MainStay VP IQ Hedge Multi-Strategy Portfolio

To Statutory Prospectus To Statement of Additional Information

Before you invest, you may want to review the Portfolio’s Prospectus, which contains more information about the Portfolio and its risks. You can find the Portfolio’s Prospectus, reports to shareholders and other information about the Portfolio by going online to nylinvestments.com/vpdocuments, by calling 800-598-2019 or by sending an e-mail to MainStayShareholderServices@nylim.com. The Portfolio’s Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, both dated May 1, 2020, as may be amended from time to time, are incorporated by reference into this Summary Prospectus.

Beginning on January 1, 2021, paper copies of a Portfolio’s annual and semi-annual shareholder reports will no longer be sent by mail, unless you specifically request paper copies of the reports from the insurance company that offers your policy. Instead, the reports will be made available online, and you will be notified by mail and provided with a website address to access the report. Instructions for requesting paper copies will be provided by your insurance company.

If you already elected to receive shareholder reports electronically, you will not be affected by this change and you need not take any action. At any time, you may elect to receive reports and other communications from the insurance company electronically by following the instructions provided by the insurance company.

You may elect to receive all future shareholder reports in paper form free of charge. You can inform the insurance company that you wish to receive paper copies of reports by following the instructions provided by the insurance company. Your election to receive reports in paper form will apply to all portfolio companies available under your contract.

Investment Objective

The Portfolio seeks investment returns that correspond (before fees and expenses) generally to the price and yield performance of its underlying index, the IQ Hedge Multi-Strategy Index. The IQ Hedge Multi-Strategy Index seeks to achieve performance similar to the overall hedge fund universe by replicating the “beta” portion of the hedge fund return characteristics (i.e., that portion of the returns that are non-idiosyncratic, or unrelated to manager skill) by using the following hedge fund investment styles: long/short equity; global macro; market neutral; event-driven; fixed-income arbitrage; and emerging markets.

Fees and Expenses of the Portfolio

The table below describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Portfolio. The table does not include any separate account or policy fees or charges imposed under the variable annuity policies and variable universal life insurance policies for which the Portfolio is an investment option. If they were included, your costs would be higher. Investors should consult the applicable variable annuity policy or variable universal life insurance policy prospectus for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial Class</th>
<th>Management Fees (as an annual percentage of the Portfolio’s average daily net assets)</th>
<th>0.75%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Distribution and Service (12b-1) Fees</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>0.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acquired (Underlying) Portfolio/Fund Fees and Expenses</td>
<td>0.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Annual Portfolio Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td>1.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Waiver / Reimbursement</strong></td>
<td>(0.50)%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Annual Portfolio Operating Expenses After Waivers / Reimbursements</strong></td>
<td>0.96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. New York Life Investment Management LLC (“New York Life Investments”) has contractually agreed to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses so that Total Annual Portfolio Operating Expenses (excluding taxes, interest, litigation, extraordinary expenses, brokerage and other transaction expenses relating to the purchase or sale of portfolio investments, and acquired (underlying) portfolio/fund fees and expenses) of Initial Class shares do not exceed 0.70% of the Portfolio’s average daily net assets. This agreement will remain in effect until May 1, 2021, and shall renew automatically for one-year terms unless New York Life Investments provides written notice of termination prior to the start of the next term or upon approval of the Board of Trustees of the Portfolio.

Example

The Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Portfolio with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The Example does not include any separate account or policy fees or charges imposed under the variable annuity policies and variable universal life insurance policies for which the Portfolio is an investment option. If they were included, your costs would be higher. The Example assumes that you invest $10,000 in the Portfolio for the time periods indicated whether or not you redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Portfolio’s operating expenses remain the same. The Example reflects the contractual fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement arrangement, if applicable, for the current duration of the arrangement only. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial Class</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>3 Years</th>
<th>5 Years</th>
<th>10 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 98</td>
<td>$ 413</td>
<td>$ 750</td>
<td>$ 1,703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Portfolio, by seeking to track the Underlying Index, seeks exposure to the following hedge fund investment styles:

