their offices with the fund, except if it is determined in the manner specified in the Agreement and Declaration of Trust that they have not acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that their actions were in the best interests of the fund or that such indemnification would relieve any officer or Trustee of any liability to the fund or its shareholders by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of his or her duties. Each fund, at its expense, provides liability insurance for the benefit of its Trustees and officers.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Putnam Management and its affiliates

Putnam Management is one of America's oldest and largest money management firms. Putnam Management's staff of experienced portfolio managers and research analysts selects securities and constantly supervises the fund's portfolio. By pooling an investor's money with that of other investors, a greater variety of securities can be purchased than would be the case individually; the resulting diversification helps reduce investment risk. Putnam Management has been managing mutual funds since 1937.

Putnam Management is a subsidiary of Putnam Management Trust, a Massachusetts business trust owned by Putnam LLC, which is also the parent company of Putnam Retail Management, Putnam Advisory Company, LLC (a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Putnam Advisory Company Trust) and Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company. Putnam LLC, which generally conducts business under the name Putnam Investments, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Investments Trust, a holding company that, except for a minority stake owned by employees, is owned by Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc., a publicly-owned holding company whose principal businesses are international insurance and reinsurance brokerage, employee benefit consulting and investment management.

Trustees and officers of the funds who are also officers of Putnam Management or its affiliates or who are stockholders of Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. will benefit from the advisory fees, sales commissions, distribution fees, custodian fees and transfer agency fees paid or allowed by each fund.

The Management Contract

Under a Management Contract between each fund and Putnam Management, subject to such policies as the Trustees may determine, Putnam Management, at its expense, furnishes continuously an investment program for the fund and makes investment decisions on behalf of the fund. Subject to the control of the Trustees and under a Management Contract for each fund, Putnam Management also manages, supervises and conducts the other affairs and business of each fund, furnishes office space and equipment, provides bookkeeping and clerical services (including determination of the fund's net asset value, but excluding shareholder accounting services) and places all orders for the purchase and sale of the fund's portfolio securities. Putnam Management may place fund portfolio transactions with broker-dealers that furnish Putnam Management, without cost to it, certain research, statistical and quotation services of value to Putnam Management and its affiliates in advising the fund and other clients. In so doing, Putnam Management may cause a fund to pay greater brokerage commissions than it might otherwise pay.

For details of Putnam Management's compensation under the Management Contract, see "Charges and expenses." Putnam Management's compensation under the Management Contract may be reduced in any year if a fund's expenses exceed the limits on investment company expenses imposed by any statute or regulatory authority of any jurisdiction in which shares of the fund are qualified for offer or sale. The term "expenses" is defined in the statutes or regulations of such jurisdictions, and generally excludes brokerage commissions, taxes, interest, extraordinary expenses and, if a fund has a distribution plan, payments made under such plan.

Under the Management Contract, Putnam Management may reduce its compensation to the extent that a fund's expenses exceed such lower

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

expense limitation as Putnam Management may, by notice to the fund, declare to be effective. The expenses subject to this limitation are exclusive of brokerage commissions, interest, taxes, deferred organizational and extraordinary expenses and, if the fund has a distribution plan, payments required under such plan. For the purpose of determining any such limitation on Putnam Management's compensation, expenses of a fund shall not reflect the application of commissions or cash management credits that may reduce designated fund expenses. The terms of any such expense limitation from time to time in effect are described in the Prospectus.

In addition to the fee paid to Putnam Management, each fund reimburses Putnam Management for the compensation and related expenses of certain officers of the fund and their assistants who provide certain administrative services for the fund and the other Putnam funds, each of which bears an allocated share of the foregoing costs. The aggregate amount of all such payments and reimbursements is determined annually by the Trustees.

The amount of this reimbursement for each fund's most recent fiscal year is included in "Charges and Expenses." Putnam Management pays all other salaries of officers of each fund. Each fund pays all expenses not assumed by Putnam Management including, without limitation, auditing, legal, custodial, investor servicing and shareholder reporting expenses. Each fund pays the cost of typesetting for its prospectuses and the cost of printing and mailing any prospectuses sent to its shareholders.

The Management Contract provides that Putnam Management shall not be subject to any liability to a fund or to any shareholder of a fund for any act or omission in the course of or connected with rendering services to a fund in the absence of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of its duties on the part of Putnam Management.

The Management Contract may be terminated without penalty by vote of the Trustees or the shareholders of each fund, or by Putnam Management, on 30 days' written notice. It may be amended only by a vote of the shareholders of a fund. The Management Contract also terminates without payment of any penalty in the event of its assignment. The Management Contract provides that it will continue in effect only so long as such continuance is approved at least annually by vote of either the Trustees or the shareholders, and, in either case, by a majority of the Trustees who are not "interested persons" of Putnam Management or the applicable fund. In each of the foregoing cases, the vote of the shareholders is the affirmative vote of a "majority of the outstanding voting securities" as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940.

In considering the Management Contract, the Trustees consider numerous factors they believe to be relevant, including the advisor's research and decision-making processes, the methods adopted to assure compliance with the fund's investment objectives, policies and restrictions; the level of research required to select the securities appropriate for investment by the fund; the education, experience and number of advisory personnel; the level of skill and effort required to manage a fund; the value of services provided by the advisor; the economies and diseconomies of scale reflected in the management fee; the advisor's profitability; the financial condition and stability of the advisor; the advisor's trade allocation methods; the standards and performance in seeking best execution; allocation for brokerage and research and use of soft dollars; and a fund's total return performance compared with its peers. Putnam has established several management fee categories to fit the particular characteristics of different types of funds.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

The nature and complexity of international and global funds generally makes these funds more research intensive than funds that invest mainly in U.S. companies, due to the greater difficulty of obtaining information regarding the companies in which a fund invests, and the governmental, economic and market conditions of the various countries outside of the U.S. In addition, trade execution and settlement may be more costly than in the U.S.

Conversely, the research intensity for a U.S. money market or bond fund is typically less than for a international or global fund or a U.S. equity fund due to the more ready availability of information regarding the issuer, the security, the accessibility of the trading market and the typically lower trading and execution costs. See "Portfolio Transactions - Brokerage and Research Services."

The Administrative Services Contract

High Income Opportunities Trust pays Putnam Management a quarterly administrative service fee at the annual rate of 0.25% of its average net asset value pursuant to an Administrative Services Contract between the fund and Putnam Management. Under the terms and conditions of the Administrative Services Contract, the fund reimburses Putnam Management for the compensation and related expenses of certain officers of the fund and their assistants who provide certain administrative services for the fund and the other Putnam funds, each of which bears an allocated share of the foregoing costs. The aggregate amount of all such payments and reimbursements is determined annually by the Trustees.

Portfolio Transactions

Investment decisions. Investment decisions for a fund and for the other investment advisory clients of Putnam Management and its affiliates are made with a view to achieving their respective investment objectives. Investment decisions are the product of many factors in addition to basic suitability for the particular client involved. Thus, a particular security may be bought or sold for certain clients even though it could have been bought or sold for other clients at the same time. Likewise, a particular security may be bought for one or more clients when one or more other clients are selling the security. In some instances, one client may sell a particular security to another client. It also sometimes happens that two or more clients simultaneously purchase or sell the same security, in which event each day's transactions in such security are, insofar as possible, averaged as to price and allocated between such clients in a manner which in Putnam Management's opinion is equitable to each and in accordance with the amount being purchased or sold by each. There may be circumstances when purchases or sales of portfolio securities for one or more clients will have an adverse effect on other clients.

Brokerage and research services. Transactions on U.S. stock exchanges, commodities markets and futures markets and other agency transactions involve the payment by a fund of negotiated brokerage commissions. Such commissions vary among different brokers. A particular broker may charge different commissions according to such factors as the difficulty and size of the transaction. Transactions in foreign investments often involve the payment of fixed brokerage commissions, which may be higher than those in the United States. Each fund pays commissions on certain securities traded in the over-the-counter markets. In underwritten offerings, the price paid by a fund includes a disclosed, fixed commission or discount retained by the underwriter or dealer. It is anticipated that most purchases and sales of securities by funds

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

investing primarily in tax-exempt securities and certain other fixed-income securities will be with the issuer or with underwriters of or dealers in those securities, acting as principal. Accordingly, those funds would not ordinarily pay significant brokerage commissions with respect to securities transactions. See "Charges and expenses" for information concerning commissions paid by each fund.

It has for many years been a common practice in the investment advisory business for advisers of investment companies and other institutional investors to receive brokerage and research services (as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "1934 Act")) from broker-dealers that execute portfolio transactions for the clients of such advisers and from third parties with which such broker-dealers have arrangements. Consistent with this practice, Putnam Management receives brokerage and research services and other similar services from many broker-dealers with which Putnam Management places the fund's portfolio transactions and from third parties with which these broker-dealers have arrangements. These services include such matters as economic analysis, investment research and database services, industry and company reviews, evaluations of investments, recommendations as to the purchase and sale of investments, performance measurement services, subscriptions, pricing services, quotation services, news services and computer equipment (investment-related hardware and software) utilized by Putnam Management's managers and analysts. Where the services referred to above are used by Putnam Management not exclusively for research purposes, Putnam Management, based upon its own allocations of expected use, bears that portion of the cost of these services which directly relates to their non-research use. Some of these services are of value to Putnam Management and its affiliates in advising various of their clients (including the fund), although not all of these services are necessarily useful and of value in managing the fund. The management fee paid by a fund is not reduced because Putnam Management and its affiliates receive these services even though Putnam Management might otherwise be required to purchase some of these services for cash.

Putnam Management places all orders for the purchase and sale of portfolio investments for each fund and buys and sells investments for each fund through a substantial number of brokers and dealers. In so doing, Putnam Management uses its best efforts to obtain for the fund the most favorable price and execution available, except to the extent it may be permitted to pay higher brokerage commissions as described below. In seeking the most favorable price and execution, Putnam Management, having in mind each fund's best interests, considers all factors it deems relevant, including, by way of illustration, price, the size of the transaction, the nature of the market for the security or other investment, the amount of the commission, the timing of the transaction taking into account market prices and trends, the reputation, experience and financial stability of the broker-dealer involved and the quality of service rendered by the broker-dealer in other transactions.

As permitted by Section 28(e) of the 1934 Act, and by the Management Contract, Putnam Management may cause a fund to pay a broker-dealer which provides "brokerage and research services" (as defined in the 1934 Act) to Putnam Management an amount of disclosed commission for effecting securities transactions on stock exchanges and other transactions for the fund on an agency basis in excess of the commission which another broker-dealer would have charged for effecting that transaction. Putnam Management's authority to cause a fund to pay any such greater commissions is subject to such policies as the Trustees may adopt from time to time. Putnam Management does not currently intend to cause the funds to make such payments. It is the position of the staff

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

of the Securities and Exchange Commission that Section 28(e) does not apply to the payment of such greater commissions in "principal" transactions. Accordingly Putnam Management will use its best effort to obtain the most favorable price and execution available with respect to such transactions, as described above.

The Management Contract provides that commissions, fees, brokerage or similar payments received by Putnam Management or an affiliate in connection with the purchase and sale of portfolio investments of each fund, less any direct expenses approved by the Trustees, shall be recaptured by the fund through a reduction of the fee payable by the fund under the Management Contract. Putnam Management seeks to recapture for the fund soliciting dealer fees on the tender of the fund's portfolio securities in tender or exchange offers. Any such fees which may be recaptured are likely to be minor in amount.

Personal Investments by Employees of Putnam Management and Officers and Trustees of the Funds

Employees of Putnam Management and officers and Trustees of the funds are subject to significant restrictions on engaging in personal securities transactions. These restrictions are set forth in the Codes of Ethics adopted by Putnam Management (The Putnam Investments' Code of Ethics) and by the funds (the Putnam Funds' Code of Ethics). The Putnam Investments' Code of Ethics and the Putnam Funds' Code of Ethics, in accordance with Rule 17j-1 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, contain provisions and requirements designed to identify and address certain conflicts of interest between personal investment activities and the interests of the fund.

The Putnam Investments' Code of Ethics does not prohibit personnel from investing in securities that may be purchased or held by the funds. However, the Putnam Investments' Code, consistent with standards recommended by the Investment Company Institute's Advisory Group on Personal Investing and requirements established by Rule 17j-1, among other things, prohibits personal securities investments without pre-clearance, imposes time periods during which personal transactions may not be made in certain securities by employees with access to investment information, and requires the timely submission of broker confirmations and quarterly reporting of personal securities transactions. Additional restrictions apply to portfolio managers, traders, research analysts and others involved in the investment advisory process.

The Putnam Funds' Code of Ethics incorporates and applies the restrictions of Putnam Investments' Code of Ethics to officers and Trustees of the funds who are affiliated with Putnam Investments. The Putnam Funds' Code does not prohibit unaffiliated officers and Trustees from investing in securities that may be held by the funds; however, the Putnam Funds' Code regulates the personal securities transactions of unaffiliated Trustees of the funds, including limiting the time periods during which they may personally buy and sell certain securities and requiring them to submit reports of personal securities transactions under certain circumstances.

The funds' Trustees, in compliance with Rule 17j-1, approved Putnam Investments' and the Putnam Funds' Codes of Ethics and are required to approve any material changes to these Codes. The Trustees also provide continued oversight of personal investment policies and annually evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the Codes of Ethics. You may review and copy the Codes of Ethics at the SEC's public reference room at 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. You may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

for information about the operation of the public reference room. You may obtain copies of this information, with payment of a duplication fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov, or by writing the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, D.C. 20549-0102. You may also access this information on the EDGAR Database on the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

Investor Servicing Agent and Custodian

Putnam Investor Services, a division of Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company ("PFTC"), is the funds' investor servicing agent (transfer, plan and dividend disbursing agent), for which it receives fees that are paid monthly by each fund as an expense of each fund's shareholders. The fee paid to Putnam Investor Services is determined on the basis of the number of shareholder accounts and the assets of each fund.

PFTC is the custodian of each fund's assets. In carrying out its duties under its custodian contract, PFTC may employ one or more subcustodians whose responsibilities include safeguarding and controlling each fund's cash and securities, handling the receipt and delivery of securities and collecting interest and dividends on each fund's investments. PFTC and any subcustodians employed by it have a lien on the securities of each fund (to the extent permitted by each fund's investment restrictions) to secure charges and any advances made by such subcustodians at the end of any day for the purpose of paying for securities purchased by a fund. Each fund expects that such advances will exist only in unusual circumstances. Neither PFTC nor any subcustodian determines the investment policies of each fund or decides which securities each fund will buy or sell. PFTC pays the fees and other charges of any subcustodians employed by it. Each fund pays PFTC an annual fee based on each fund's assets, securities transactions and securities holdings and reimburses PFTC for certain out-of-pocket expenses incurred by it or any subcustodian employed by it in performing custodial services.

Each fund may from time to time pay custodial or investor servicing agent expenses in full or in part through the placement by Putnam Management of each fund's portfolio transactions with the subcustodians or with a third party broker having an agreement with the subcustodians. See "Charges and expenses" for information on fees and reimbursements for investor servicing and custody received by PFTC. The fees may be reduced by credits allowed by PFTC.

Counsel to the Funds and the Independent Trustees

Ropes & Gray LLP serves as counsel to the funds and the independent Trustees, and is located at One International Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02110.

PROXY VOTING GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

The Trustees of the Putnam funds have established proxy voting guidelines and procedures that govern the voting of proxies for the securities held in the funds' portfolios. The proxy voting guidelines summarize the funds' positions on various issues of concern to investors, and provide direction to the proxy voting service used by the funds as to how fund portfolio securities should be voted on proposals dealing with particular issues. The proxy voting procedures explain the role of the Trustees, Putnam Management, the proxy voting service and the funds' proxy coordinator in the proxy voting process, describe the procedures for referring matters involving investment considerations to the investment personnel of Putnam Management and describe the procedures for handling potential conflicts of interest. The Putnam funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures are

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

included in this SAI as Appendix A. Information regarding how the funds voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the 12-month period ended June 30, 2004 is available on the Putnam Individual Investor Web site, www.putnam.com/individual, and on the SEC's Web site at www.sec.gov. If you have questions about finding forms on the SEC's Web site, you may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also obtain the Putnam funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures by calling Putnam's Shareholder Services at 1-800-225-1581.

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRMS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, 125 High Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, is the independent registered public accounting firm for High Income Bond Fund, providing audit services, tax return review and other tax consulting services and assistance and consultation in connection with the review of various Securities and Exchange Commission filings for High Income Bond Fund. KPMG LLP, 99 High Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, is the independent registered public accounting firm for High Income Opportunities Trust, providing audit services, tax return review and other tax consulting services and assistance and consultation in connection with the review of various Securities and Exchange Commission filings for High Income Opportunities Trust. The following documents are incorporated by reference into this Statement of Additional Information: (1) the Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm and financial statements included in High Income Bond Fund's Annual Report for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2003, filed electronically on October 29, 2003 (File No. 811-05133), (ii) the unaudited financial highlights and financial statements included in High Income Bond Fund's Semi-Annual Report for the six months ended February 29, 2004, filed electronically on May 4, 2004 (File No. 811-05133) and (iii) the Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm and financial statements included in High Income Opportunities Trust's Annual Report for the fiscal year ended February 29, 2004, filed electronically on May 4, 2004 (File No. 811-07253). The audited financial statements for High Income Bond Fund and High Income Opportunities Trust incorporated by reference into this Statement of Additional Information have been so included and incorporated in reliance upon the reports of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and KPMG LLP, respectively, given on their authority as experts in auditing and accounting.

Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust

and

Putnam High Income Bond Fund

Proforma Combining Financial Statements
(Unaudited)

The accompanying unaudited proforma combining investment portfolio and statement of assets and liabilities assumes that the exchange described in the next paragraph occurred as of February 29, 2004, and the unaudited proforma combining statement of operations for the twelve months ended February 29, 2004 presents the results of operations of Putnam High Income Bond Fund as if the combination with Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust had been consummated at March 1, 2003. The proforma results of operations are not necessarily indicative of future operations or the actual results that would have occurred had the combination been consummated at March 1, 2003. These historical statements have been derived from Putnam High Income Bond Fund's and Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust's books and records utilized in

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

calculating daily net asset value at February 29, 2004, and for the twelve month period then ended.

The proforma statements give effect to the proposed transfer of all of the assets of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust to Putnam High Income Bond Fund in exchange for the assumption by Putnam High Income Bond Fund of all of the liabilities of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust and for a number of Putnam High Income Bond Fund's shares equal in value to the value of the net assets of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust transferred to Putnam High Income Bond Fund. Under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, the historical cost of investment securities will be carried forward to the surviving entity and the results of operations of Putnam High Income Bond Fund for pre-combination periods will not be restated. The proforma statement of operations does not reflect the expenses of either fund in carrying out its obligations under the Agreement and Plan of Reorganization.

The unaudited proforma combining statements should be read in conjunction with the separate financial statements of Putnam High Income Bond Fund and Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust incorporated by reference in this statement of additional information.

Putnam High Income Bond Fund
(Unaudited)

Pro Forma Combining
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
2/29/04

	Putnam High Income Bond Fund	Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust	Pro Forma Adjustments	P
<hr/>				
Assets				
Investments in securities, at value	\$120,865,185	\$75,317,156		\$196
Cash	290,964	63,810		
Dividends, interest and other receivables	1,310,228	841,634		2
Receivable for securities sold	275,772	185,468		
Receivable for open forward currency contracts	1,440	878		
Receivable for closed forward currency contracts	3,906	2,500		
Total assets	122,747,495	76,411,446		199
Liabilities				
Distributions payable to shareholders	637,975	426,972		1
Payable for securities purchased	550,560	354,732		
Payable for compensation of Manager	213,469	243,975		
Payable for investor servicing and custodian fees	31,983	26,480		
Payable for Trustee compensation and expenses	27,485	25,219		
Payable for administrative services	1,104	737		
Payable for open forward currency contracts	12	7		
Payable for closed forward currency contracts	19,890	12,149		
Collateral on securities loaned, at value	2,796,349	518,764		3
Other accrued expenses	56,976	24,380	84,639 B	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Total liabilities	4,335,803	1,633,415	84,639	6
Net assets	\$118,411,692	\$74,778,031	(84,639)	\$193

Common Shares				
Net assets	\$118,411,692	\$74,778,031	(84,639)	B \$193
Shares outstanding	13,825,527	3,712,567	5,021,046	C 22
Net asset value per share	\$8.56	\$20.14		

Cost of investments	\$110,242,660	\$69,504,531		\$179
Value of securities on loan	2,704,897	504,669		3

Proforma Combining
Statement of Operations
Twelve months ended February 29, 2004
(Unaudited)

	Putnam High Income Bond Fund	Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust	Pro Forma Adjustments	P

Investment Income				
Interest	7,447,217	\$5,033,320		\$12
Dividends	1,709,390	1,069,886		2
Securities lending	2,328	5,970		
Total investment income	9,158,935	6,109,176		15
Expenses:				
Compensation of Manager	809,138	929,310	\$(289,525)	A 1
Investor servicing and custodian fees	205,335	162,222	(81,056)	A
Compensation of Trustees and expenses	16,165	11,103	(5,010)	A
Administrative Services	6,730	4,656		
Auditing	65,127	39,765	(26,175)	A
Other Expenses	86,407	82,929	(30,305)	A

Total Expenses	1,188,902	1,229,985	(432,071)	1

Expense reduction	(2,083)	(2,543)	--	

Net expenses	1,186,819	1,227,442	(432,071)	1

Net investment income	7,972,116	4,881,734	432,071	13

Net realized gain on investments	3,506,020	2,177,134		5
Net realized loss on credit default contracts	(139,322)	(89,702)		
Net realized loss on foreign currency transactions	(48,164)	(30,543)		
Net unrealized appreciation of assets and liabilities in foreign currency during the year	2,447	1,670		
Net unrealized appreciation of investments				

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

and credit default contracts during the year	19,331,223	11,911,511		31
Net gain on investments	22,652,204	13,970,070		36
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$30,624,320	\$18,851,804	\$432,071	\$49

The Proforma Combining Investment Portfolio of Putnam High Income Bond Fund and Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust February 29, 2004 (unaudited)

	Putnam High Income Bond Fund	Putnam High Income Opportuni
Corporate bonds and notes (a)	Principal amount	41.0% Value Principal amount
Basic Materials		3.9%
Abitibi-Consolidated Finance LP company guaranty 7 7/8s, 2009	\$1,000	\$1,078
Acetex Corp. sr. notes 10 7/8s, 2009 (Canada)	95,000	104,500
AK Steel Corp. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2012	10,000	8,600
AK Steel Corp. company guaranty 7 7/8s, 2009	110,000	97,350
Appleton Papers, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 12 1/2s, 2008	80,000	91,000
Armco, Inc. sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2008	40,000	35,200
Avecia Group PLC company guaranty 11s, 2009 (United Kingdom)	55,000	47,025
Better Minerals & Aggregates Co. company guaranty 13s, 2009	75,000	54,000
Compass Minerals Group, Inc. company guaranty 10s, 2011	100,000	114,000
Compass Minerals International Inc. stepped-coupon zero % (12 3/4s, 12/15/07), 2012 (STP)	110,000	89,100
Equistar Chemicals LP notes 8 3/4s, 2009	32,000	32,720
Equistar Chemicals LP/Equistar Funding Corp. company guaranty 10 1/8s, 2008	219,000	237,600
Equistar Chemicals LP/Equistar Funding Corp. sr. notes 10 5/8s, 2011	55,000	59,675
Four M Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 12s, 2006	55,000	55,000
Georgia-Pacific Corp. bonds 7 3/4s, 2029	60,000	58,800
Georgia-Pacific Corp. debs. 7.7s, 2015	55,000	58,025
Georgia-Pacific Corp. sr. notes 7 3/8s, 2008	4,000	4,320
Gerdau Ameristeel Corp. sr. notes 10 3/8s, 2011 (Canada)	95,000	106,875
Hercules, Inc. company guaranty 11 1/8s, 2007	238,000	283,200
HMP Equity Holdings Corp. 144A sr. disc. notes zero %, 2008	161,000	85,330
Huntsman Advanced Materials, LLC 144A sec. notes 11s, 2010	75,000	84,375
Huntsman ICI Chemicals, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/8s, 2009	165,000	167,877
Huntsman ICI Holdings sr. disc. notes zero %, 2009	180,000	84,600
Huntsman International, LLC sr. sub. notes Ser. EXCH, 10 1/8s, 2009	EUR 10,000	11,926
Huntsman LLC 144A sec. notes 11 5/8s, 2010	\$55,000	57,475
ISP Chemco, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 1/4s, 2011	170,000	191,250
ISP Holdings, Inc. sec. sr. notes Ser. B, 10 5/8s, 2009	35,000	38,675
Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 10 7/8s, 2006 (In default) (NON)	10,000	8,950
Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp. sr. sub. notes 12 3/4s,		10,000

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

2003 (In default) (NON) (DEF)	120,000	17,700	85,000
Louisiana-Pacific Corp. sr. sub. notes 10 7/8s, 2008	4,000	4,690	4,000
Lyondell Chemical Co. bonds 11 1/8s, 2012	10,000	10,900	10,000
Lyondell Chemical Co. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2008	15,000	15,600	10,000
Lyondell Chemical Co. notes Ser. A, 9 5/8s, 2007	270,000	283,500	163,000
MDP Acquisitions PLC sr. notes 9 5/8s, 2012 (Ireland)	100,000	112,500	60,000
MDP Acquisitions PLC sub. notes 15 1/2s, 2013 (Ireland) (PIK)	49,559	56,993	32,637
Millennium America, Inc. 144A sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2008	20,000	21,700	10,000
Millennium America, Inc. company guaranty 7 5/8s, 2026	25,000	23,750	15,000
Millennium America, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/4s, 2008	155,000	168,175	100,000
Nalco Co. 144A sr. notes 7 3/4s, 2011	EUR 10,000	12,547	5,000
Nalco Co. 144A sr. notes 7 3/4s, 2011	\$40,000	41,600	25,000
Nalco Co. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 7/8s, 2013	175,000	183,750	120,000
Nalco Co. 144A sr. sub. notes 9s, 2013	EUR 10,000	12,547	5,000
Noveon International company guaranty Ser. B, 11s, 2011	\$30,000	34,350	20,000
OM Group, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/4s, 2011	2,000	2,100	1,000
Pacifica Papers, Inc. sr. notes 10s, 2009 (Canada)	45,000	47,306	30,000
PCI Chemicals Canada sec. sr. notes 10s, 2008 (Canada)	75,504	73,616	73,318
Pioneer Cos., Inc. sec. FRN 4.663s, 2006 (acquired various dates from 9/11/97 to 1/7/00, cost \$43,530, \$41,317, and \$84,847, respectively) (RES)	23,909	23,311	23,216
Potlatch Corp. company guaranty 10s, 2011	128,000	144,000	92,000
Resolution Performance Products, LLC 144A sec. notes 8s, 2009	25,000	25,250	15,000
Resolution Performance Products, LLC sr. notes 9 1/2s, 2010	30,000	30,000	20,000
Rhodia SA unsub. Ser. EMTN, 6 1/4s, 2005 (France)	EUR 30,000	36,524	20,000
Salt Holdings Corp. 144A sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (12s, 6/1/06), 2013 (STP)	\$40,000	30,400	25,000
SGL Carbon SA 144A sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2012 (Luxembourg)	EUR 65,000	82,970	40,000
Steel Dynamics, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2009	\$80,000	88,800	55,000
Sterling Chemicals, Inc. sec. notes 10s, 2007 (PIK)	--	--	17,046
Stone Container Corp. sr. notes 8 3/8s, 2012	45,000	48,881	50,000
Stone Container Corp. sr. notes 9 3/4s, 2011	120,000	133,800	50,000
Tembec Industries, Inc. company guaranty 8 5/8s, 2009 (Canada)	--	--	3,000
Texas Petrochemical Corp. sr. sub. notes 11 1/8s, 2006 (In default) (NON)	30,000	12,900	20,000
Ucar Finance, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/4s, 2012	305,000	347,700	85,000
United Agri Products 144A sr. notes 8 1/4s, 2011	55,000	56,925	35,000
United States Steel Corp. sr. notes 9 3/4s, 2010	80,000	90,200	50,000
WCI Steel, Inc. sr. notes Ser. B, 10s, 2004 (In default) (NON)	130,000	63,700	90,000
Weirton Steel Corp. sr. notes 10s, 2008 (In default) (NON)	5,500	1,980	5,500
Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. sr. notes 5s, 2011	11,459	7,563	11,459
Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. sr. notes 6s, 2010	5,729	3,724	5,729
WHX Corp. sr. notes 10 1/2s, 2005	40,000	36,400	40,000

		4,656,878	
Capital Goods		4.4%	
AEP Industries, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 7/8s, 2007	115,000	118,163	73,000
AGCO Corp. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2008	190,000	208,050	120,000
Air2 US 144A sinking fund Ser. D, 12.266s, 2020 (In default) (NON)	96,410	1	96,410
Allied Waste North America, Inc. 144A sec. notes 6 1/2s, 2010	75,000	76,125	45,000
Allied Waste North America, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 7 5/8s, 2006	120,000	127,200	110,000
Allied Waste North America, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 1/2s, 2008	177,000	197,355	116,000
Allied Waste North America, Inc. company guaranty			

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Ser. B, 9 1/4s, 2012		230,000	259,325	163,000
Argo-Tech Corp. company guaranty 8 5/8s, 2007		124,000	123,690	81,000
Argo-Tech Corp. company guaranty Ser. D, 8 5/8s, 2007		150,000	149,625	100,000
BE Aerospace, Inc. sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2010		30,000	32,550	20,000
BE Aerospace, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 1/2s, 2008		85,000	84,788	40,000
BE Aerospace, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8 7/8s, 2011		47,000	45,943	49,000
BE Aerospace, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8s, 2008		40,000	38,000	30,000
Berry Plastics Corp. company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2012		32,000	37,120	17,000
Blount, Inc. company guaranty 13s, 2009		105,000	113,400	68,000
Blount, Inc. company guaranty 7s, 2005		125,000	127,500	81,000
Briggs & Stratton company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2011		111,000	131,535	72,000
Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc. debs. 7.4s, 2035		40,000	38,600	25,000
Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc. sr. notes 6 3/8s, 2008		40,000	41,200	30,000
Buhrmann US, Inc. company guaranty 12 1/4s, 2009		90,000	100,800	60,000
Crown Holdings SA notes 10 7/8s, 2013 (France)		70,000	81,550	45,000
Crown Holdings SA notes 9 1/2s, 2011 (France)		240,000	270,000	155,000
Decrane Aircraft Holdings Co. company guaranty Ser. B, 12s, 2008		60,000	39,600	60,000
Earle M. Jorgensen Co. sec. notes 9 3/4s, 2012		109,000	120,990	90,000
FIMEP SA sr. notes 10 1/2s, 2013 (France)		100,000	119,250	55,000
Flender Holdings 144A sr. notes 11s, 2010 (Denmark)	EUR	50,000	71,743	30,000
Flowserve Corp. company guaranty 12 1/4s, 2010		\$78,000	89,700	51,000
Fonda Group, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 1/2s, 2007		15,000	15,300	10,000
Hexcel Corp. sr. sub. notes 9 3/4s, 2009		130,000	136,175	85,000
Impress Metal Packaging Holding NV sr. sub. notes 9 7/8s, 2007 (Netherlands)	DEM	95,000	56,118	60,000
Invensys, PLC notes 9 7/8s, 2011 (United Kingdom)		\$105,000	103,054	65,000
Invensys, PLC sr. unsub. notes 5 1/2s, 2005 (United Kingdom)	EUR	35,000	44,307	20,000
K&F Industries, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 1/4s, 2007		\$16,000	16,520	12,000
K&F Industries, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 5/8s, 2010		70,000	78,225	45,000
L-3 Communications Corp. company guaranty 6 1/8s, 2013		40,000	41,100	40,000
L-3 Communications Corp. company guaranty 7 5/8s, 2012		50,000	55,500	50,000
Laidlaw International, Inc. 144A sr. notes 10 3/4s, 2011		195,000	223,763	125,000
Legrand SA debs. 8 1/2s, 2025 (France)		35,000	37,800	35,000
Manitowoc Co., Inc. (The) company guaranty 10 1/2s, 2012		12,000	13,650	9,000
Manitowoc Co., Inc. (The) company guaranty 10 3/8s, 2011	EUR	25,000	34,629	20,000
Manitowoc Co., Inc. (The) sr. notes 7 1/8s, 2013		\$30,000	31,500	20,000
Motors and Gears, Inc. sr. notes Ser. D, 10 3/4s, 2006		47,000	41,125	25,000
Owens-Brockway Glass company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2011		70,000	74,200	45,000
Owens-Brockway Glass company guaranty 8 1/4s, 2013		75,000	78,938	50,000
Owens-Brockway Glass company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2009		5,000	5,450	--
Owens-Brockway Glass sr. sec. notes 8 3/4s, 2012		102,000	111,945	70,000
Pliant Corp. sec. notes 11 1/8s, 2009		70,000	72,975	45,000
Roller Bearing Company of America company guaranty Ser. B, 9 5/8s, 2007		75,000	73,875	55,000
Sensus Metering Systems Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 5/8s, 2013		105,000	106,706	65,000
Sequa Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 8 7/8s, 2008		175,000	192,500	110,000
Siebe PLC 144A notes 7 1/8s, 2007 (United Kingdom)		20,000	19,750	15,000
Siebe PLC 144A sr. unsub. 6 1/2s, 2010 (United Kingdom)		--	--	5,000
Solo Cup Co. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 1/2s, 2014		65,000	67,763	40,000
TD Funding Corp. company guaranty 8 3/8s, 2011		70,000	73,850	45,000
Tekni-Plex, Inc. 144A sr. sec. notes 8 3/4s, 2013		65,000	67,763	40,000
Tekni-Plex, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 12 3/4s, 2010		170,000	183,600	110,000
Terex Corp. company guaranty 9 1/4s, 2011		25,000	28,000	15,000
Terex Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 3/8s, 2011		46,000	52,095	36,000
Titan Corp. (The) 144A sr. sub. notes 8s, 2011		75,000	85,500	55,000
Trimas Corp. company guaranty 9 7/8s, 2012		88,000	95,040	51,000
Vought Aircraft Industries Inc. 144A sr. notes 8s, 2011		50,000	51,750	30,000