- **Long/Short Hedge Funds**: Typically diversify their risks by limiting the net exposure to particular regions, industries, sectors, and market capitalization bands, allowing them to focus on company-specific anomalies. At the same time, long/short managers often hedge against un-diversifiable risk, such as market risk (i.e., the returns of the overall market). Certain long/short managers focus on specific sectors, regions, or industries, on particular investment styles, such as value or growth, or certain types of stocks, such as small or large.
- **Macro Hedge Funds**: Typically employ top-down macro analysis (e.g., political trends, macroeconomics, etc.) to identify dislocations in equity, fixed-income, currency, and commodity markets that are expected to lead to large price movements.
- **Market Neutral Hedge Funds**: Typically invest in both long and short positions in stocks while minimizing exposure to the systematic components of risk. These market neutral strategies seek to have a zero “beta” (or “market”) exposure to one or more systematic risk factors including the overall market (as represented by the S&P 500® Index), economic sectors or industries, market capitalization, region, and country. Market neutral strategies that effectively neutralize the market exposure are not impacted by directional moves in the market.
- **Event-Driven Hedge Funds**: Typically invest in a combination of credit opportunities and event-driven equities. Within the credit-oriented portion, sub-strategies include long/short high yield credit (below investment grade corporate bonds or “junk” bonds), leveraged loans (bank debt, mezzanine, or floating rate loans), capital structure arbitrage (debt vs. debt or debt vs. equity), and reorganization equity. Within the equity portion, sub-strategies include risk (or merger) arbitrage, holding company arbitrage, special situations and value equities where a change in management, significant product launch, or some other economic catalyst is expected to unlock shareholder wealth. Event-driven managers invest across multiple asset classes and may also seek to exploit shifts in economic cycles.

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• Emerging Market hedge funds typically invest in financial instruments such as equities, sovereign and corporate debt issues and currencies of countries in “emerging” markets (i.e., countries and economies in a transitional state from developing to developed).

• Fixed Income Arbitrage hedge funds typically employ strategies that seek to take advantage of price differentials and inefficiencies between fixed-income securities that are related either economically or statistically. Such funds may limit volatility by hedging out interest rate risk and market exposure.

The Underlying Index Components generally provide exposures to:

• U.S. large-capitalization equity;
• U.S. small-capitalization equity;
• U.S. growth equity;
• U.S. value equity;
• Emerging market equity, debt and sovereign debt, including small-capitalization equity;
• Foreign equity (Europe, Australasia & Far East), including small-capitalization equity;
• U.S. and foreign preferred securities;
• U.S. investment grade corporate debt;
• U.S. government short- and intermediate-term maturity obligations;
• U.S. high yield (or “junk”) debt;
• U.S. Treasury Inflation Protection Securities (“TIPS”);
• U.S. mortgage-backed debt;
• U.S. convertible debt;
• U.S. floating rate bank loans;
• Municipal bonds;
• Foreign sovereign debt;
• Foreign currencies and currency futures;
• U.S. and foreign real estate investment trusts;
• Commodities; and
• The implied volatility of the S&P 500® Index.

The Subadvisor anticipates that, generally, the Portfolio will hold all of the investments that comprise the Underlying Index in approximate proportion to their weightings in the Underlying Index. However, the Portfolio may use a “representative sampling” strategy in seeking to track the performance of its Underlying Index when an Underlying Index Component is not available or when the Subadvisor believes it would be beneficial for the Portfolio to use a representative sampling strategy, such as when the use of a representative sampling strategy would reduce portfolio trading and implementation costs for the Portfolio.

When using a representative sampling strategy, the Portfolio will invest in a sample of its Underlying Index Components where risk, return and other characteristics closely resemble the risk, return and other characteristics of the Underlying Index as a whole.

Principal Risks of the Portfolio

You can lose money by investing in the Portfolio. An investment in the Portfolio is not a bank deposit and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency. The investments selected by the Subadvisor may underperform the market in which the Portfolio invests or other investments. The Portfolio may receive large purchase or redemption orders which may have adverse effects on performance if the Portfolio were required to sell securities, invest cash or hold a relatively large amount of cash at times when it would not otherwise do so.

The principal risks of investing in the Portfolio are summarized below. These may also be principal risks of an ETP in which the Portfolio invests.

Exchange-Traded Fund Risk: The risks of owning an ETF generally reflect the risks of owning the securities in which the ETF invests or is designed to track, although lack of liquidity in an ETF could result in it being more volatile than its underlying portfolio securities. Disruptions in the markets for the securities underlying ETFs purchased or sold by the Portfolio could result in losses on the Portfolio’s investment in ETFs. ETFs also have management fees and transaction costs that may make them more expensive than owning the underlying securities directly.

Index Risk: The performance of the Underlying Index may deviate from that of the markets the Underlying Index seeks to track due to changes that are reflected in the sector more quickly than the Underlying Index’s monthly rebalancing process can track. Securities in the Underlying Index may also underperform in comparison to the general securities markets. In addition, there is no assurance that the Underlying Index’s methodology will generate or produce the intended results, including achieving exposure to the overall hedge fund universe.