5,214,269

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Communication Services		3.6%	
Alamosa Delaware, Inc. 144A sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2012	105,000	100,275	65,000
Alamosa Delaware, Inc. company guaranty 11s, 2010	58,000	62,205	45,000
American Cellular Corp. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2009 (In default) (NON)	25,000	23,250	20,000
American Cellular Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 10s, 2011	120,000	120,600	80,000
American Tower Corp. 144A sr. notes 7 1/2s, 2012	55,000	52,800	35,000
American Tower Corp. sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2009	230,000	243,800	145,000
American Towers, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 7 1/4s, 2011	100,000	102,250	65,000
Asia Global Crossing, Ltd. sr. notes 13 3/8s, 2010 (Bermuda) (In default) (NON)	30,000	3,375	30,000
Centennial Cellular Operating Co. company guaranty 10 1/8s, 2013	240,000	252,000	160,000
Cincinnati Bell Telephone Co. company guaranty 6.3s, 2028	20,000	18,900	15,000
Cincinnati Bell, Inc. company guaranty 7 1/4s, 2013	100,000	103,000	65,000
Cincinnati Bell, Inc. notes 7 1/4s, 2023	50,000	50,000	30,000
Cincinnati Bell, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 3/8s, 2014	60,000	63,150	35,000
Crown Castle International Corp. sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2011	121,000	133,100	86,000
Dobson Communications Corp. sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2013	185,000	159,563	95,000
Eircom Funding notes 8 1/4s, 2013 (Ireland)	35,000	38,850	25,000
Fairpoint Communications, Inc. sr. sub. notes 12 1/2s, 2010	50,000	54,000	35,000
Inmarsat Finance PLC 144A company guaranty 7 5/8s, 2012 (United Kingdom)	125,000	131,250	80,000
iPCS, Inc. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (14s, 7/15/05), 2010 (In default) (NON) (STP)	140,000	38,150	130,000
IWO Holdings, Inc. company guaranty 14s, 2011 (In default) (NON)	40,000	10,800	33,000
Level 3 Communications, Inc. sr. notes 9 1/8s, 2008	10,000	8,325	5,000
Level 3 Financing Inc. 144A sr. notes 10 3/4s, 2011	165,000	165,825	105,000
Madison River Capital Corp. sr. notes 13 1/4s, 2010	95,000	104,500	65,000
Nextel Communications, Inc. sr. notes 7 3/8s, 2015	210,000	226,275	130,000
Nextel Communications, Inc. sr. notes 9 1/2s, 2011	53,000	59,493	45,000
Nextel Communications, Inc. sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2009	5,000	5,431	2,000
Nextel Partners, Inc. sr. notes 11s, 2010	75,000	83,063	45,000
Nextel Partners, Inc. sr. notes 12 1/2s, 2009	41,000	47,560	27,000
Nextel Partners, Inc. sr. notes 8 1/8s, 2011	175,000	184,625	115,000
PanAmSat Corp. company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2012	74,000	76,960	46,000
Qwest Communications International, Inc. 144A sr. notes 7 1/2s, 2014	180,000	170,100	115,000
Qwest Corp. 144A notes 8 7/8s, 2012	370,000	421,800	245,000
Qwest Services Corp. 144A notes 14s, 2014	50,000	60,500	35,000
Rogers Cantel, Ltd. debs. 9 3/8s, 2008 (Canada)	5,000	5,250	5,000
Rogers Wireless, Inc. sec. notes 9 5/8s, 2011 (Canada)	65,000	79,300	45,000
Rural Cellular Corp. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 5/8s, 2008	45,000	43,200	--
SBA Communications Corp. sr. notes 10 1/4s, 2009	25,000	25,063	15,000
SBA Telecommunications Inc. 144A sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (9 3/4s, 12/15/07), 2011 (STP)	45,000	31,050	30,000
Telus Corp. notes 7 1/2s, 2007 (Canada)	49,000	55,384	28,000
Telus Corp. notes 8s, 2011 (Canada)	184,000	219,725	120,000
Time Warner Telecom, Inc. 144A sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2014	50,000	49,625	35,000
TSI Telecommunication Services, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 12 3/4s, 2009	80,000	88,400	50,000
UbiquiTel Operating Co. 144A sr. notes 9 7/8s, 2011	50,000	48,625	35,000
UbiquiTel Operating Co. bonds stepped-coupon zero % (14s, 4/15/05), 2010 (STP)	52,000	48,880	35,000
US UnWired, Inc. company guaranty stepped-coupon Ser. B, zero % (13 3/8s, 11/1/04), 2009 (STP)	60,000	55,500	35,000
Western Wireless Corp. sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2013	145,000	152,250	95,000

		4,278,027	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Conglomerates		0.4%	
Tyco International Group SA 144A sr. notes 6s, 2013 (Luxembourg)	35,000	36,620	20,000
Tyco International Group SA company guaranty 6 3/4s, 2011 (Luxembourg)	20,000	22,093	12,000
Tyco International Group SA company guaranty 6 3/8s, 2005 (Luxembourg)	1,000	1,050	1,000
Tyco International Group SA company guaranty 6 7/8s, 2029 (Luxembourg)	165,000	172,771	90,000
Tyco International Group SA company guaranty 7s, 2028 (Luxembourg)	153,000	162,453	107,000
Tyco International Group SA notes 6 3/8s, 2011 (Luxembourg)	38,000	41,054	36,000

		436,041	
Consumer Cyclical		9.9%	
Ameristar Casinos, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2009	100,000	115,000	70,000
Argosy Gaming Co. 144A sr. sub. notes 7s, 2014	95,000	97,256	60,000
Argosy Gaming Co. sr. sub. notes 9s, 2011	50,000	55,750	10,000
ArvinMeritor, Inc. notes 8 3/4s, 2012	40,000	44,800	25,000
Asbury Automotive Group, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 8s, 2014	65,000	65,163	40,000
Autonation, Inc. company guaranty 9s, 2008	160,000	184,800	100,000
Beazer Homes USA, Inc. 144A sr. notes 6 1/2s, 2013	15,000	15,263	10,000
Beazer Homes USA, Inc. company guaranty 8 3/8s, 2012	20,000	22,200	15,000
Beazer Homes USA, Inc. company guaranty 8 5/8s, 2011	60,000	66,600	50,000
Building Materials Corp. company guaranty 8s, 2008	40,000	40,000	30,000
CanWest Media, Inc. sr. sub. notes 10 5/8s, 2011 (Canada)	40,000	45,300	50,000
Chumash Casino & Resort Enterprise 144A sr. notes 9s, 2010	50,000	54,688	35,000
Coinmach Corp. sr. notes 9s, 2010	158,000	168,270	99,000
Collins & Aikman Products company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2011	115,000	112,125	75,000
D.R. Horton, Inc. sr. notes 5 7/8s, 2013	130,000	131,300	85,000
D.R. Horton, Inc. sr. notes 6 7/8s, 2013	20,000	21,350	15,000
D.R. Horton, Inc. sr. notes 7 7/8s, 2011	30,000	34,350	20,000
Dana Corp. notes 10 1/8s, 2010	20,000	23,300	15,000
Dana Corp. notes 6 1/4s, 2004	30,000	30,000	20,000
Dana Corp. notes 7s, 2029	20,000	19,700	5,000
Dana Corp. notes 9s, 2011	100,000	120,250	66,000
Dayton Superior Corp. 144A sec. notes 10 3/4s, 2008	105,000	110,250	70,000
Delco Remy International, Inc. company guaranty 10 5/8s, 2006	65,000	65,325	31,000
Delco Remy International, Inc. company guaranty 11s, 2009	20,000	21,100	24,000
Dex Media West, LLC 144A sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2010	150,000	167,625	95,000
Dex Media, Inc. 144A disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (9s, 11/15/08), 2013 (STP)	70,000	46,725	45,000
Dex Media, Inc. 144A notes 8s, 2013	80,000	80,000	50,000
Dura Operating Corp. 144A sr. notes 8 5/8s, 2012	25,000	26,875	15,000
Dura Operating Corp. company guaranty Ser. D, 9s, 2009	81,000	82,620	53,000
FelCor Lodging LP company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2008 (R)	130,000	138,125	55,000
Gap, Inc. (The) notes 6.9s, 2007	56,000	61,880	36,000
Gaylord Entertainment Co. 144A sr. notes 8s, 2013	95,000	100,581	65,000
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. (The) notes 6 3/8s, 2008	30,000	25,800	15,000
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. (The) notes 7.857s, 2011	205,000	174,250	130,000
Herbst Gaming, Inc. sec. notes Ser. B, 10 3/4s, 2008	129,000	144,803	82,000
Hilton Hotels Corp. notes 7 5/8s, 2012	125,000	141,250	83,000
HMH Properties, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 7 7/8s, 2008	224,000	231,840	85,000
Hollinger Participation Trust 144A sr. notes 12 1/8s, 2010 (Canada) (PIK)	97,329	112,172	28,748
Hollywood Entertainment Corp. sr. sub. notes 9 5/8s, 2011	85,000	87,550	55,000
Hollywood Park, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 9 1/4s, 2007	92,000	94,990	64,000

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Horseshoe Gaming Holdings company guaranty 8 5/8s, 2009	215,000	226,556	140,000
Host Marriott LP company guaranty Ser. G, 9 1/4s, 2007 (R)	30,000	33,225	30,000
Host Marriott LP sr. notes 7 1/8s, 2013 (R)	30,000	30,975	15,000
Host Marriott LP sr. notes Ser. E, 8 3/8s, 2006 (R)	75,000	79,875	53,000
Icon Health & Fitness company guaranty 11 1/4s, 2012	131,000	149,995	88,000
IESI Corp. company guaranty 10 1/4s, 2012	99,000	107,910	66,000
Inn of the Mountain Gods 144A sr. notes 12s, 2010	65,000	70,688	45,000
Interface, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 9 1/2s, 2014	30,000	29,700	20,000
ITT Corp. debs. 7 3/8s, 2015	65,000	69,225	45,000
ITT Corp. notes 6 3/4s, 2005	100,000	104,750	65,000
JC Penney Co., Inc. debs. 7 1/8s, 2023	130,000	140,725	90,000
JC Penney Co., Inc. debs. 7.65s, 2016	11,000	12,320	17,000
JC Penney Co., Inc. debs. 7.95s, 2017	90,000	101,700	60,000
JC Penney Co., Inc. notes 8s, 2010	5,000	5,775	5,000
JC Penney Co., Inc. notes 9s, 2012	75,000	91,500	55,000
John Q. Hammons Hotels LP/John Q. Hammons Hotels Finance Corp. III 1st mtge. Ser. B, 8 7/8s, 2012	180,000	195,750	120,000
Jostens Holding Corp. 144A sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (10 1/4s, 12/1/08), 2013 (STP)	135,000	89,775	85,000
Jostens, Inc. sr. sub. notes 12 3/4s, 2010	80,000	91,200	62,000
K. Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc. 144A sr. notes 6 3/8s, 2014	55,000	54,588	35,000
K. Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/2s, 2007	60,000	70,500	40,000
K. Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc. company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2012	75,000	82,313	55,000
K. Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc. company guaranty 8s, 2012	30,000	32,550	15,000
K. Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc. sr. notes 6 1/2s, 2014	40,000	40,500	20,000
KB Home sr. sub. notes 9 1/2s, 2011	2,000	2,250	--
Lamar Media Corp. company guaranty 7 1/4s, 2013	80,000	86,400	50,000
Lear Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 7.96s, 2005	340,000	362,100	220,000
Lear Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 8.11s, 2009	32,000	37,600	19,000
Lear Corp. sr. notes 8 1/8s, 2008	EUR 30,000	42,300	15,000
Levi Strauss & Co. notes 7s, 2006	\$--	--	2,000
Levi Strauss & Co. sr. notes 12 1/4s, 2012	191,000	131,790	128,000
Mandalay Resort Group sr. notes 6 1/2s, 2009	60,000	63,300	35,000
Medianews Group Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 6 7/8s, 2013	140,000	144,200	85,000
Meristar Hospitality Corp. company guaranty 9 1/8s, 2011 (R)	70,000	72,450	45,000
Meristar Hospitality Corp. company guaranty 9s, 2008 (R)	80,000	82,600	50,000
Meritage Corp. company guaranty 9 3/4s, 2011	40,000	44,800	25,000
Meritor Automotive, Inc. notes 6.8s, 2009	55,000	57,063	35,000
Metaldyne Corp. 144A sr. notes 10s, 2013	85,000	87,975	55,000
MGM Mirage, Inc. company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2010	65,000	75,888	40,000
MGM Mirage, Inc. company guaranty 8 3/8s, 2011	1,000	1,153	1,000
Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority sr. notes 8 1/8s, 2006	95,000	102,125	20,000
Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority sr. sub. notes 6 3/8s, 2009	65,000	67,925	75,000
Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority sr. sub. notes 8 3/8s, 2011	30,000	33,075	20,000
Nortek Holdings, Inc. 144A sr. notes stepped-coupon zero % (10s, 11/15/07), 2011 (STP)	80,000	59,000	45,000
Nortek, Inc. 144A sr. notes Ser. B, 9 1/8s, 2007	20,000	20,608	20,000
Nortek, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 7/8s, 2011	55,000	61,325	40,000
Oxford Industries, Inc. 144A sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2011	60,000	63,900	40,000
Park Place Entertainment Corp. sr. notes 7 1/2s, 2009	25,000	27,813	5,000
Park Place Entertainment Corp. sr. notes 7s, 2013	65,000	70,688	45,000
Park Place Entertainment Corp. sr. sub. notes 8 7/8s, 2008	161,000	182,333	117,000
Penn National Gaming, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 11 1/8s, 2008	110,000	123,475	85,000
Penn National Gaming, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 7/8s, 2010	132,000	141,900	68,000
Phillips-Van Heusen Corp. 144A sr. notes 7 1/4s, 2011	30,000	30,150	20,000
Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 1/4s, 2012	65,000	64,533	40,000
Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 3/4s, 2013	75,000	77,438	45,000
PRIMEDIA, Inc. 144A sr. notes 8s, 2013	150,000	150,375	110,000
PRIMEDIA, Inc. company guaranty 7 5/8s, 2008	140,000	140,000	60,000
PRIMEDIA, Inc. company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2011	30,000	30,975	40,000
Reader's Digest Association, Inc. (The) 144A sr. notes			

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

6 1/2s, 2011	55,000	55,000	35,000
Resorts International Hotel and Casino, Inc. company guaranty 11 1/2s, 2009	103,000	113,815	55,000
RH Donnelley Finance Corp. I 144A sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2010	134,000	151,420	89,000
RH Donnelley Finance Corp. I 144A sr. sub. notes 10 7/8s, 2012	77,000	91,630	52,000
RH Donnelley Finance Corp. I company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2010	15,000	16,950	10,000
Riviera Holdings Corp. company guaranty 11s, 2010	80,000	84,000	50,000
Russell Corp. company guaranty 9 1/4s, 2010	82,000	86,510	52,000
Saks, Inc. 144A company guaranty 7s, 2013	175,000	182,438	111,000
Samsonite Corp. sr. sub. notes 10 3/4s, 2008	246,000	256,455	164,000
Schuler Homes, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/2s, 2011	64,000	74,640	40,000
Sealy Mattress Co. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 7/8s, 2007	265,000	274,275	135,000
Service Corp. International notes 6 1/2s, 2008	21,000	21,525	14,000
Service Corp. International notes 6 7/8s, 2007	5,000	5,225	--
Service Corp. International notes 6s, 2005	194,000	198,850	135,000
Service Corp. International notes 7.2s, 2006	10,000	10,475	5,000
Service Corp. International notes Ser. *, 7.7s, 2009	25,000	26,750	16,000
Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. company guaranty 7 3/8s, 2007	71,000	76,858	50,000
Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. company guaranty 7 7/8s, 2012	79,000	88,085	5,000
Station Casinos, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 6 7/8s, 2016	75,000	75,750	45,000
Station Casinos, Inc. sr. notes 8 3/8s, 2008	169,000	181,675	109,000
Technical Olympic USA, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/8s, 2012	45,000	51,075	30,000
Technical Olympic USA, Inc. company guaranty 9s, 2010	40,000	43,300	25,000
Tenneco Automotive, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 11 5/8s, 2009	30,000	32,400	20,000
Tenneco Automotive, Inc. sec. notes Ser. B, 10 1/4s, 2013	100,000	116,500	60,000
Tommy Hilfiger USA, Inc. company guaranty 6.85s, 2008	60,000	62,100	40,000
Trump Atlantic City Associates company guaranty 11 1/4s, 2006	283,000	232,060	143,000
Trump Casino Holdings, LLC company guaranty 11 5/8s, 2010	209,000	207,433	135,000
United Auto Group, Inc. company guaranty 9 5/8s, 2012	70,000	77,350	40,000
Venetian Casino Resort, LLC company guaranty 11s, 2010	101,000	116,150	82,000
Vertis, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 7/8s, 2009	115,000	117,300	76,000
Vertis, Inc. sec. notes 9 3/4s, 2009	65,000	69,225	35,000
Vertis, Inc. sub. notes 13 1/2s, 2009	100,000	98,750	60,000
Von Hoffman Press, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/4s, 2009	75,000	78,000	50,000
Von Hoffman Press, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/8s, 2007	40,000	39,400	10,000
Von Hoffman Press, Inc. debs. 13s, 2009 (PIK)	59,035	52,836	55,529
WCI Communities, Inc. company guaranty 10 5/8s, 2011	21,000	23,573	16,000
WCI Communities, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/8s, 2012	101,000	110,595	70,000
William Carter Holdings Co. (The) company guaranty Ser. B, 10 7/8s, 2011	59,000	68,440	40,000
WRC Media Corp. sr. sub. notes 12 3/4s, 2009	35,000	35,306	25,000