Derivatives Risk: Derivatives are investments whose value depends on (or is derived from) the value of an underlying instrument, such as a security, asset, reference rate or index. Derivative strategies may expose the Portfolio to greater risk than if it had invested directly in the underlying instrument and often involve leverage, which may exaggerate a loss, potentially causing the Portfolio to lose more money than it originally invested and would have lost had it invested directly in the underlying instrument. Derivatives may be difficult to sell, unwind or value. Derivatives may also be subject to counterparty risk, which is the risk that the counterparty (the party on the other side of the transaction) on a derivative transaction will be unable or unwilling to honor its contractual obligations to the Portfolio. Futures may be more volatile than direct investments in the instrument underlying the contract, and may not correlate perfectly to the underlying instrument. Futures and other derivatives also may involve a small initial investment relative to the risk assumed, which could result in losses greater than if they had not been used. Due to fluctuations in the price of the underlying asset, the Portfolio may not be able to profitably exercise an option.
and may lose its entire investment in an option. To the extent that the Portfolio writes or sells an option, if the decline in the value of the underlying asset is significantly below the exercise price in the case of a written put option or increase above the exercise price in the case of a written call option, the Portfolio could experience a substantial loss. Swaps may be subject to counterparty credit, correlation, valuation, liquidity and leveraging risks. Swap transactions tend to shift a Portfolio’s investment exposure from one type of investment to another and may entail the risk that a party will default on its payment obligations to the Portfolio. Additionally, applicable regulators have adopted rules imposing certain margin requirements, including minimums on uncleared swaps, which may result in the Portfolio and its counterparties posting higher margin amounts for uncleared swaps. Certain standardized swaps are subject to mandatory central clearing and exchange trading. Central clearing, which interposes a central clearinghouse to each participant’s swap, and exchange trading are intended to reduce counterparty credit risk and increase liquidity but neither makes swap transactions risk-free. Derivatives may also increase the expenses of the Portfolio.

**Large Transaction Risks:** To minimize disruptions to the operations of the Portfolio, the Subadvisor seeks to maintain existing allocations and to implement small changes to target allocations through the netting of purchases and redemptions of Portfolio shares. These practices may temporarily affect the Subadvisor’s ability to fully implement the Portfolio’s investment strategies.

**Leverage Risk:** To the extent the Portfolio employs certain strategies and instruments (e.g., derivatives) that result in economic leverage, the Portfolio may be more volatile and sensitive to market movements than a fund that does not employ leverage. The use of leverage creates additional investment exposure as well as the potential for greater loss and may require the Portfolio to liquidate investments when it may be disadvantageous to do so.

**Liquidity and Valuation Risk:** The Portfolio’s investments may be illiquid at the time of purchase or liquid at the time of purchase and subsequently become illiquid due to, among other things, events relating to the issuer of the securities, market events, operational issues, economic conditions, investor perceptions or lack of market participants. The lack of an active trading market may make it difficult to sell or obtain an accurate price for a security. If market conditions or issuer specific developments make it difficult to value securities, the Portfolio may value these securities using more subjective methods, such as fair value pricing. In such cases, the value determined for a security could be different than the value realized upon such security’s sale. As a result, an investor could pay more than the market value when buying shares or receive less than the market value when selling shares. This could affect the proceeds of any redemption or the number of shares an investor receives upon purchase.

The Portfolio is subject to the risk that it could not meet redemption requests within the allowable time period without significant dilution of remaining investors’ interests in the Portfolio. To meet redemption requests or to raise cash to pursue other investment opportunities, the Portfolio may be forced to sell securities at an unfavorable time and/or under unfavorable conditions, which may adversely affect the Portfolio.

**Market Risk:** The value of the Portfolio’s investments may fluctuate because of changes in the markets in which the Portfolio invests, which could cause the Portfolio to underperform other funds with similar investment objectives and strategies. Such changes may be rapid and unpredictable. From time to time, markets may experience periods of stress for potentially prolonged periods that may result in: (i) increased market volatility; (ii) reduced market liquidity; and (iii) increased redemptions of Portfolio shares. Such conditions may add significantly to the risk of volatility in the net asset value of the Portfolio’s shares.

**Cash Flow Risk:** The amount of cash that the Portfolio has available to distribute to shareholders will depend on the ability of the ETPs in which the Portfolio has an interest to make distributions or pay dividends to their investors and the tax character of those distributions or dividends.

**Portfolio Management Risk:** The investment strategies, practices and risk analyses used by the Subadvisor may not produce the desired results. The Portfolio may be particularly susceptible to this risk to the extent that the Subadvisor employs a “representative sampling” strategy. In addition, the Portfolio may not achieve its investment objective and the Portfolio may not achieve performance similar to the overall hedge fund universe or the Underlying Index (i.e., the Portfolio’s returns may not equal or exceed those of the Underlying Index).

**Passive Management Risk:** Unlike many investment companies, the Portfolio seeks to track its Underlying Index and is not “actively” managed. Therefore, the Portfolio would not necessarily sell a security because the security’s issuer was in financial trouble unless that security is removed from (or was no longer useful in tracking a component of) the Underlying Index.

**Short Selling and Short Exposure Risk:** To the extent the Portfolio obtains short exposure through the use of derivatives, the Portfolio would be subject to leverage risk, counterparty risk and other risks associated with the use of derivatives. If a security sold short increases in price, the Portfolio may have to cover its short position at a higher price than the short sale price, resulting in a loss. The Portfolio may have substantial short positions and must borrow those securities to make delivery to the buyer. The Portfolio may not be able to borrow a security that it needs to deliver or it may not be able to close out a short position at an acceptable price and may have to sell related long positions before it had intended to do so. Thus, the Portfolio may not be able to successfully implement its short sale strategy due to limited availability of desired securities or for other reasons. The Portfolio also may be required to pay a premium and other transaction costs, which would increase the cost of the security sold short. The amount of any gain will be decreased, and the amount of any loss increased, by the amount of the premium, dividends, interest or expenses the Portfolio may be required to pay in connection with the short sale.

Until the Portfolio replaces a borrowed security, it is required to maintain a segregated account of cash or liquid assets with the Portfolio’s custodian to cover the Portfolio’s short position. Generally, securities held in a segregated account cannot be sold unless they are replaced with other liquid assets. The Portfolio’s ability to access the pledged collateral may also be impaired in the event the broker fails to comply with the terms of the contract. In such instances the Portfolio may not be able to substitute or sell the pledged collateral. Additionally, the Portfolio must maintain sufficient liquid assets (less any additional collateral pledged to or held with the broker), marked-to-market daily, to cover the short sale obligations. This may limit the Portfolio’s investment flexibility, as well as its ability to meet redemption requests or other current obligations. Because losses on short sales arise from increases in the value of the security sold short, such losses are theoretically unlimited. By contrast, a loss on a long position arises from decreases in the value of the security and is limited by the fact that a security’s value cannot go below zero.

By investing the proceeds received from selling securities short, the Portfolio could be deemed to be employing a form of leverage, which creates special risks. The use of leverage may increase the Portfolio’s exposure to long positions and make any change in the Portfolio’s net asset value greater than it would be without the use of leverage. This could result in increased volatility of returns. There is no guarantee that the Portfolio will leverage its portfolio, or if it does, that the Portfolio’s leveraging strategy will be successful or that it will produce a higher return on an investment.
Correlation Risk: The investment results of the Portfolio may not equal or exceed those of the Underlying Index for a number of reasons, including operating expenses, transaction costs and trading risks (when rebalancing the Portfolio’s securities holdings to reflect changes in the Underlying Index or for other similar reasons), cash flows and operational inefficiencies. Market disruptions and regulatory restrictions could have an adverse effect on the Portfolio’s ability to adjust its exposure to the required levels to track the Underlying Index. In addition, the Portfolio may use a “representative sampling” approach, which may cause the Portfolio’s investment results to not be as well correlated with those of the Underlying Index as would be the case if the Portfolio purchased all of the securities in the Underlying Index in the proportions represented in the Underlying Index. Errors in the Underlying Index data, the Underlying Index computations and/or the construction of the Underlying Index in accordance with its methodology may occur from time to time and may not be identified and corrected by the provider of the Underlying Index for a period of time or at all, which may have an adverse impact on the Portfolio and its shareholders. As a result, the Portfolio’s returns may be lower than the returns of the Underlying Index.

Fund of Funds Risk: The Portfolio’s investment performance, because it is a fund of funds, depends on the investment performance of the ETPs in which it invests.

Focused Portfolio Risk: To the extent that the Underlying Index concentrates (i.e., holds 25% or more of its total assets) in an industry or group of industries, the Portfolio will concentrate its investments to approximately the same extent as the Underlying Index. In such instances, the Portfolio may be subject to risks that are more prevalent in the industry or group of industries in which the Underlying Index is concentrated. The performance of such industries and sectors may lag behind the broader market as a whole.

Investments in Other Investment Companies Risk: The Portfolio’s investment in another investment company may subject the Portfolio indirectly to the risks of that investment company. The Portfolio also will bear a share of the underlying investment company’s fees and expenses, which are in addition to the Portfolio’s own fees and expenses.

Principal Risks of the ETPs
The principal risks of the ETPs in which the Portfolio invests, which could adversely affect the performance of the Portfolio, may include the risks summarized below. For purposes of the risks summarized below, the terms “Portfolio” and “Portfolios” may also refer to “Underlying Portfolio/Fund” or “ETPs” as the context requires.

Equity Securities Risk: Investments in common stocks and other equity securities are particularly subject to the risk of changing economic, stock market, industry and company conditions and the risks inherent in the portfolio managers’ ability to anticipate such changes that can adversely affect the value of the Portfolio’s holdings.

Geographic Focus Risk: Issuers that operate in a single country, a small number of countries, or a particular geographic region can be affected similarly by the market, currency, political, economic, regulatory, geopolitical and other conditions in such country or region, and the Portfolio’s performance will be affected by the conditions in the countries or regions to which the Portfolio is exposed. To the extent the Portfolio focuses its investments in a particular country or region, its performance will be more susceptible to adverse developments in such country or region than a more geographically diversified fund.