		11,736,947	
Consumer Staples		6.1%	
Adelphia Communications Corp. notes Ser. B, 9 7/8s, 2005 (In default) (NON)	10,000	9,650	10,000
Adelphia Communications Corp. sr. notes 10 1/4s, 2011 (In default) (NON)	--	--	60,000
Adelphia Communications Corp. sr. notes 10 7/8s, 2010 (In default) (NON)	20,000	19,500	20,000
Adelphia Communications Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 9 7/8s, 2007 (In default) (NON)	235,000	226,775	55,000
Affinity Group Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 9s, 2012	80,000	83,000	50,000
AMC Entertainment, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 8s, 2014	80,000	79,800	50,000

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

AMC Entertainment, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 1/2s, 2009	160,000	164,200	105,000
AMC Entertainment, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 1/2s, 2011	29,000	30,378	15,000
AMC Entertainment, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 7/8s, 2012	40,000	44,100	30,000
Armkel, LLC/Armkel Finance sr. sub. notes 9 1/2s, 2009	148,000	163,910	104,000
Atlantic Broadband Finance LLC 144A sr. sub. notes 9 3/8s, 2014	60,000	60,150	35,000
Brand Services, Inc. company guaranty 12s, 2012	136,000	159,120	88,000
British Sky Broadcasting PLC company guaranty 6 7/8s, 2009 (United Kingdom)	--	--	20,000
Capital Records, Inc. 144A company guaranty 8 3/8s, 2009	90,000	95,285	55,000
Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (11 3/4s, 1/15/05), 2010 (STP)	35,000	28,525	25,000
Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (11 3/4s, 5/15/06), 2011 (STP)	19,000	12,445	75,000
Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 10 1/4s, 2010	60,000	52,050	40,000
Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 10 3/4s, 2009	70,000	61,600	50,000
Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 10s, 2011	120,000	100,200	120,000
Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 11 1/8s, 2011	365,000	323,938	170,000
Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 8 5/8s, 2009	61,000	50,783	13,000
Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 9 5/8s, 2009	63,000	53,708	54,000
Cinemark USA, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9s, 2013	90,000	100,575	55,000
Cinemark USA, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8 1/2s, 2008	70,000	72,800	70,000
Constellation Brands, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8s, 2008	35,000	38,850	25,000
Constellation Brands, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8 1/8s, 2012	5,000	5,425	5,000
CSC Holdings, Inc. debs. Ser. B, 8 1/8s, 2009	3,000	3,270	--
CSC Holdings, Inc. sr. notes 7 7/8s, 2007	412,000	443,930	172,000
CSC Holdings, Inc. sr. sub. debs. 10 1/2s, 2016	60,000	68,850	70,000
Dean Foods Co. sr. notes 6 5/8s, 2009	30,000	31,800	15,000
Del Monte Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 9 1/4s, 2011	40,000	44,300	30,000
Del Monte Corp. sr. sub. notes 8 5/8s, 2012	80,000	88,400	50,000
DirecTV Holdings, LLC sr. notes 8 3/8s, 2013	175,000	199,063	110,000
Diva Systems Corp. sr. disc. notes Ser. B, 12 5/8s, 2008 (In default) (NON)	271,000	16,938	193,000
Doane Pet Care Co. sr. sub. debs. 9 3/4s, 2007	155,000	141,050	110,000
Dole Food Co. sr. notes 8 5/8s, 2009	25,000	26,875	20,000
Dole Food Co. sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2011	35,000	37,538	20,000
Domino's, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 1/4s, 2011	90,000	96,750	55,000
Eagle Family Foods company guaranty Ser. B, 8 3/4s, 2008	20,000	16,000	15,000
Echostar DBS Corp. 144A sr. notes 6 3/8s, 2011	220,000	233,200	145,000
Echostar DBS Corp. sr. notes 10 3/8s, 2007	30,000	32,775	20,000
Echostar DBS Corp. sr. notes 9 1/8s, 2009	42,000	47,460	36,000
Elizabeth Arden, Inc. 144A company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2014	35,000	36,138	25,000
Fleming Cos., Inc. company guaranty 10 1/8s, 2008 (In default) (NON)	154,000	25,410	99,000
Fleming Cos., Inc. sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2010 (In default) (NON)	9,000	1,485	6,000
Granite Broadcasting Corp. 144A sec. notes 9 3/4s, 2010	210,000	206,325	135,000
Gray Television, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/4s, 2011	52,000	57,850	35,000
Hasbro, Inc. notes 5.6s, 2005	110,000	114,923	70,000
Knology, Inc. 144A sr. notes 12s, 2009 (PIK)	2,287	2,321	2,287
Land O'Lakes, Inc. sr. notes 8 3/4s, 2011	71,000	61,770	39,000
Mediacom LLC/Mediacom Capital Corp. sr. notes 9 1/2s, 2013	50,000	50,750	30,000
North Atlantic Trading Co. 144A sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2012	55,000	56,375	35,000

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

ONO Finance PLC sr. notes 13s, 2009 (United Kingdom)	15,000	15,900	10,000
ONO Finance PLC sr. notes 14s, 2011 (United Kingdom)	35,000	39,025	20,000
ONO Finance PLC sr. notes Ser. REGS, 14s, 2011 (United Kingdom)	EUR 20,000	27,331	10,000
Pegasus Communications Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 9 3/4s, 2006	\$10,000	9,100	--
Pegasus Satellite sr. notes 12 3/8s, 2006	75,000	69,750	55,000
Pinnacle Foods Holding Corp. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 1/4s, 2013	55,000	57,613	35,000
Playtex Products, Inc. 144A secd. notes 8s, 2011	110,000	114,400	70,000
Playtex Products, Inc. company guaranty 9 3/8s, 2011	206,000	191,065	132,000
Premier International Foods PLC sr. notes 12s, 2009 (United Kingdom)	80,000	86,800	60,000
Quebecor Media, Inc. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (13 3/4s, 7/15/06), 2011 (Canada) (STP)	25,000	22,125	35,000
Quebecor Media, Inc. sr. notes 11 1/8s, 2011 (Canada)	196,000	223,440	121,000
Regal Cinemas, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 9 3/8s, 2012	49,000	55,125	26,000
Remington Arms Co., Inc. company guaranty 10 1/2s, 2011	95,000	99,275	70,000
Revlon Consumer Products sr. notes 9s, 2006	40,000	42,200	30,000
Rite Aid Corp. 144A notes 6 1/8s, 2008	125,000	120,313	80,000
Rite Aid Corp. 144A notes 6s, 2005	5,000	4,988	5,000
Rite Aid Corp. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2011	80,000	89,200	50,000
Rite Aid Corp. debs. 6 7/8s, 2013	5,000	4,750	5,000
Rite Aid Corp. notes 7 1/8s, 2007	10,000	10,050	5,000
Sbarro, Inc. company guaranty 11s, 2009	120,000	99,000	75,000
Scotts Co. (The) 144A sr. sub. notes 6 5/8s, 2013	35,000	36,225	20,000
Six Flags, Inc. 144A sr. notes 9 5/8s, 2014	125,000	131,875	80,000
Six Flags, Inc. sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2010	364,000	374,465	251,000
TeleWest Communications PLC debs. 11s, 2007 (United Kingdom) (In default) (NON)	290,000	192,850	200,000
Videotron Ltee company guaranty 6 7/8s, 2014 (Canada)	40,000	41,900	25,000
Vivendi Universal SA sr. notes 6 1/4s, 2008 (France)	135,000	144,788	90,000
Vivendi Universal SA sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2010 (France)	90,000	105,975	55,000
Williams Scotsman, Inc. company guaranty 9 7/8s, 2007	114,000	112,005	73,000
Young Broadcasting, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 3/4s, 2014	50,000	51,750	35,000
Young Broadcasting, Inc. company guaranty 10s, 2011	203,000	217,210	136,000
Yum! Brands, Inc. sr. notes 7.65s, 2008	105,000	120,225	60,000
Yum! Brands, Inc. sr. notes 7.7s, 2012	105,000	122,850	90,000
Yum! Brands, Inc. sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2006	39,000	43,485	25,000
Yum! Brands, Inc. sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2011	20,000	24,700	--
		-----	-----
		7,280,066	
Energy		3.0%	
Arch Western Finance, LLC 144A sr. notes 6 3/4s, 2013	110,000	116,050	65,000
Belden & Blake Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 9 7/8s, 2007	90,000	89,100	60,000
BRL Universal Equipment sec. notes 8 7/8s, 2008	90,000	96,075	50,000
Chesapeake Energy Corp. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2015	35,000	38,238	25,000
Chesapeake Energy Corp. company guaranty 9s, 2012	54,000	62,303	37,000
Chesapeake Energy Corp. sr. notes 7 1/2s, 2013	135,000	147,488	85,000
Comstock Resources, Inc. sr. notes 6 7/8s, 2012	75,000	75,844	45,000
Dresser, Inc. company guaranty 9 3/8s, 2011	100,000	108,500	65,000
El Paso Energy Partners LP company guaranty Ser. B, 8 1/2s, 2011	16,000	17,920	7,000
Encore Acquisition Co. company guaranty 8 3/8s, 2012	80,000	85,600	50,000
Exco Resources, Inc. 144A company guaranty 7 1/4s, 2011	80,000	82,200	50,000
Forest Oil Corp. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2014	105,000	110,250	80,000
Forest Oil Corp. sr. notes 8s, 2008	62,000	66,960	32,000
Hanover Compressor Co. sr. notes 8 5/8s, 2010	50,000	52,500	35,000
Hanover Compressor Co. sub. notes zero %, 2007	75,000	56,813	50,000
Hanover Equipment Trust sec. notes Ser. A, 8 1/2s, 2008	50,000	53,000	35,000
Hornbeck Offshore Services, Inc. sr. notes 10 5/8s, 2008	68,000	75,310	49,000

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Key Energy Services, Inc. sr. notes 6 3/8s, 2013	40,000	41,600	25,000
Leviathan Gas Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 3/8s, 2009	5,000	5,263	18,000
Massey Energy Co. 144A sr. notes 6 5/8s, 2010	75,000	77,250	45,000
Newfield Exploration Co. sr. notes 7 5/8s, 2011	80,000	90,000	70,000
Offshore Logistics, Inc. company guaranty 6 1/8s, 2013	65,000	63,050	45,000
Parker & Parsley Co. sr. notes 8 1/4s, 2007	20,000	22,862	20,000
Parker Drilling Co. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 1/8s, 2009	90,000	99,000	60,000
Pemex Project Funding Master Trust company guaranty 7 3/8s, 2014	250,000	271,250	160,000
Petro Geo-Services notes 10s, 2010 (Norway)	80,000	86,800	50,000
Pioneer Natural Resources Co. company guaranty 7.2s, 2028	16,000	17,647	11,000
Pioneer Natural Resources Co. company guaranty 9 5/8s, 2010	210,000	267,511	140,000
Plains All American Pipeline LP/Plains All American Finance Corp. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2012	55,000	64,488	37,000
Plains Exploration & Production Co. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 3/4s, 2012	80,000	89,400	50,000
Plains Exploration & Production Co. sr. sub. notes 8 3/4s, 2012	65,000	72,638	40,000
Pogo Producing Co. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8 1/4s, 2011	115,000	128,225	80,000
Pride International, Inc. sr. notes 10s, 2009	10,000	10,663	10,000
Pride Petroleum Services, Inc. sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2007	113,000	115,966	73,000
Seabulk International, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2013	80,000	84,000	50,000
Star Gas Partners LP/Star Gas Finance Co. 144A sr. notes 10 1/4s, 2013	25,000	27,750	15,000
Star Gas Partners LP/Star Gas Finance Co. sr. notes 10 1/4s, 2013	105,000	116,550	70,000
Swift Energy Co. sr. sub. notes 9 3/8s, 2012	25,000	27,875	20,000
Trico Marine Services, Inc. company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2012	125,000	88,750	77,000
Universal Compression, Inc. sr. notes 7 1/4s, 2010	20,000	21,400	15,000
Vintage Petroleum, Inc. sr. notes 8 1/4s, 2012	--	--	7,000
Vintage Petroleum, Inc. sr. sub. notes 7 7/8s, 2011	24,000	25,440	16,000
Westport Resources Corp. 144A company guaranty 8 1/4s, 2011	70,000	77,350	45,000
Westport Resources Corp. company guaranty 8 1/4s, 2011	90,000	99,450	60,000
XTO Energy, Inc. sr. notes 6 1/4s, 2013	45,000	49,106	25,000
XTO Energy, Inc. sr. notes 7 1/2s, 2012	52,000	60,710	37,000

		3,536,145	
Financial		0.7%	
Crescent Real Estate Equities LP notes 7 1/2s, 2007 (R)	35,000	36,925	25,000
Crescent Real Estate Equities LP sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2009 (R)	110,000	121,138	70,000
Finova Group, Inc. notes 7 1/2s, 2009	685,000	429,838	455,000
iStar Financial, Inc. sr. notes 6s, 2010 (R)	60,000	62,100	40,000
iStar Financial, Inc. sr. notes 7s, 2008 (R)	10,000	10,750	15,000
iStar Financial, Inc. sr. notes 8 3/4s, 2008 (R)	65,000	73,613	40,000
Western Financial Bank sub. debs. 9 5/8s, 2012	70,000	80,150	50,000

		814,514	
Health Care		2.3%	
Alderwoods Group, Inc. company guaranty 12 1/4s, 2009	189,000	210,026	121,000
Alliance Imaging, Inc. sr. sub. notes 10 3/8s, 2011	52,000	52,390	36,000
AmerisourceBergen Corp. company guaranty 7 1/4s, 2012	82,000	88,150	55,000
AmerisourceBergen Corp. sr. notes 8 1/8s, 2008	160,000	178,000	100,000
Ardent Health Services 144A sr. sub. notes 10s, 2013	135,000	149,850	90,000
Beverly Enterprises, Inc. sr. notes 9 5/8s, 2009	70,000	79,100	50,000
Biovail Corp. sr. sub. notes 7 7/8s, 2010 (Canada)	60,000	60,000	40,000
Dade Behring, Inc. company guaranty 11.91s, 2010	29,863	34,454	20,230
Extendicare Health Services, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2010	60,000	66,600	40,000

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/8s, 2009	70,000	79,013	45,000
HCA, Inc. debs. 7.19s, 2015	10,000	11,159	57,000
HCA, Inc. sr. notes 6.95s, 2012	40,000	44,017	30,000
Healthsouth Corp. notes 7 5/8s, 2012	175,000	167,563	114,000
Healthsouth Corp. sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2008	37,000	36,538	26,000
Healthsouth Corp. sr. notes 8 3/8s, 2011	37,000	36,723	24,000
IASIS Healthcare Corp. company guaranty 13s, 2009	61,000	68,320	41,000
IASIS Healthcare Corp. company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2009	10,000	10,700	5,000
Insight Health Services Corp. 144A company guaranty 9 7/8s, 2011	55,000	55,825	35,000
Magellan Health Services, Inc. sr. notes Ser. A, 9 3/8s, 2008	39,220	41,769	30,816
Mediq, Inc. debs. 13s, 2009 (In default) (NON)	90,000	9	85,000
MedQuest, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 11 7/8s, 2012	106,000	119,780	69,000
Multicare Companies, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9s, 2007 (In default) (NON)	255,000	1	245,000
NeighborCare, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 6 7/8s, 2013	50,000	52,000	30,000
Omnicare, Inc. sr. sub. notes 6 1/8s, 2013	90,000	92,250	65,000
Owens & Minor, Inc. company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2011	70,000	76,650	40,000
PacifiCare Health Systems, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2009	100,000	117,250	66,000
Province Healthcare Co. sr. sub. notes 7 1/2s, 2013	90,000	92,925	60,000
Stewart Enterprises, Inc. notes 10 3/4s, 2008	60,000	66,900	60,000
Tenet Healthcare Corp. notes 7 3/8s, 2013	45,000	41,625	35,000
Tenet Healthcare Corp. sr. notes 5 3/8s, 2006	195,000	185,250	95,000
Tenet Healthcare Corp. sr. notes 6 1/2s, 2012	10,000	8,825	5,000
Tenet Healthcare Corp. sr. notes 6 3/8s, 2011	170,000	150,875	90,000
Triad Hospitals, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 7s, 2013	150,000	155,250	100,000
Universal Hospital Services, Inc. 144A sr. notes 10 1/8s, 2011	75,000	80,063	45,000
Ventas Realty LP/Capital Corp. company guaranty 9s, 2012	40,000	45,500	25,000