Growth Stock Risk: If growth companies do not increase their earnings at a rate expected by investors, the market price of the stock may decline significantly, even if earnings show an absolute increase. Growth company stocks also typically lack the dividend yield that can cushion stock prices in market downturns.

Value Stock Risk: Value stocks may never reach what the Portfolio’s portfolio managers believe is their full value or they may go down in value. In addition, different types of stocks tend to shift in and out of favor depending on market and economic conditions, and therefore the Portfolio’s performance may be lower than that of funds that invest in other types of equity securities.

Market Capitalization Risk: To the extent the Portfolio invests in securities issued by small-, mid-, or large-cap companies, the Portfolio will be subject to the risks associated with securities issued by companies of the applicable market capitalization. Securities of small-cap and mid-cap companies may be subject to greater price volatility, significantly lower trading volumes, cyclical, static or moderate growth prospects and greater spreads between their bid and ask prices than securities of larger companies. Smaller capitalization companies frequently rely on narrower product lines and niche markets and may be more vulnerable to adverse business or market developments. Securities issued by larger companies may have less growth potential and may not be able to attain the high growth rates of successful smaller companies, especially during strong economic periods. In addition, larger companies may be less capable of responding quickly to competitive challenges and industry changes, including those resulting from improvements in technology, and may suffer sharper price declines as a result of earnings disappointments. There is a risk that the securities issued by companies of a certain market capitalization may underperform the broader market at any given time.

Foreign Securities Risk: Investments in foreign (non-U.S.) securities may be riskier than investments in U.S. securities. Foreign regulatory regimes and securities markets can have less stringent investor protections and disclosure standards and less liquid trading markets than U.S. regulatory regimes and securities markets, and can experience political, social and economic developments that may affect the value of the Portfolio’s investments in foreign securities. Foreign securities may also subject the Portfolio’s investments to changes in currency rates. Changes in the value of foreign currencies may make the return on an investment increase or decrease, unrelated to the quality or performance of the investment itself.

Emerging Markets Risk: The risks related to investing in foreign securities are generally greater with respect to securities of companies that conduct their business activities in emerging markets or whose securities are traded principally in emerging markets. The risks of investing in emerging markets include the risks of illiquidity, increased price volatility, smaller market capitalizations, less government regulation, less extensive and less frequent accounting, financial and other reporting requirements, loss resulting from problems in share registration and custody, substantial economic and political disruptions and the nationalization of foreign deposits or assets.

Convertible Securities Risk: Convertible securities are typically subordinate to an issuer’s other debt obligations. In part, the total return for a convertible security depends upon the performance of the underlying stock into which it can be converted. Also, issuers of convertible securities are often not as strong
financially as those issuing securities with higher credit ratings, are more likely to encounter financial difficulties and typically are more vulnerable to changes in the economy, such as a recession or a sustained period of rising interest rates, which could affect their ability to make interest and principal payments. If an issuer stops making interest and/or principal payments, the Portfolio could lose its entire investment.

**Currency Risk:** Changes in the value of foreign (non-U.S.) currencies relative to the U.S. dollar may adversely affect the Portfolio’s investments in foreign currencies or in securities that trade in, and receive revenues in, or in derivatives that provide exposure to, foreign currencies. These changes in value can make the return on an investment go up or down, entirely apart from the quality or performance of the investment itself.

**Depositary Receipts Risk:** Investments in depositary receipts may entail the special risks of investing in foreign securities, including currency exchange fluctuations, government regulations, and the potential for political and economic instability.

**Debt Securities Risk:** The risks of investing in debt or fixed-income securities include (without limitation): (i) credit risk, e.g., the issuer or guarantor of a debt security may be unable or unwilling (or be perceived as unable or unwilling) to make timely principal and/or interest payments or otherwise honor its obligations, or changes in an issuer’s credit rating or the market’s perception of an issuer’s creditworthiness may affect the value of the Portfolio’s investments; (ii) maturity risk, e.g., a debt security with a longer maturity may fluctuate in value more than one with a shorter maturity; (iii) market risk, e.g., low demand for debt securities may negatively impact their price; (iv) interest rate risk, e.g., when interest rates go up, the value of a debt security generally goes down, and when interest rates go down, the value of a debt security generally goes up (long-term debt securities are generally more susceptible to interest rate risk than short-term debt securities); and (v) call or prepayment risk, e.g., during a period of falling interest rates, the issuer may redeem a security by repaying it early, which may reduce the Portfolio’s income if the proceeds are reinvested at lower interest rates.

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the Portfolio’s investments in fixed income or debt securities will change because of changes in interest rates. There is a risk that interest rates across the financial system may change, possibly significantly and/or rapidly. Changes in interest rates or a lack of market participants may lead to decreased liquidity and increased volatility in the fixed-income or debt markets, making it more difficult for the Portfolio to sell its fixed-income or debt holdings. Decreased liquidity in the fixed-income or debt markets also may make it more difficult to value some or all of the Portfolio’s fixed-income or debt holdings. For most fixed-income investments, when market interest rates fall, prices of fixed-rate debt securities rise. However, when market interest rates fall, prices of certain variable and fixed-rate debt securities may be adversely affected (i.e., falling interest rates bring the possibility of prepayment risk, as an instrument may be redeemed before maturity).

Not all U.S. government debt securities are guaranteed by the U.S. government—some are backed only by the issuing agency, which must rely on its own resources to repay the debt. The Portfolio’s yield will fluctuate with changes in short-term interest rates.

**High-Yield Securities Risk:** Investments in high-yield securities or non-investment grade securities (commonly referred to as “junk bonds”) are considered speculative because investments in such securities present a greater risk of loss than investments in higher quality securities. Such securities may, under certain circumstances, be less liquid than higher rated securities. These securities pay investors a premium (a high interest rate or yield) because of the potential illiquidity and increased risk of loss. These securities can also be subject to greater price volatility. In times of unusual or adverse market, economic or political conditions, these securities may experience higher than normal default rates.

**Floating Rate Notes and Variable Rate Notes Risk:** Floating and variable rate notes provide for a periodic adjustment in the interest rate paid on the securities. The rate adjustment intervals may be regular and range from daily up to annually, or may be based on an event, such as a change in the prime rate. Floating and variable rate notes may be subject to greater liquidity risk than other debt securities, meaning that there may be limitations on the Portfolio’s ability to sell the securities at any given time. Securities with floating interest rates generally are less sensitive to interest rate changes, but may decline in value if their interest rates do not rise as much or as fast as interest rates in general. Floating rate loans and other similar debt obligations that lack financial maintenance covenants or possess fewer or contingent financial maintenance covenants and other financial protections for lenders and investors (sometimes referred to as “covenant-lite” loans or obligations) are generally subject to more risk than investments that contain traditional financial maintenance covenants and financial reporting requirements. The terms of many floating rate notes and other instruments are tied to the London Interbank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”), which functions as a reference rate or benchmark. It is anticipated that LIBOR will be discontinued at the end of 2021, which may cause increased volatility and illiquidity in the markets for instruments with terms tied to LIBOR or other adverse consequences for these instruments. These events may adversely affect the Portfolio and its investments in such instruments.

**Mortgage-Related and Other Asset-Backed Securities Risk:** Investments in mortgage-related securities (such as mortgage-backed securities) and other asset-backed securities generally involve a stream of payments based on the underlying obligations. These payments, which are often part interest and part return of principal, vary based on the rate at which the underlying borrowers repay their loans or other obligations. Asset-backed securities are subject to the risk that borrowers may default on the underlying obligations and that, during periods of falling interest rates, these obligations may be called or prepaid and, during periods of rising interest rates, obligations may be paid more slowly than expected. Impairment of the underlying obligations or collateral, such as by non-payment, will reduce the security’s value. Enforcing rights against such collateral in events of default may be difficult or insufficient. The value of these securities may be significantly affected by changes in interest rates, the market’s perception of issuers, and the creditworthiness of the parties involved. These securities may have a structure that makes their reaction to interest rate changes and other factors difficult to predict, making their value highly volatile.

**Mortgage Pass-Through Securities Risk:** Investments in mortgage pass-through securities are subject to similar market risks as fixed-income securities, which include, but are not limited to, interest rate risk, credit risk, prepayment risk, and extension risk.

**Commodities and Commodity-Linked Derivatives Risk:** Exposure to the commodities markets, such as precious metals, industrial metals, gas and other energy products and natural resources, may subject the Portfolio to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities. The commodities markets may fluctuate widely based on a variety of factors including changes in overall market movements, political and economic events and policies, war, acts of terrorism, weather and natural disasters, and changes in interest rates or inflation rates. Because the value of a commodity-linked derivative instrument and structured note typically are based upon the price movements of physical commodities, the value of these securities will rise or fall in response to changes in the underlying commodities or related index of investment.
Preferred Stock Risk: Preferred stock is subject to many of the risks associated with debt securities, including interest rate risk. In addition, preferred stocks may not pay dividends, an issuer may suspend payment of dividends on preferred stock at any time, and in certain situations an issuer may call or redeem its preferred stock or convert it to common stock. To the extent that the Portfolio invests a substantial portion of its assets in convertible preferred stocks, declining common stock values may also cause the value of the Portfolio’s investments to decline.

Real Estate Investment Trust (“REIT”) Risk: Investments in REITs involve risks associated with direct ownership of real estate, including decline in property values, extended vacancies, increases in property taxes and changes in interest rates. Additionally, the appreciation of securities issued by a REIT depends, in part, on the skills of the REIT’s manager. REITs may not be diversified, may experience substantial cost in the event of borrower or lessee defaults and are subject to heavy cash flow dependency.