		2,755,350	
Other		1.4%	
DJ TRAC-X NA HY T1 144A notes 7 3/8s, 2009	1,680,000	1,686,871	1,130,000
Technology		1.4%	
AMI Semiconductor, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2013	64,000	75,200	39,000
DigitalNet Holdings Inc. sr. notes 9s, 2010	68,000	73,270	46,000
Getronics NV sub. notes 13s, 2008 (Netherlands)	EUR 105,000	62,612	65,000
Iron Mountain, Inc. company guaranty 8 5/8s, 2013	\$211,000	229,990	144,000
Lucent Technologies, Inc. debs. 6.45s, 2029	135,000	110,363	90,000
Lucent Technologies, Inc. notes 5 1/2s, 2008	5,000	4,813	5,000
Nortel Networks Corp. notes 6 1/8s, 2006 (Canada)	170,000	175,950	100,000
ON Semiconductor Corp. company guaranty 13s, 2008	69,000	82,455	46,000
Peregrine Systems, Inc. 144A sr. notes 6 1/2s, 2007	141,555	137,308	90,595
SCG Holding & Semiconductor Corp. company guaranty 12s, 2009	75,000	81,469	45,000
SCG Holding Corp. 144A notes zero %, 2011	45,000	63,450	30,000
Seagate Technology Hdd Holdings company guaranty 8s, 2009 (Cayman Islands)	85,000	92,013	60,000
Viasystems, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 10 1/2s, 2011	55,000	59,950	35,000
Xerox Capital Trust I company guaranty 8s, 2027	105,000	102,900	70,000
Xerox Corp. company guaranty 9 3/4s, 2009	18,000	20,970	10,000
Xerox Corp. notes Ser. MTN, 7.2s, 2016	55,000	56,650	35,000
Xerox Corp. sr. notes 7 1/8s, 2010	95,000	101,413	65,000
Xerox Corp. sr. notes 7 5/8s, 2013	144,000	153,360	87,000

		1,684,136	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Transportation		0.7%	
Allied Holdings, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 5/8s, 2007	69,000	66,930	46,000
American Airlines, Inc. pass-through certificates Ser. 01-1, 6.817s, 2011	70,000	67,200	50,000
Calair, LLC/Calair Capital Corp. company guaranty 8 1/8s, 2008	140,000	124,600	100,000
Delta Air Lines, Inc. notes 7.9s, 2009	60,000	44,100	40,000
Delta Air Lines, Inc. pass-through certificates Ser. 00-1, 7.779s, 2005	50,000	46,582	40,000
Kansas City Southern Railway Co. company guaranty 7 1/2s, 2009	25,000	25,750	15,000
Kansas City Southern Railway Co. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2008	185,000	206,275	115,000
Navistar International Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 9 3/8s, 2006	97,000	107,428	60,000
Navistar International Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 8s, 2008	20,000	20,450	15,000
Northwest Airlines, Inc. company guaranty 7 5/8s, 2005	60,000	58,950	50,000
Northwest Airlines, Inc. company guaranty 8.52s, 2004	--	--	10,000
Travel Centers of America, Inc. company guaranty 12 3/4s, 2009	20,000	23,500	20,000
US Air, Inc. pass-through certificates Ser. 93-A3, 10 3/8s, 2013 (In default) (NON)	85,055	27,218	56,704

		818,983	
Utilities & Power		3.1%	
AES Corp. (The) 144A sec. notes 8 3/4s, 2013	150,000	165,188	90,000
AES Corp. (The) 144A sec. notes 9s, 2015	105,000	116,025	70,000
AES Corp. (The) sr. notes 8 3/4s, 2008	6,000	6,300	8,000
AES Corp. (The) sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2011	22,000	23,485	--
Allegheny Energy Supply 144A bonds 8 1/4s, 2012	130,000	128,700	80,000
Allegheny Energy Supply 144A sec. notes 10 1/4s, 2007	45,000	48,375	25,000
Calpine Canada Energy Finance company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2008 (Canada)	32,000	24,720	15,000
Calpine Corp. 144A sec. notes 8 1/2s, 2010	338,000	310,960	172,000
Calpine Corp. sr. notes 7 7/8s, 2008	105,000	79,800	100,000
Calpine Corp. sr. notes 8 3/4s, 2007	10,000	8,125	20,000
Calpine Corp. sr. notes 8 5/8s, 2010	10,000	7,625	5,000
CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. debs. 6 1/2s, 2008	35,000	37,744	25,000
CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 7 7/8s, 2013	20,000	22,981	5,000
CMS Energy Corp. 144A sr. notes 7 3/4s, 2010	25,000	25,875	15,000
CMS Energy Corp. pass-through certificates 7s, 2005	20,000	20,350	15,000
CMS Energy Corp. sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2011	55,000	58,988	15,000
CMS Energy Corp. sr. notes 8.9s, 2008	30,000	32,513	30,000
Dynegy Holdings, Inc. 144A sec. notes 10 1/8s, 2013	190,000	211,850	125,000
Dynegy Holdings, Inc. sr. notes 6 7/8s, 2011	15,000	13,088	10,000
Dynegy-Roseton Danskamme company guaranty Ser. A, 7.27s, 2010	50,000	50,000	40,000
Dynegy-Roseton Danskamme company guaranty Ser. B, 7.67s, 2016	75,000	71,250	50,000
Edison Mission Energy sr. notes 9 7/8s, 2011	110,000	115,500	75,000
El Paso Corp. sr. notes 7 3/8s, 2012	55,000	47,850	35,000
El Paso Corp. sr. notes Ser. MTN, 7 3/4s, 2032	115,000	92,288	85,000
El Paso Natural Gas Co. debs. 8 5/8s, 2022	25,000	26,313	15,000

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

El Paso Natural Gas Co. sr. notes Ser. A, 7 5/8s, 2010	25,000	25,563	15,000
El Paso Production Holding Co. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2013	160,000	150,400	100,000
Kansas Gas & Electric debs. 8.29s, 2016	30,000	31,050	20,000
Midland Funding II Corp. debs. Ser. A, 11 3/4s, 2005	69,650	74,525	54,987
Mirant Americas Generation, Inc. sr. notes 7.2s, 2008 (In default) (NON)	110,000	88,550	70,000
Mission Energy Holding Co. sec. notes 13 1/2s, 2008	40,000	41,500	25,000
Nevada Power Co. 144A 2nd mtge. 9s, 2013	90,000	99,900	55,000
Northwest Pipeline Corp. company guaranty 8 1/8s, 2010	135,000	147,150	90,000
NRG Energy, Inc. 144A sr. sec. notes 8s, 2013	260,000	268,450	165,000
Orion Power Holdings, Inc. sr. notes 12s, 2010	75,000	91,500	50,000
PG&E Corp. 144A sec. notes 6 7/8s, 2008	115,000	123,625	75,000
PG&E Gas Transmission Northwest sr. notes 7.1s, 2005	20,000	20,400	15,000
PSEG Energy Holdings, Inc. notes 7 3/4s, 2007	80,000	83,900	55,000
SEMCO Energy, Inc. sr. notes 7 3/4s, 2013	65,000	68,900	45,000
Teco Energy, Inc. notes 10 1/2s, 2007	40,000	46,350	25,000
Teco Energy, Inc. notes 7.2s, 2011	25,000	26,375	10,000
Teco Energy, Inc. notes 7s, 2012	70,000	72,713	40,000
Teco Energy, Inc. sr. notes 7 1/2s, 2010	50,000	53,813	30,000
Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co. debs. 7s, 2028	10,000	9,350	5,000
Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corp. debs. 7 1/4s, 2026	15,000	15,300	10,000
Utilicorp Canada Finance Corp. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2011 (Canada)	85,000	81,600	55,000
Utilicorp United, Inc. sr. notes 9.95s, 2011	25,000	26,500	20,000
Western Resources, Inc. sr. notes 9 3/4s, 2007	70,000	80,500	50,000
Williams Cos., Inc. (The) notes 7 5/8s, 2019	25,000	25,375	25,000
Williams Cos., Inc. (The) notes 8 1/8s, 2012	20,000	21,800	15,000
Williams Cos., Inc. (The) notes 8 3/4s, 2032	20,000	21,500	10,000
Williams Cos., Inc. (The) notes Ser. A, 6 3/4s, 2006	4,000	4,135	3,000
Williams Cos., Inc. (The) sr. notes 8 5/8s, 2010	95,000	103,550	60,000
Williams Holdings Of Delaware notes 6 1/2s, 2008	50,000	51,250	30,000
		-----	-----
		3,701,417	
Total Corporate bonds and notes (cost \$46,500,339, \$30,456,311 and \$76,956,650)		\$48,599,644	\$3
Convertible preferred stocks (a)		26.9%	
	Number of shares	Value	Number of shares
Basic Materials		2.8%	
Hercules Trust II 6.50% units cum. cv. pfd.	1,240	\$961,000	780
IMC Global, Inc. Ser. MEDS, \$3.75 cv. pfd.	12,604	1,019,664	7,873
Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. Ser. A, \$1.75 cum. cv. pfd.	52,400	1,277,250	32,720
		-----	-----
		3,257,914	
Capital Goods		3.3%	
Northrop Grumman Corp. Ser. B, \$7.00 cum. cv. pfd.	19,600	2,616,600	12,300
Owens-Illinois, Inc. \$2.375 cv. pfd.	39,100	1,334,288	24,670
		-----	-----
		3,950,888	
Communication Services		1.4%	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

CenturyTel, Inc. \$1.719 cv. pfd.	35,020	871,123	21,874
Crown Castle International Corp. \$3.125 cv. pfd.	16,123	735,612	10,091
Microcell Telecommunications, Inc. Ser. D, 9.00% cv. pfd. (Canada)	417	7,363	278
Pegasus Communications Corp. Ser. C, 6.50% cum. cv. pfd.	--	--	487

		1,614,098	
Consumer Cyclical		4.1%	
Baker Hughes, Inc. \$7.00 cv. pfd.	1,500,000	2	--
Radio One, Inc. 6.50% cum. cv. pfd.	1,350	1,442,223	850
Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. Ser. D, \$3.00 cv. pfd.	25,200	1,165,500	15,900
Tower Automotive Capital Trust \$3.375 cv. pfd.	31,700	895,525	19,800
TXI Capital Trust I \$2.75 cv. pfd.	30,300	1,318,050	18,800

		4,821,300	
Consumer Staples		0.5%	
Constellation Brands, Inc. Ser. A, \$1.438 cv. pfd.	20,120	601,085	12,567
Energy		1.7%	
Amerada Hess Corp. \$3.50 cv. pfd.	16,950	1,055,138	10,587
Hanover Compressor Capital Trust \$3.625 cv. pfd.	19,700	938,213	12,300

		1,993,351	
Financial		6.5%	
Capital One Financial Corp. \$3.125 cv. pfd.	19,200	998,400	12,000
Chubb Corp. (The) \$1.75 cv. pfd.	22,300	655,063	14,000
Decs Trust IX \$6.75 cv. pfd.	44,996	545,577	28,105
FelCor Lodging Trust, Inc. Ser. A, \$1.95 cum. cv. pfd. (R)	60,700	1,502,325	38,500
Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. (The) \$3.50 cv. pfd.	15,403	1,008,897	9,621
Host Marriott Financial Trust \$3.375 cv. pfd.	28,600	1,512,225	18,120
Provident Finance Group \$2.25 units cv. pfd.	21,130	763,321	13,420
UnumProvident Corp. \$2.063 cv. pfd.	20,500	656,000	12,850

		7,641,808	
Technology		1.7%	
Solectron Corp. \$1.813 units cv. pfd.	33,168	576,294	20,697
Xerox Corp. 6.25% cv. pfd.	10,800	1,425,600	6,800

		2,001,894	
Transportation		0.8%	
Teekay Shipping Corp. \$1.813 cv. pfd. (Marshall Islands)	25,869	1,002,424	16,158
Utilities & Power		4.2%	
El Paso Energy Capital Trust I \$2.375 cv. pfd.	25,250	795,375	13,700
ONEOK, Inc. \$2.125 units cv. pfd.	20,000	617,500	14,000
Public Service Enterprise Group, Inc. \$5.125 cv. pfd.	9,000	574,875	5,640
Sempra Energy \$2.125 units cv. pfd.	40,900	1,175,875	25,800
Sierra Pacific Resources \$4.50 units cum. cv. pfd.	17,200	652,568	10,700
Williams Cos., Inc. (The) \$2.25 cv. pfd.	44,400	577,200	28,029
Williams Cos., Inc. (The) 144A \$2.75 cv. pfd.	9,830	626,663	6,160

		5,020,056	
Total Convertible preferred stocks (cost \$27,042,848,			

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

\$17,187,025 and \$44,229,873)

\$31,904,818

\$2

Convertible bonds and notes (a)	Principal amount	23.5% Value	Principal amount
Communication Services 1.6%			
Cybernet Internet Services International, Inc. 144A cv. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (13s, 8/15/04) 2009 (Denmark) (In default) (NON) (STP)	\$400,000	\$4	\$380,000
Nextel Communications, Inc. cv. sr. notes 6s, 2011	81,000	95,175	52,000
United States Cellular Corp. cv. liquid yield option notes (LYON) zero %, 2015	3,580,000	1,852,650	2,270,000

		1,947,829	
Conglomerates 1.1%			
GenCorp, Inc. cv. sub. notes 5 3/4s, 2007	1,250,000	1,275,000	780,000
Consumer Cyclicals 3.9%			
Amazon.com, Inc. cv. sub. debs. 4 3/4s, 2009	612,000	624,240	396,000
Grey Global Group, Inc. 144A cv. debs. 5s, 2033	300,000	315,563	200,000
Meristar Hospitality Corp. cv. notes 9 1/2s, 2010	614,000	743,708	386,000
Service Corp. International cv. sub. notes 6 3/4s, 2008	1,760,000	1,942,600	1,100,000
Tower Automotive, Inc. cv. sub. notes 5s, 2004	1,036,000	1,036,000	572,000

		4,662,111	
Consumer Staples 2.4%			
Charter Communications, Inc. cv. sr. notes 5 3/4s, 2005	1,300,000	1,217,125	800,000
CKE Restaurants, Inc. cv. sub. notes 4 1/4s, 2004	193,000	193,483	170,000
Rite Aid Corp. 144A cv. sr. notes 4 3/4s, 2006	--	--	264,000
Rite Aid Corp. cv. notes 4 3/4s, 2006	1,260,000	1,444,275	400,000

		2,854,883	
Energy 0.8%			
Parker Drilling Co. cv. sub. bonds 5 1/2s, 2004	1,000,000	1,003,750	600,000
Financial 1.7%			
E*Trade Group, Inc. cv. sub. notes 6s, 2007	620,000	633,175	400,000
Providian Financial Corp. cv. sr. notes 3 1/4s, 2005	1,410,000	1,387,088	900,000

		2,020,263	
Health Care 0.5%			
LifePoint Hospitals, Inc. cv. notes 4 1/2s, 2009	610,000	641,263	390,000
Technology 8.20%			
Amkor Technologies, Inc. cv. notes 5 3/4s, 2006	750,000	743,438	465,000
Aspen Technology, Inc. cv. sub. debs. 5 1/4s, 2005	1,297,000	1,271,060	801,000
Avaya, Inc. cv. LYON zero %, 2021	980,000	683,550	620,000
Kulicke & Soffa Industries, Inc. cv. sub. notes 5 1/4s, 2006	680,000	690,200	420,000
Lucent Technologies, Inc. cv. sub. debs. 8s, 2031	1,200,000	1,449,000	750,000
Manugistics Group, Inc. cv. sub. notes 5s, 2007	930,000	924,188	570,000
Safeguard Scientifics, Inc. 144A cv. sub. notes 5s, 2006	--	--	86,000
Safeguard Scientifics, Inc. cv. sub. notes 5s, 2006	1,509,000	1,495,796	850,000
Sanmina Corp. cv. sub. debs. zero %, 2020	2,180,000	1,122,700	1,380,000
Silicon Graphics Corp. cv. notes 6 1/2s, 2009	280,000	743,400	170,000