Repurchase Agreement Risk: Repurchase agreements are subject to the risks that the seller will become bankrupt or insolvent before the date of repurchase or otherwise will fail to repurchase the security as agreed, which could cause losses to the Portfolio.

Rights and Warrants Risk: Rights and warrants may provide a greater potential for profit or loss than an equivalent investment in the underlying securities. Prices of these investments do not necessarily move in tandem with the prices of the underlying securities, and warrants are speculative investments. If a right or warrant is not exercised by the date of its expiration, the Portfolio will lose its entire investment in such right or warrant.

Distressed Securities Risk: Investments in distressed securities are subject to substantial risks in addition to the risks of investing in other types of high-yield securities. Distressed securities are speculative and involve substantial risk that principal will not be repaid. Generally, the Portfolio will not receive interest payments on such securities and may incur costs to protect its investment. In addition, the Portfolio’s ability to sell distressed securities and any securities received in exchange for such securities may be restricted.

Event-Driven Arbitrage Risk: The Portfolio’s investments in securities and companies in anticipation of a “special situation” (e.g., a merger) carry the risk that the special situation does not occur as anticipated, when anticipated, or at all, or if it is perceived to be less likely to occur. The market price of the security purchased by the Portfolio may decline sharply and result in losses to the Portfolio if, for example, such securities are ultimately sold, transferred or exchanged for securities or cash, the value of which is less than the purchase price.

Floating Rate Loans Risk: The floating rate loans in which the Portfolio invests are usually rated below investment grade, or if unrated, determined by the Portfolio or its advisor to be of comparable quality (commonly referred to as “junk bonds”) and are generally considered speculative because they present a greater risk of loss, including default, than higher quality debt instruments. Moreover, such investments may, under certain circumstances, be particularly susceptible to liquidity and valuation risks. Although certain floating rate loans are collateralized, there is no guarantee that the value of the collateral will be sufficient or available to satisfy the borrower’s obligation. In times of unusual or adverse market, economic or political conditions, floating rate loans may experience higher than normal default rates. In the event of a recession or serious credit event, among other eventualities, the value of the Portfolio’s investments in floating rate loans are more likely to decline. The secondary market for floating rate loans is limited and, thus, the Portfolio’s ability to sell or realize the full value of its investment in these loans to reinvest sale proceeds or to meet redemption obligations may be impaired. In addition, floating rate loans generally are subject to extended settlement periods that may be longer than seven days. As a result, the Portfolio may be adversely affected by selling other investments at an unfavorable time and/or under unfavorable conditions or engaging in borrowing transactions, such as borrowing against its credit facility, to raise cash to meet redemption obligations or pursue other investment opportunities.

In certain circumstances, floating rate loans may not be deemed to be securities. As a result, the Portfolio may not have the protection of the anti-fraud provisions of the federal securities laws. In such cases, the Portfolio generally must rely on the contractual provisions in the loan agreement and common-law fraud protections under applicable state law.

Floating rate loans and other similar debt obligations that lack financial maintenance covenants or possess fewer or contingent financial maintenance covenants and other financial protections for lenders and investors (sometimes referred to as “covenant-lite” loans or obligations) are generally subject to more risk than investments that contain traditional financial maintenance covenants and financial reporting requirements. The terms of many floating rate loans and other instruments are tied to the London Interbank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”), which functions as a reference rate or benchmark. It is anticipated that LIBOR will be discontinued at the end of 2021, which may cause increased volatility and illiquidity in the markets for instruments with terms tied to LIBOR or other adverse consequences for these instruments. These events may adversely affect the Portfolio and its investments in such instruments.

Municipal Bond Risk: Municipal bond risks include the inability of the issuer to repay the obligation, the relative lack of information about certain issuers, and the possibility of future tax and legislative changes, which could affect the market for and value of municipal securities. Municipalities continue to experience economic and financial difficulties in the current economic environment. The ability of a municipal issuer to make payments and the value of municipal bonds can be affected by uncertainties in the municipal securities market. Such uncertainties could cause increased volatility in the municipal securities market and could negatively impact the Portfolio’s net asset value.

Loan Participation Interest Risk: There may not be a readily available market for loan participation interests, which in some cases could result in the Portfolio disposing of such interests at a substantial discount from face value or holding such interests until maturity. In addition, the Portfolio may be exposed to the credit risk of the underlying corporate borrower as well as the lending institution or other participant from whom the Portfolio purchased the loan participation interests. The Portfolio may not always have direct recourse against a borrower if the borrower fails to pay scheduled principal and/or interest and may be subject to greater delays, expenses and risks than if the Portfolio had purchased a direct obligation of the borrower. Substantial increases in interest rates may cause an increase in loan obligation defaults.