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Solectron Corp. cv. LYON zero %, 2020	1,065,000	620,363	650,000
		-----	---
		9,743,695	
Transportation		0.6%	
Continental Airlines, Inc. cv. notes 4 1/2s, 2007	750,000	665,625	450,000
Utilities & Power		2.6%	
AES Corp. (The) cv. sub. notes 4 1/2s, 2005	620,000	612,250	385,000
El Paso Corp. cv. debs. zero %, 2021	1,400,000	647,500	900,000
Sierra Pacific Resources 144A cv. notes 7 1/4s, 2010	526,000	1,074,355	324,000
XCEL Energy, Inc. 144A cv. notes 7 1/2s, 2007	440,000	689,700	280,000
		-----	---
		\$3,023,805	\$
Total Convertible bonds and notes (cost \$22,582,893, \$13,717,163 and \$36,300,056)		\$27,838,224	\$1
Common stocks (a)		1.7%	
	Number of	Value	Number of
	shares		shares
AboveNet, Inc. (NON)	214	\$10,058	179
Altria Group, Inc.	14,000	805,700	8,800
AMRESCO Creditor Trust (acquired various dates from 9/20/00 to 10/16/02, cost \$38,655, \$18,344 and \$56,999, respectively) (RES) (NON) (R) (RES)	50,000	500	90,000
Arch Wireless, Inc. Class A (NON)	21	468	21
Aurora Foods, Inc. (NON)	2,125	11	1,948
Birch Telecom, Inc. (acquired various dates from 9/30/02 to 1/9/04, cost \$ --, \$ -- and \$ --, respectively) (RES) (NON)	156	2	137
Contifinancial Corp. Liquidating Trust Units	293,993	2,940	280,214
Covad Communications Group, Inc. (NON)	2,031	6,723	1,401
Crown Castle International Corp. (NON)	165	1,988	106
GATX Corp.	28,300	665,616	17,700
Genesis HealthCare Corp. (NON)	144	3,924	139
Globix Corp. (NON)	3,492	10,546	2,901
Knology, Inc. (NON)	16	133	16
Leucadia National Corp.	64	3,328	38
Magellan Health Services, Inc. (NON)	96	2,592	104
Mariner Health Care, Inc. (NON)	93	2,023	88
Mediq, Inc. (NON)	147	591	147
Microcell Telecommunications, Inc. Class A (Canada) (NON)	3	56	2
Microcell Telecommunications, Inc. Class B (Canada) (NON)	414	7,714	276
Pioneer Cos., Inc. (NON)	1,710	11,406	2,585
PSF Group Holdings, Inc. 144A Class A (acquired various dates from 3/15/96 to 3/9/01, cost \$1,015,896, \$795,593 and \$1,811,489, respectively) (RES) (NON)	334	501,450	220
RCN Corp. (NON)	115	32	115
Sterling Chemicals, Inc. (NON)	25	650	25
Sun Healthcare Group, Inc. (NON)	102	1,219	100
VS Holdings, Inc. (NON)	14,550	1,455	13,742
Washington Group International, Inc. (NON)	235	9,048	235
		-----	---
Total Common stocks (cost \$3,377,739, \$2,656,526 and \$6,034,265)		\$2,050,173	\$
Preferred stocks (a)		0.4%	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

	Number of shares	Value	Number of shares
Avecia Group PLC \$4.00 pfd. (United Kingdom) (acquired various dates from 12/3/03 to 1/26/04, cost \$53,174, \$34,214 and \$87,388, respectively) (RES) (PIK)	3,964	\$67,388	2,550
Dobson Communications Corp. 13.00% pfd. (PIK)	70	65,100	45
iStar Financial, Inc. \$1.95 cum. pfd.	1,714	44,735	1,106
Metrocall Holdings, Inc. Ser. A, 15.00% cum. pfd.	9	103	9
Paxson Communications Corp. 13.25% cum. pfd. (PIK)	12	113,700	7
Rural Cellular Corp. 12.25% pfd. (PIK)	181	142,085	128
Rural Cellular Corp. Ser. B, 11.375% cum. pfd.	--	--	18
		-----	-----
Total Preferred stocks (cost \$451,275, \$329,390 and \$780,665)		\$433,111	
Foreign government bonds and notes (a)		0.2%	
	Principal amount	Value	Principal amount
Colombia (Republic of) notes 10 3/4s, 2013	\$25,000	\$28,725	\$20,000
Colombia (Republic of) unsub. 9 3/4s, 2009	75,000	84,938	50,000
Ecuador (Republic of) bonds stepped-coupon Ser. REGS, 7s (8s, 8/15/04), 2030 (STP)	95,000	78,850	60,000
		-----	-----
Total Foreign government bonds and notes (cost \$147,427, \$100,505 and \$247,932)		\$192,513	
Units (a)		0.1%	
	Number of units	Value	Number of units
Morrison Knudsen Corp.	80,000	\$12,800	80,000
XCL Equity Units	208	92,328	198
		-----	-----
Total (cost \$353,608, \$340,982 and \$694,590)		\$105,128	
Brady bonds (a) (cost \$50,235, \$31,397 and \$81,632)		0.1%	
	Principal amount	Value	Principal amount
Peru (Republic of) coll. FLIRB Ser. 20YR, 4 1/2s, 2017	\$80,000	\$68,200	\$50,000
Warrants (a) (NON)		0.0%	
	Expiration date	Number of Warrants	Value
AboveNet, Inc.	9/8/08	83	\$2,332
AboveNet, Inc.	9/8/10	71	2,095
Dayton Superior Corp. 144A	6/15/09	140	1
Huntsman Co., LLC 144A	5/15/11	161	22,540
MDP Acquisitions PLC 144A (Ireland)	10/1/13	72	3,564
Microcell Telecommunications (Canada)	5/1/05	154	643
Microcell Telecommunications (Canada)	5/1/08	256	1,269
Pliant Corp. 144A	6/1/10	60	1
Solutia, Inc. 144A	7/15/09	99	1
Travel Centers of America, Inc. 144A	5/1/09	240	1,200
Ubiquitel, Inc. 144A	4/15/10	220	1
Washington Group International, Inc. Ser. A	1/25/06	144	1,656

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Washington Group International, Inc. Ser. B	1/25/06	165	1,518	165
Washington Group International, Inc. Ser. C	1/25/06	90	725	90

Total Warrants (cost \$100,468, \$83,781 and \$184,249)			\$37,546	
Short-term investments (a)		Principal amount	8.1% Value	Principal amount
Short-term investments held as collateral for loaned securities with yields ranging from 1.03% to 1.08% and a due date of March 1, 2004		\$2,796,432	\$2,796,349	\$518,779
Short-term investments held in Putnam commingled cash account with yields ranging from 1.01% to 1.07% and due dates ranging from March 1, 2004 to April 23, 2004		6,839,479	6,839,479	4,082,687

Total Short-term investments (cost \$9,635,828, \$4,601,451 and \$14,237,279)			\$9,635,828	

Total Investments (cost \$110,242,660, \$69,504,531 and \$179,747,191)			\$120,865,185	

Because the funds are actively managed, their portfolio holdings as of February 29, 2004 are unlikely to reflect what their portfolio holdings will be as of the date the merger is completed. Accordingly, no adjustments have been made to indicate holdings that would be sold in anticipation of the merger to accommodate the investment strategies of Putnam High Income Bond Fund.

(a) Percentages indicated are based on net assets as follows:

Putnam High Income Bond Fund:	\$118,411,692
Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust:	\$ 74,778,031
Proforma Combined:	\$193,105,084

(DEF) Security is in default of principal and interest.

(NON) Non-income-producing security.

(STP) The interest rate and date shown parenthetically represent the new interest rate to be paid and the date the fund will begin accruing interest at this rate.

(RES) Restricted, excluding 144A securities, as to public resale. The total market value of restricted securities held at February 29, 2004 was as follows:

Putnam High Income Bond Fund:	\$592,651 or 0.5% of net assets
Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust:	\$397,262 or 0.5% of net assets

(PIK) Income may be received in cash or additional securities at the discretion of the issuer.

(R) Real Estate Investment Trust.

144A after the name of a security represents those exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. These

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers.

FLIRB represents Front Loaded Interest Reduction Bond.

The rates shown on Floating Rate Notes (FRN) are the current interest rates shown at February 29, 2004.

Putnam High Income Bond Fund:

Forward currency contracts to buy at February 29, 2004 (Unaudited)
(aggregate face value \$29,452)

	Value	Aggregate face value	Delivery date	Unrealized depreciation
British Pound	\$29,440	\$29,452	6/16/04	(\$12)

Forward currency contracts to sell at February 29, 2004 (Unaudited)
(aggregate face value \$482,710)

	Value	Aggregate face value	Delivery date	Unrealized appreciation
Euro	\$481,270	\$482,710	6/16/04	\$1,440

Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust:

Forward currency contracts to buy at February 29, 2004
(aggregate face value \$18,407)

	Value	Aggregate face value	Delivery date	Unrealized depreciation
British Pound	\$18,400	\$18,407	6/16/04	(\$7)

Forward currency contracts to sell at February 29, 2004
(aggregate face value \$294,224)

	Value	Aggregate face value	Delivery date	Unrealized appreciation
Euro	\$293,346	\$294,224	6/16/04	\$878

Putnam High Income Bond Fund

Notes to Proforma Combining Statements

(Unaudited)

February 29, 2004

The proforma adjustments to these proforma financial statements are comprised of the following:

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

- (A) Elimination and reduction of duplicative expenses as a result of the merger.
- (B) \$48,081 relates to proxy costs, which will be borne by Putnam High Income Bond Fund and Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust. \$9,184 relates to SEC registration fees that will be borne by Putnam High Income Bond Fund. The remaining \$102,000 consists of \$75,000 of legal costs and \$27,000 of accounting costs. These are related merger costs which will be allocated ratably between the two funds upon consummation of the merger. As set forth in the Agreement, Putnam Management will bear merger-related costs to the extent that they exceed certain limits specified for each fund.
- (C) Issuance of common shares of Putnam High Income Bond Fund to the holders of common shares of Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust.

SECURITIES RATINGS

The ratings of securities in which each fund may invest will be measured at the time of purchase and, to the extent a security is assigned a different rating by one or more of the various rating agencies, Putnam Management will use the highest rating assigned by any agency. Putnam Management will not necessarily sell an investment if its rating is reduced. The following rating services describe rated securities as follows:

Moody's Investors Service, Inc.

Bonds

Aaa -- Bonds which are rated Aaa are judged to be of the best quality. They carry the smallest degree of investment risk and are generally referred to as "gilt edged." Interest payments are protected by a large or by an exceptionally stable margin and principal is secure. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most unlikely to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues.

Aa -- Bonds which are rated Aa are judged to be of high quality by all standards. Together with the Aaa group they comprise what are generally known as high grade bonds. They are rated lower than the best bonds because margins of protection may not be as large as in Aaa securities or fluctuation of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long-term risk appear somewhat larger than the Aaa securities.

A -- Bonds which are rated A possess many favorable investment attributes and are to be considered as upper-medium-grade obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate, but elements may be present which suggest a susceptibility to impairment sometime in the future.

Baa -- Bonds which are rated Baa are considered as medium grade obligations, (i.e., they are neither highly protected nor poorly secured). Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such bonds lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well.

Ba -- Bonds which are rated Ba are judged to have speculative elements; their future cannot be considered as well-assured. Often the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate, and thereby not

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future. Uncertainty of position characterizes bonds in this class.

B -- Bonds which are rated B generally lack characteristics of the desirable investment. Assurance of interest and principal payments or of maintenance of other terms of the contract over any long period of time may be small.

Caa -- Bonds which are rated Caa are of poor standing. Such issues may be in default or there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.

Ca -- Bonds which are rated Ca represent obligations which are speculative in a high degree. Such issues are often in default or have other marked shortcomings.

C -- Bonds which are rated C are the lowest rated class of bonds, and issues so rated can be regarded as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing.

Notes

MIG 1/VMIG 1 -- This designation denotes best quality. There is present strong protection by established cash flows, superior liquidity support or demonstrated broad-based access to the market for refinancing.

MIG 2/VMIG 2 -- This designation denotes high quality. Margins of protection are ample although not so large as in the preceding group.

Commercial Paper

Issuers rated Prime-1 (or supporting institutions) have a superior ability for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. Prime-1 repayment ability will often be evidenced by the following characteristics:

- Leading market positions in well established industries.
- High rates of return on funds employed.
- Conservative capitalization structure with moderate reliance on debt and ample asset protection.
- Broad margins in earnings coverage of fixed financial charges and high internal cash generation.
- Well established access to a range of financial markets and assured sources of alternate liquidity.

Issuers rated Prime-2 (or supporting institutions) have a strong ability for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. This will normally be evidenced by many of the characteristics cited above to a lesser degree. Earnings trends and coverage ratios, while sound, may be more subject to variation. Capitalization characteristics, while still appropriate, may be more affected by external conditions. Ample alternate liquidity is maintained.

Standard & Poor's Bonds

AAA -- An obligation rated AAA has the highest rating assigned by Standard & Poor's. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.

AA -- An obligation rated AA differs from the highest-rated obligations only in small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is very strong.

A -- An obligation rated A is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher-rated categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is still strong.

BBB -- An obligation rated BBB exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

Obligations rated BB, B, CCC, CC and C are regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. BB indicates the lowest degree of speculation and C the highest. While such obligations will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these are outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposures to adverse conditions.

BB -- An obligation rated BB is less vulnerable to nonpayment than other speculative issues. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

B -- An obligation rated B is more vulnerable to nonpayment than obligations rated BB, but the obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligations. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor's capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

CCC -- An obligation rated CCC is currently vulnerable to nonpayment, and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. In the event of adverse business, financial, or economic conditions, the obligor is not likely to have the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

CC -- An obligation rated CC is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment.

C -- The C rating may be used to cover a situation where a bankruptcy petition has been filed, or similar action has been taken, but payments on this obligation are being continued.

D -- An obligation rated D is in payment default. The D rating category is used when interest payments or principal payments are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless Standard & Poor's believes that such payments will be made during such grace period. The D rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition, or the taking of a similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized.

Notes

SP-1 -- Strong capacity to pay principal and interest. Those issues determined to possess overwhelming safety characteristics are given a plus (+) designation.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

SP-2 -- Satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest.

SP-3 -- Speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

Commercial Paper

A-1 -- This highest category indicates that the degree of safety regarding timely payment is strong. Those issues determined to possess extremely strong safety characteristics are denoted with a plus sign (+) designation.

A-2 -- Capacity for timely payment on issues with this designation is satisfactory. However, the relative degree of safety is not as high as for issues designated 'A-1'.

A-3 -- Issues carrying this designation have adequate capacity for timely payment. They are, however, more vulnerable to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances than obligations carrying the higher designations.

Duff & Phelps Corporation

Long-Term Debt

AAA -- Highest credit quality. The risk factors are negligible, being only slightly more than for risk-free U.S. Treasury debt.

AA+, AA, AA- -- High credit quality. Protection factors are strong. Risk is modest but may vary slightly from time to time because of economic conditions.

A+, A, A- -- Protection factors are average but adequate. However, risk factors are more variable and greater in periods of economic stress.

BBB+, BBB, BBB- -- Below-average protection factors but still considered sufficient for prudent investment. Considerable variability in risk during economic cycles.

BB+, BB, BB- -- Below investment grade but deemed likely to meet obligations when due. Present or prospective financial protection factors fluctuate according to industry conditions or company fortunes. Overall quality may move up or down frequently within this category.

B+, B, B- -- Below investment grade and possessing risk that obligations will not be met when due. Financial protection factors will fluctuate widely according to economic cycles, industry conditions and/or company fortunes. Potential exists for frequent changes in the rating within this category or into a higher or lower rating grade.

CCC -- Well below investment-grade securities. Considerable uncertainty exists as to timely payment of principal, interest or preferred dividends. Protection factors are narrow and risk can be substantial with unfavorable economic/industry conditions, and/or with unfavorable company developments.

DD -- Defaulted debt obligations. Issuer failed to meet scheduled principal and/or interest payments.

Fitch Investors Service, Inc.

AAA -- Bonds considered to be investment grade and of the highest credit

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

quality. The obligor has an exceptionally strong ability to pay interest and repay principal, which is unlikely to be affected by reasonably foreseeable events.

AA -- Bonds considered to be investment grade and of very high credit quality. The obligor's ability to pay interest and repay principal is very strong, although not quite as strong as bonds rated AAA.

A -- Bonds considered to be investment grade and of high credit quality. The obligor's ability to pay interest and repay principal is considered to be strong, but may be more vulnerable to adverse changes in economic conditions and circumstances than bonds with higher ratings.

BBB -- Bonds considered to be investment grade and of satisfactory credit quality. The obligor's ability to pay interest and repay principal is considered to be adequate. Adverse changes in economic conditions and circumstances, however, are more likely to have adverse impact on these bonds, and therefore impair timely payment. The likelihood that the ratings of these bonds will fall below investment grade is higher than for bonds with higher ratings.

BB -- Bonds considered to be speculative. The obligor's ability to pay interest and repay principal may be affected over time by adverse economic changes. However, business and financial alternatives can be identified which could assist the obligor in satisfying its debt service requirements.

B -- Bonds are considered highly speculative. Bonds in this class are lightly protected as to the obligor's ability to pay interest over the life of the issue and repay principal when due.

CCC -- Bonds have certain characteristics which, with passing of time, could lead to the possibility of default on either principal or interest payments.

CC -- Bonds are minimally protected. Default in payment of interest and/or principal seems probable.

C -- Bonds are in actual or imminent default in payment of interest or principal.

DDD -- Bonds are in default and in arrears in interest and/or principal payments. Such bonds are extremely speculative and should be valued only on the basis of their value in liquidation or reorganization of the obligor.

APPENDIX A

Proxy voting guidelines of the Putnam funds

The proxy voting guidelines below summarize the funds' positions on various issues of concern to investors, and give a general indication of how fund portfolio securities will be voted on proposals dealing with particular issues. The funds' proxy voting service is instructed to vote all proxies relating to fund portfolio securities in accordance with these guidelines, except as otherwise instructed by the Proxy Coordinator, a member of the Office of the Trustees who is appointed to assist in the coordination and voting of the funds' proxies.

The proxy voting guidelines are just that - guidelines. The guidelines are not exhaustive and do not include all potential voting issues.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Because proxy issues and the circumstances of individual companies are so varied, there may be instances when the funds may not vote in strict adherence to these guidelines. For example, the proxy voting service is expected to bring to the Proxy Coordinator's attention proxy questions that are company-specific and of a non-routine nature and that, even if covered by the guidelines, may be more appropriately handled on a case-by-case basis.

Similarly, Putnam Management's investment professionals, as part of their ongoing review and analysis of all fund portfolio holdings, are responsible for monitoring significant corporate developments, including proxy proposals submitted to shareholders, and notifying the Proxy Coordinator of circumstances where the interests of fund shareholders may warrant a vote contrary to these guidelines. In such instances, the investment professionals will submit a written recommendation to the Proxy Coordinator and the person or persons designated by Putnam Management's Legal and Compliance Department to assist in processing referral items pursuant to the funds' "Proxy Voting Procedures." The Proxy Coordinator, in consultation with the funds' Senior Vice President, Executive Vice President, and/or the Chair of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee, as appropriate, will determine how the funds' proxies will be voted. When indicated, the Chair of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee may consult with other members of the Committee or the full Board of Trustees.

The following guidelines are grouped according to the types of proposals generally presented to shareholders. Part I deals with proposals that have been put forth by management and approved and recommended by a company's board of directors. Part II deals with proposals submitted by shareholders for inclusion in proxy statements. Part III addresses unique considerations pertaining to non-U.S. issuers.

The Putnam funds will disclose their proxy votes in accordance with the timetable established by SEC rules (i.e., not later than August 31 of each year for the most recent 12-month period ended June 30).

I. BOARD-APPROVED PROPOSALS

The vast majority of matters presented to shareholders for a vote involve proposals made by a company itself (sometimes referred to as "management proposals"), which have been approved and recommended by its board of directors. In view of the enhanced corporate governance practices currently being implemented in public companies and of the funds' intent to hold corporate boards accountable for their actions in promoting shareholder interests, the funds' proxies generally will be voted for the decisions reached by majority independent boards of directors, except as otherwise indicated in these guidelines. Accordingly, the funds' proxies will be voted for board-approved proposals, except as follows:

Matters relating to the Board of Directors

Uncontested Election of Directors

The funds' proxies will be voted for the election of a company's nominees for the board of directors, except as follows:

- * The funds will withhold votes for the entire board of directors if
- * the board does not have a majority of independent directors,
- * the board has not established independent nominating, audit, and

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

compensation committees, or

- * the board has more than 19 members or fewer than five members, absent special circumstances.
- * The funds will withhold votes for any nominee for director who:
 - * is considered an independent director by the company and who has received compensation from the company other than for service as a director (e.g., investment banking, consulting, legal, or financial advisory fees),
 - * attends less than 75% of board and committee meetings without valid reasons for the absences (e.g., illness, personal emergency, etc.), or
 - * as a director of a public company (Company A), is employed as a senior executive of another public company (Company B) if a director of Company B serves as a senior executive of Company A (commonly referred to as an "interlocking directorate").

Commentary:

Board independence: Unless otherwise indicated, for the purposes of determining whether a board has a majority of independent directors and independent nominating, audit, and compensation committees, an "independent director" is a director who (1) meets all requirements to serve as an independent director of a company under the final NYSE Corporate Governance Rules (e.g., no material business relationships with the company and no present or recent employment relationship with the company (including employment of an immediate family member as an executive officer)), and (2) has not accepted directly or indirectly any consulting, advisory, or other compensatory fee from the company other than in his or her capacity as a member of the board of directors or any board committee. The funds' Trustees believe that the receipt of compensation for services other than service as a director raises significant independence issues.

Board size: The funds' Trustees believe that the size of the board of directors can have a direct impact on the ability of the board to govern effectively. Boards that have too many members can be unwieldy and ultimately inhibit their ability to oversee management performance. Boards that have too few members can stifle innovation and lead to excessive influence by management.

Time commitment: Being a director of a company requires a significant time commitment to adequately prepare for and attend the company's board and committee meetings. Directors must be able to commit the time and attention necessary to perform their fiduciary duties in proper fashion, particularly in times of crisis. The funds' Trustees are concerned about over-committed directors. In some cases, directors may serve on too many boards to make a meaningful contribution. This may be particularly true for senior executives of public companies (or other directors with substantially full-time employment) who serve on more than a few outside boards. The funds may withhold votes from such directors on a case-by-case basis where it appears that they may be unable to discharge their duties properly because of excessive commitments.

Interlocking directorships: The funds' Trustees believe that interlocking directorships are inconsistent with the degree of independence required for outside directors of public companies.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

Corporate governance practices: Board independence depends not only on its members' individual relationships, but also on the board's overall attitude toward management. Independent boards are committed to good corporate governance practices and, by providing objective independent judgment, enhancing shareholder value. The funds may withhold votes on a case-by-case basis from some or all directors who, through their lack of independence, have failed to observe good corporate governance practices or, through specific corporate action, have demonstrated a disregard for the interest of shareholders.

Contested Elections of Directors

* The funds will vote on a case-by-case basis in contested elections of directors.

Classified Boards

* The funds will vote against proposals to classify a board, absent special circumstances indicating that shareholder interests would be better served by this structure.

Commentary: Under a typical classified board structure, the directors are divided into three classes, with each class serving a three-year term. The classified board structure results in directors serving staggered terms, with usually only a third of the directors up for re-election at any given annual meeting. The funds' Trustees generally believe that it is appropriate for directors to stand for election each year, but recognize that, in special circumstances, shareholder interests may be better served under a classified board structure.

Other Board-Related Proposals

The funds will generally vote for board-approved proposals that have been approved by a majority independent board, and on a case-by-case basis on board-approved proposals where the board fails to meet the guidelines' basic independence standards (i.e., majority of independent directors and independent nominating, audit, and compensation committees).

Executive Compensation

The funds generally favor compensation programs that relate executive compensation to a company's long-term performance. The funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on board-approved proposals relating to executive compensation, except as follows:

- * Except where the funds are otherwise withholding votes for the entire board of directors, the funds will vote for stock option plans that will result in an average annual dilution of 1.67% or less (based on a 10-year plan and including all equity-based plans).
- * The funds will vote against stock option plans that permit the replacing or repricing of underwater options (and against any proposal to authorize such replacement or repricing of underwater options).
- * The funds will vote against stock option plans that permit issuance of options with an exercise price below the stock's current market price.
- * Except where the funds are otherwise withholding votes for the entire board of directors, the funds will vote for an employee stock purchase plan that has the following features: (1) the shares purchased under the plan are acquired for no less than 85% of their market value; (2)

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

the offering period under the plan is 27 months or less; and (3) dilution is 10% or less.

Commentary: Companies should have compensation programs that are reasonable and that align shareholder and management interests over the longer term. Further, disclosure of compensation programs should provide absolute transparency to shareholders regarding the sources and amounts of, and the factors influencing, executive compensation. Appropriately designed equity-based compensation plans can be an effective way to align the interests of long-term shareholders with the interests of management. The funds may vote against executive compensation proposals on a case-by-case basis where compensation is excessive by reasonable corporate standards, or where a company fails to provide transparent disclosure of executive compensation. In voting on a proposal relating to executive compensation, the funds will consider whether the proposal has been approved by an independent compensation committee of the board.

Capitalization

Many proxy proposals involve changes in a company's capitalization, including the authorization of additional stock, the issuance of stock, the repurchase of outstanding stock, or the approval of a stock split. The management of a company's capital structure involves a number of important issues, including cash flow, financing needs, and market conditions that are unique to the circumstances of the company. As a result, the funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on board-approved proposals involving changes to a company's capitalization, except that where the funds are not otherwise withholding votes from the entire board of directors:

- * The funds will vote for proposals relating to the authorization and issuance of additional common stock (except where such proposals relate to a specific transaction).
- * The funds will vote for proposals to effect stock splits (excluding reverse stock splits).
- * The funds will vote for proposals authorizing share repurchase programs.

Commentary: A company may decide to authorize additional shares of common stock for reasons relating to executive compensation or for routine business purposes. For the most part, these decisions are best left to the board of directors and senior management. The funds will vote on a case-by-case basis, however, on other proposals to change a company's capitalization, including the authorization of common stock with special voting rights, the authorization or issuance of common stock in connection with a specific transaction (e.g., an acquisition, merger or reorganization), or the authorization or issuance of preferred stock. Actions such as these involve a number of considerations that may affect a shareholder's investment and that warrant a case-by-case determination.

Acquisitions, Mergers, Reincorporations, Reorganizations and Other Transactions

Shareholders may be confronted with a number of different types of transactions, including acquisitions, mergers, reorganizations involving business combinations, liquidations, and the sale of all or substantially all of a company's assets, which may require their consent. Voting on such proposals involves considerations unique to

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

each transaction. As a result, the funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on board-approved proposals to effect these types of transactions, except as follows:

- * The funds will vote for mergers and reorganizations involving business combinations designed solely to reincorporate a company in Delaware.

Commentary: A company may reincorporate into another state through a merger or reorganization by setting up a "shell" company in a different state and then merging the company into the new company. While reincorporation into states with extensive and established corporate laws - notably Delaware - provides companies and shareholders with a more well-defined legal framework, shareholders must carefully consider the reasons for a reincorporation into another jurisdiction, including especially an offshore jurisdiction.

Anti-Takeover Measures

Some proxy proposals involve efforts by management to make it more difficult for an outside party to take control of the company without the approval of the company's board of directors. These include the adoption of a shareholder rights plan, requiring supermajority voting on particular issues, the adoption of fair price provisions, the issuance of blank check preferred stock, and the creation of a separate class of stock with disparate voting rights. Such proposals may adversely affect shareholder rights, lead to management entrenchment, or create conflicts of interest. As a result, the funds will vote against board-approved proposals to adopt such anti-takeover measures, except as follows:

- * The funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on proposals to ratify or approve shareholder rights plans (commonly referred to as "poison pills"); and
- * The funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on proposals to adopt fair price provisions.

Commentary: The funds' Trustees recognize that poison pills and fair price provisions may enhance shareholder value under certain circumstances. As a result, the funds will consider proposals to approve such matters on a case-by-case basis.

Other Business Matters

Many proxies involve approval of routine business matters, such as changing a company's name, ratifying the appointment of auditors, and procedural matters relating to the shareholder meeting. For the most part, these routine matters do not materially affect shareholder interests and are best left to the board of directors and senior management of the company. The funds will vote for board-approved proposals approving such matters, except as follows:

- * The funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on proposals to amend a company's charter or bylaws (except for charter amendments necessary or to effect stock splits to change a company's name or to authorize additional shares of common stock).
- * The funds will vote against authorization to transact other unidentified, substantive business at the meeting.
- * The funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on other business matters where the funds are otherwise withholding votes for the entire board of directors.

Commentary: Charter and bylaw amendments and the transaction of other unidentified, substantive business at a shareholder meeting may directly affect shareholder rights and have a significant impact on shareholder value. As a result, the funds do not view such items as routine business matters. Putnam Management's investment professionals and the funds' proxy voting service may also bring to the Proxy Coordinator's attention company-specific items that they believe to be non-routine and warranting special consideration. Under these circumstances, the funds will vote on a case-by-case basis.

II. SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

SEC regulations permit shareholders to submit proposals for inclusion in a company's proxy statement. These proposals generally seek to change some aspect of the company's corporate governance structure or to change some aspect of its business operations. The funds generally will vote in accordance with the recommendation of the company's board of directors on all shareholder proposals, except as follows:

- * The funds will vote for shareholder proposals to declassify a board, absent special circumstances which would indicate that shareholder interests are better served by a classified board structure.
- * The funds will vote for shareholder proposals to require shareholder approval of shareholder rights plans.
- * The funds will vote for shareholder proposals that are consistent with the funds' proxy voting guidelines for board-approved proposals.
- * The funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on other shareholder proposals where the funds are otherwise withholding votes for the entire board of directors.

Commentary: In light of the substantial reforms in corporate governance that are currently underway, the funds' Trustees believe that effective corporate reforms should be promoted by holding boards of directors - and in particular their independent directors - accountable for their actions, rather than imposing additional legal restrictions on board governance through piecemeal proposals. Generally speaking, shareholder proposals relating to business operations are often motivated primarily by political or social concerns, rather than the interests of shareholders as investors in an economic enterprise. As stated above, the funds' Trustees believe that boards of directors and management are responsible for ensuring that their businesses are operating in accordance with high legal and ethical standards and should be held accountable for resulting corporate behavior. Accordingly, the funds will generally support the recommendations of boards that meet the basic independence and governance standards established in these guidelines. Where boards fail to meet these standards, the funds will generally evaluate shareholder proposals on a case-by-case basis.

III. VOTING SHARES OF NON-U.S. ISSUERS

Many of the Putnam funds invest on a global basis, and, as a result, they may be required to vote shares held in non-U.S. issuers - i.e., issuers that are incorporated under the laws of foreign jurisdictions and that are not listed on a U.S. securities exchange or the NASDAQ stock market. Because non-U.S. issuers are incorporated under the laws of countries and jurisdictions outside the U.S., protection for shareholders may vary significantly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Laws governing non-U.S. issuers may, in some cases, provide

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

substantially less protection for shareholders. As a result, the foregoing guidelines, which are premised on the existence of a sound corporate governance and disclosure framework, may not be appropriate under some circumstances for non-U.S. issuers.

In many non-U.S. markets, shareholders who vote proxies of a non-U.S. issuer are not able to trade in that company's stock on or around the shareholder meeting date. This practice is known as "share blocking." In countries where share blocking is practiced, the funds will vote proxies only with direction from Putnam Management's investment professionals.

In addition, some non-U.S. markets require that a company's shares be re-registered out of the name of the local custodian or nominee into the name of the shareholder for the meeting. This practice is known as "share re-registration." As a result, shareholders, including the funds, are not able to trade in that company's stock until the shares are re-registered back in the name of the local custodian or nominee. In countries where share re-registration is practiced, the funds will generally not vote proxies.

The funds will vote proxies of non-U.S. issuers in accordance with the foregoing guidelines where applicable, except as follows:

Uncontested Election of Directors

Japan

- * For companies that have established a U.S.-style corporate structure, the funds will withhold votes for the entire board of directors if
- * the board does not have a majority of outside directors,
- * the board has not established nominating and compensation committees composed of a majority of outside directors, or
- * the board has not established an audit committee composed of a majority of independent directors.
- * The funds will withhold votes for the appointment of members of a company's board of statutory auditors if a majority of the members of the board of statutory auditors is not independent.

Commentary:

Board structure: Recent amendments to the Japanese Commercial Code give companies the option to adopt a U.S.-style corporate structure (i.e., a board of directors and audit, nominating, and compensation committees). The funds will vote for proposals to amend a company's articles of incorporation to adopt the U.S.-style corporate structure.

Definition of outside director and independent director: Corporate governance principles in Japan focus on the distinction between outside directors and independent directors. Under these principles, an outside director is a director who is not and has never been a director, executive, or employee of the company or its parent company, subsidiaries or affiliates. An outside director is "independent" if that person can make decisions completely independent from the managers of the company, its parent, subsidiaries, or affiliates and does not have a material relationship with the company (i.e., major client, trading partner, or other business relationship; familial relationship with current director or executive; etc.). The guidelines have

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

incorporated these definitions in applying the board independence standards above.

Korea

- * The funds will withhold votes for the entire board of directors if
- * the board does not have a majority of outside directors,
- * the board has not established a nominating committee composed of at least a majority of outside directors, or
- * the board has not established an audit committee composed of at least three members and in which at least two-thirds of its members are outside directors.

Commentary: For purposes of these guidelines, an "outside director" is a director that is independent from the management or controlling shareholders of the company, and holds no interests that might impair performing his or her duties impartially from the company, management or controlling shareholder. In determining whether a director is an outside director, the funds will also apply the standards included in Article 415-2(2) of the Korean Commercial Code (i.e., no employment relationship with the company for a period of two years before serving on the committee, no director or employment relationship with the company's largest shareholder, etc.) and may consider other business relationships that would affect the independence of an outside director.

United Kingdom

- * The funds will withhold votes for the entire board of directors if
- * the board does not have at least a majority of independent non-executive directors,
- * the board has not established nomination committees composed of a majority of independent non-executive directors, or
- * the board has not established compensation and audit committees composed of (1) at least three directors (in the case of smaller companies, two directors) and (2) solely of independent non-executive directors.
- * The funds will withhold votes for any nominee for director who is considered an independent director by the company and who has received compensation from the company other than for service as a director (e.g., investment banking, consulting, legal, or financial advisory fees).

Commentary:

Application of guidelines: Although the U.K.'s Combined Code on Corporate Governance ("Combined Code") has adopted the "comply and explain" approach to corporate governance, the funds' Trustees believe that the guidelines discussed above with respect to board independence standards are integral to the protection of investors in U.K. companies. As a result, these guidelines will be applied in a prescriptive manner.

Definition of independence: For the purposes of these guidelines, a non-executive director shall be considered independent if the director meets the independence standards in section A.3.1 of the Combined Code (i.e., no material business or employment relationships with the

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

company, no remuneration from the company for non-board services, no close family ties with senior employees or directors of the company, etc.), except that the funds do not view service on the board for more than nine years as affecting a director's independence.

Smaller companies: A smaller company is one that is below the FTSE 350 throughout the year immediately prior to the reporting year.

Canada

In January 2004, Canadian securities regulators issued proposed policies that would impose new corporate governance requirements on Canadian public companies. The recommended practices contained in these new corporate governance requirements mirror corporate governance reforms that have been adopted by the NYSE and other U.S. national securities exchanges and stock markets. As a result, the funds will vote on matters relating to the board of directors of Canadian issuers in accordance with the guidelines applicable to U.S. issuers.

Commentary: Like the U.K.'s Combined Code, the proposed policies on corporate governance issued by Canadian securities regulators embody the "comply and explain" approach to corporate governance. Because the funds' Trustees believe that the board independence standards contained in the proxy voting guidelines are integral to the protection of investors in Canadian companies, these standards will be applied in a prescriptive manner.

Other Matters

- * The funds will vote for shareholder proposals calling for a majority of a company's directors to be independent of management.
- * The funds will vote for shareholder proposals seeking to increase the independence of board nominating, audit, and compensation committees.
- * The funds will vote for shareholder proposals that implement corporate governance standards similar to those established under U.S. federal law and the listing requirements of U.S. stock exchanges, and that do not otherwise violate the laws of the jurisdiction under which the company is incorporated.
- * The funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on proposals relating to (1) the issuance of common stock in excess of 20% of the company's outstanding common stock where shareholders do not have preemptive rights, or (2) the issuance of common stock in excess of 100% of the company's outstanding common stock where shareholders have preemptive rights.

As adopted May 14, 2004

Proxy voting procedures of the Putnam funds

The proxy voting procedures below explain the role of the funds' Trustees, the proxy voting service and the Proxy Coordinator, as well as how the process will work when a proxy question needs to be handled on a case by case basis, or when there may be a conflict of interest.

The role of the funds' Trustees

The Trustees of the Putnam funds exercise control of the voting of proxies through their Board Policy and Nominating Committee, which is

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

composed entirely of independent Trustees. The Board Policy and Nominating Committee oversees the proxy voting process and participates, as needed, in the resolution of issues that need to be handled on a case-by-case basis. The Committee annually reviews and recommends, for Trustee approval, guidelines governing the funds' proxy votes, including how the funds vote on specific proposals and which matters are to be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Trustees are assisted in this process by their independent administrative staff ("Fund Administration"), independent legal counsel, and an independent proxy voting service. The Trustees also receive assistance from Putnam Investment Management, LLC ("Putnam Management"), the funds' investment advisor, on matters involving investment judgments. In all cases, the ultimate decision on voting proxies rests with the Trustees, acting as fiduciaries on behalf of the shareholders of the funds.

The role of the proxy voting service

The funds have engaged an independent proxy voting service to assist in the voting of proxies. The proxy voting service is responsible for coordinating with the funds' custodians to ensure that all proxy materials received by the custodians relating to the funds' portfolio securities are processed in a timely fashion. To the extent applicable, the proxy voting service votes all proxies in accordance with the proxy voting guidelines established by the Trustees. The proxy voting service will refer proxy questions to the Proxy Coordinator (described below) for instructions under circumstances where: (1) the application of the proxy voting guidelines is unclear; (2) a particular proxy question is not covered by the guidelines; or (3) the guidelines call for specific instructions on a case-by-case basis. The proxy voting service is also requested to call to the Proxy Coordinator's attention specific proxy questions that, while governed by a guideline, appear to involve unusual or controversial issues. The funds also utilize research services relating to proxy questions provided by the proxy voting service and by other firms.

The role of the Proxy Coordinator

Each year, a member of Fund Administration is appointed Proxy Coordinator to assist in the coordination and voting of the funds' proxies. The Proxy Coordinator will deal directly with the proxy voting service and, in the case of proxy questions referred by the proxy voting service, will solicit voting recommendations and instructions from Fund Administration, the Chair of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee, and Putnam Management's investment professionals, as appropriate. The Proxy Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that these questions and referrals are responded to in a timely fashion and for transmitting appropriate voting instructions to the proxy voting service.

Voting procedures for referral items

As discussed above, the proxy voting service will refer proxy questions to the Proxy Coordinator under certain circumstances. When the application of the proxy voting guidelines is unclear or a particular proxy question is not covered by the guidelines (and does not involve investment considerations), the Proxy Coordinator will assist in interpreting the guidelines and, as appropriate, consult with the Senior Vice President of Fund Administration, the Executive Vice President of Fund Administration, and the Chair of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee on how the funds' shares will be voted.

For proxy questions that require a case-by-case analysis pursuant to the guidelines or that are not covered by the guidelines but involve

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

investment considerations, the Proxy Coordinator will refer such questions, through a written request, to Putnam Management's investment professionals for a voting recommendation. Such referrals will be made in cooperation with the person or persons designated by Putnam Management's Legal and Compliance Department to assist in processing such referral items. In connection with each such referral item, the Legal and Compliance Department will conduct a conflicts of interest review, as described below under "Conflicts of Interest," and provide a conflicts of interest report (the "Conflicts Report") to the Proxy Coordinator describing the results of such review. After receiving a referral item from the Proxy Coordinator, Putnam Management's investment professionals will provide a written recommendation to the Proxy Coordinator and the person or persons designated by the Legal and Compliance Department to assist in processing referral items. Such recommendation will set forth (1) how the proxies should be voted; (2) the basis and rationale for such recommendation; and (3) any contacts the investment professionals have had with respect to the referral item with non-investment personnel of Putnam Management or with outside parties (except for routine communications from proxy solicitors). The Proxy Coordinator will then review the investment professionals' recommendation and the Conflicts Report with the Senior Vice President and/or Executive Vice President in determining how to vote the funds' proxies. The Proxy Coordinator will maintain a record of all proxy questions that have been referred to Putnam Management's investment professionals, the voting recommendation, and the Conflicts Report.

In some situations, the Proxy Coordinator, the Senior Vice President, and/or the Executive Vice President may determine that a particular proxy question raises policy issues requiring consultation with the Chair of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee, who, in turn, may decide to bring the particular proxy question to the Committee or the full Board of Trustees for consideration.

Conflicts of interest

Occasions may arise where a person or organization involved in the proxy voting process may have a conflict of interest. A conflict of interest may exist, for example, if Putnam Management has a business relationship with (or is actively soliciting business from) either the company soliciting the proxy or a third party that has a material interest in the outcome of a proxy vote or that is actively lobbying for a particular outcome of a proxy vote. Any individual with knowledge of a personal conflict of interest (e.g., familial relationship with company management) relating to a particular referral item shall disclose that conflict to the Proxy Coordinator and the Legal and Compliance Department and otherwise remove himself or herself from the proxy voting process. The Legal and Compliance Department will review each item referred to Putnam Management's investment professionals to determine if a conflict of interest exists and will provide the Proxy Coordinator with a Conflicts Report for each referral item that (1) describes any conflict of interest; (2) discusses the procedures used to address such conflict of interest; and (3) discloses any contacts from parties outside Putnam Management (other than routine communications from proxy solicitors) with respect to the referral item not otherwise reported in an investment professional's recommendation. The Conflicts Report will also include written confirmation that any recommendation from an investment professional provided under circumstances where a conflict of interest exists was made solely on the investment merits and without regard to any other consideration.

As adopted March 14, 2003

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND

FORM N-14

PART C

OTHER INFORMATION

Item 15. Indemnification

Article VIII of the Registrant's Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides as follows:

Section 1. The Trust shall indemnify each of its Trustees and officers (including persons who serve at the Trust's request as directors, officers or Trustees of another organization in which the Trust has any interest as a Shareholder, creditor or otherwise) (hereinafter referred to as a "Covered Person") against all liabilities and expenses, including but not limited to amounts paid in satisfaction of judgments, in compromise or as fines and penalties, and counsel fees reasonably incurred by any Covered Person in connection with the defense or disposition of any action, suit or other proceeding, whether civil or criminal, before any court or administrative or legislative body, in which such Covered Person may be or may have been involved as a party or otherwise or with which such Covered Person may be or may have been threatened, while in office or thereafter, by reason of being or having been such a Covered Person except with respect to any matter as to which such Covered Person shall have been finally adjudicated in any such action, suit or other proceeding (a) not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that such Covered Person's action was in the best interests of the Trust or (b) to be liable to the Trust or its Shareholders by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of such Covered Person's office. Expenses, including counsel fees so incurred by any such Covered Person (but excluding amounts paid in satisfaction of judgments, in compromise or as fines or penalties), shall be paid from time to time by the Trust in advance of the final disposition of any such action, suit or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such Covered Person to repay amounts so paid to the Trust if it is ultimately determined that indemnification of such expenses is not authorized under this Article, provided, however, that either (a) such Covered Person shall have provided appropriate security for such undertaking, (b) the Trust shall be insured against losses arising from any such advance payments or (c) either a majority of the disinterested Trustees acting on the matter (provided that a majority of the disinterested Trustees then in office act on the matter), or independent legal counsel in a written opinion, shall have determined, based upon a review of readily available facts (as opposed to a full trial type inquiry) that there is reason to believe that such Covered Person will be found entitled to indemnification under this Article.

Section 2. As to any matter disposed of (whether by a compromise payment, pursuant to a consent decree or otherwise) without an adjudication by a court, or by any other body before which the proceeding was brought, that such Covered Person either (a) did not act in good faith in the reasonable belief that his or her action was in the best interests of the Trust or (b) is liable to the Trust or its Shareholders by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his or her office, indemnification shall be provided if (a) approved as in the best interests of the Trust, after notice that it involves

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

such indemnification, by at least a majority of the disinterested Trustees acting on the matter (provided that a majority of the disinterested Trustees then in office act on the matter) upon a determination, based upon a review of readily available facts (as opposed to a full trial type inquiry) that such Covered Person acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his or her action was in the best interests of the Trust and is not liable to the Trust or its Shareholders by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his or her office, or (b) there has been obtained an opinion in writing of independent legal counsel, based upon a review of readily available facts (as opposed to a full trial type inquiry) to the effect that such Covered Person appears to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his or her action was in the best interests of the Trust and that such indemnification would not protect such Covered Person against any liability to the Trust to which he or she would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his or her office. Any approval pursuant to this Section shall not prevent the recovery from any Covered Person of any amount paid to such Covered Person in accordance with this Section as indemnification if such Covered Person is subsequently adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that such Covered Person's action was in the best interests of the Trust or to have been liable to the Trust or its Shareholders by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of such Covered Person's office.

Section 3. The right of indemnification hereby provided shall not be exclusive of or affect any other rights to which such Covered Person may be entitled. As used in this Article VIII, the term "Covered Person" shall include such person's heirs, executors and administrators and a "disinterested Trustee" is a Trustee who is not an "interested person" of the Trust as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act (or who has been exempted from being an "interested person" by any rule, regulation or order of the Commission) and against whom none of such actions, suits or other proceedings or another action, suit or other proceeding on the same or similar grounds is then or has been pending. Nothing contained in this Article shall affect any rights to indemnification to which personnel of the Trust, other than Trustees or officers and other persons may be entitled by contract or otherwise under law, nor the power of the Trust to purchase and maintain liability insurance on behalf of any such person.

Item 16. Exhibits

- (1) Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust dated August 15, 2002 - Exhibit 1.
- (2)(a) Bylaws, as amended through June 7, 1991 -- Exhibit 2.
- (2)(b) Amendment to Bylaws dated March 9, 2001 -- Exhibit 3.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Agreement and Plan of Reorganization -- Constitutes Exhibit A to Part A hereof.
- (5)(a) Portions of Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust Relating to Shareholders' Rights -- Exhibit 4.
- (5)(b) Portions of Bylaws, as amended, Relating to Shareholders' Rights - Exhibit 5.
- (6) Management Contract dated as of July 11, 1991 -- Exhibit 6.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) Trustee Retirement Plan as adopted October 4, 1996 -- Exhibit 7.
- (9) Custodian Agreement with Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company, as amended and restated as of June 1, 2001 -- Exhibit 8.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

- (10) Not applicable.
- (11) Opinion of Ropes & Gray LLP, including consent -- To be filed by Pre-Effective Amendment.
- (12) Opinion of Ropes & Gray LLP as to Tax Matters -- To be filed by Post-Effective Amendment.
- (13) Not applicable.
- (14) (a) Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm to Putnam High Income Bond Fund -- Exhibit 9.
- (14) (b) Consent of KPMG LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm to Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust -- Exhibit 10.
- (15) Not applicable.
- (16) Powers of Attorney -- Exhibit 11.
- (17) Not applicable.

Item 17. Undertakings

(a) The undersigned Registrant agrees that prior to any public reoffering of the securities registered through the use of a prospectus which is a part of this Registration Statement by any person or party who is deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of Rule 145(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the reoffering prospectus will contain the information called for by the applicable registration form for reofferings by persons who may be deemed underwriters, in addition to the information called for by the other items of the applicable form.

(b) The undersigned Registrant agrees that every prospectus that is filed under paragraph (a) above will be filed as a part of an amendment to this Registration Statement and will not be used until the amendment is effective, and that, in determining any liability under the Act, each post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement for the securities offered therein, and the offering of the securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering of them.

(c) The Registrant agrees to file an opinion of counsel supporting the tax consequences of the proposed reorganization as an amendment to this Registration Statement within a reasonable time after receipt of such opinion.

NOTICE

A copy of the Agreement and Declaration of Trust, as amended, of the Registrant is on file with the Secretary of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and notice is hereby given that this Registration Statement has been executed on behalf of the Registrant by an officer of the Registrant as an officer and not individually, and the obligations of or arising out of this Registration Statement are not binding upon any of the Trustees, officers, or shareholders of the Registrant individually, but are binding only upon the assets and property of the Registrant.

SIGNATURES

As required by the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed on behalf of the Registrant, in the City of Boston and The Commonwealth of Massachusetts on the 4th day of October, 2004.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND

By: /s/ Charles E. Porter

Executive Vice President,
Associate Treasurer and
Principal Executive Officer

As required by the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title
John A. Hill	Chairman of the Trustees
George Putnam, III	President; Trustee
Charles E. Porter	Executive Vice President, Associate Treasurer and Principal Executive Officer
Steven D. Krichmar	Vice President; Principal Financial Officer
Michael T. Healy	Principal Accounting Officer; Assistant Treasurer
Jameson A. Baxter	Trustee
Charles B. Curtis	Trustee
Ronald J. Jackson	Trustee
Paul L. Joskow	Trustee
Robert E. Patterson	Trustee
A.J.C. Smith	Trustee
W. Thomas Stephens	Trustee

By: Charles E. Porter,
as Attorney-in-Fact
October 4, 2004

EXHIBIT INDEX

- (1) Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust dated August 15, 2002 - Exhibit 1.
- (2) (a) Bylaws, as amended through June 7, 1991 -- Exhibit 2.
- (2) (b) Amendment to Bylaws dated March 9, 2001 -- Exhibit 3.
- (5) (a) Portions of Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust Relating to Shareholders' Rights -- Exhibit 4.
- (5) (b) Portions of Bylaws, as amended, Relating to Shareholders' Rights - Exhibit 5.
- (6) Management Contract dated as of July 11, 1991 -- Exhibit 6.
- (8) Trustee Retirement Plan as adopted October 4, 1996 -- Exhibit 7.
- (9) Custodian Agreement with Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company, as amended and restated as of June 1, 2001 -- Exhibit 8.
- (14) (a) Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm to Putnam High Income Bond Fund -- Exhibit 9.
- (14) (b) Consent of KPMG LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND - Form N-14 8C

to Putnam High Income Opportunities Trust -- Exhibit 10.
(16) Powers of Attorney - Exhibit 11.