Zero Coupon Bond Risk: Because zero-coupon securities bear no interest and compound semi-annually at the rate fixed at the time of issuance, their value generally is more volatile than the value of other fixed-income securities. An investment in zero-coupon and delayed interest securities may cause the Portfolio to recognize income, and therefore the Portfolio may be required to make distributions to shareholders before the Portfolio receives any cash payments on its investment.
Past Performance

The Portfolio commenced operations on September 10, 2018. Effective November 30, 2018, the Portfolio entered into a reorganization with MainStay VP Absolute Return Multi-Strategy Portfolio (the "Reorganization"). As part of the Reorganization, the Portfolio assumed the performance history of MainStay VP Absolute Return Multi-Strategy Portfolio. Therefore, performance information for periods prior to November 30, 2018, reflects the performance of MainStay VP Absolute Return Multi-Strategy Portfolio.

The following bar chart and table indicate some of the risks of investing in the Portfolio. The bar chart shows you how the Portfolio’s calendar year performance has varied over time. The average annual total returns table shows how the Portfolio’s average annual total returns compare to those of a broad-based securities market index as well as a composite index. Separate variable annuity and variable universal life insurance account and policy fees and charges are not reflected in the bar chart and table. If they were, returns would be less than those shown. The Portfolio has selected the S&P Balanced Equity and Bond-Conservative Index as its primary benchmark. The S&P Balanced Equity and Bond-Conservative Index consists of a position in the S&P 500 Total Return Index (25%) and a position in the S&P U.S. Treasury Bond 7-10 Year Index (75%).

The Portfolio has selected the HFRI Fund of Funds Composite Index as its secondary benchmark. The HFRI Fund of Funds Composite Index is an equally weighted hedge fund index including over 650 domestic and off-shore fund of funds. The index is rebalanced monthly with performance updates three times per month.

Past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Portfolio will perform in the future.

Annual Returns, Initial Class Shares
(calender year 2014-2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>-11.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>-8.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>-0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>-6.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>8.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>-10.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Best Quarter 3Q/19 4.00%
Worst Quarter 3Q/15 -6.65%

Average Annual Total Returns (for the periods ended December 31, 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Inception</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>5 Years</th>
<th>Since Inception</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Class</td>
<td>5/1/2013</td>
<td>8.47%</td>
<td>-1.50%</td>
<td>-1.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S&amp;P Balanced Equity and Bond Conservative Index (reflects no deductions for fees, expenses, or taxes)</td>
<td></td>
<td>13.73%</td>
<td>5.16%</td>
<td>5.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HFRI Fund of Funds Composite Index (reflects no deductions for fees, expenses, or taxes)</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.77%</td>
<td>2.25%</td>
<td>2.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IQ Hedge Multi-Strategy Index (reflects no deductions for fees, expenses, or taxes)</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.36%</td>
<td>2.76%</td>
<td>3.26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Management

New York Life Investment Management LLC serves as the Portfolio’s Manager. IndexIQ Advisors LLC serves as the Subadvisor. The individuals listed below are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the Portfolio.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subadvisor</th>
<th>Portfolio Managers</th>
<th>Portfolio Service Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IndexIQ Advisors LLC</td>
<td>Greg Barrato, Senior Vice President</td>
<td>Since 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Harrison, Vice President</td>
<td>Since 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to Purchase and Sell Shares

Shares of the Portfolio are currently offered to certain separate accounts to fund variable annuity policies and variable universal life insurance policies issued by New York Life Insurance and Annuity Corporation (“NYLIAC”) and may also be offered to fund variable annuity policies and variable universal life insurance policies issued by other insurance companies. Shares of the Portfolio are also offered as underlying investments of the MainStay VP Asset Allocation Portfolios (“Asset Allocation Portfolios”) and other variable insurance funds.

Individual investors do not transact directly with the Portfolio to purchase and redeem shares. Rather, investors select underlying investment options offered by the applicable policy. Please refer to the prospectus for the variable annuity policy or variable universal life insurance policy that offers the Portfolio as an
underlying investment option for information on the allocation of premium payments and on transfers among the investment divisions of the separate account.

**Tax Information**

Because the Portfolio’s shareholders are the separate accounts of NYLIAC or other insurance companies through which you purchased your variable annuity policy or variable universal life insurance policy and the Asset Allocation Portfolios and other variable insurance funds, no discussion is included here as to the federal income tax consequences at the shareholder level. For information concerning the federal income tax consequences to variable annuity and variable universal life insurance policy owners, consult the prospectus relating to the appropriate policy.

**Compensation to Broker/Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries**

The Portfolio and/or its related companies may pay NYLIAC or other participating insurance companies, broker/dealers, or other financial intermediaries for the sale of Portfolio shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker/dealer or other financial intermediary or your sales person to recommend the Portfolio over another investment and/or a policy that offers this Portfolio over another investment. Ask your individual salesperson or visit your broker/dealer’s or other financial intermediary firm’s website for more information. For additional information about these payments, please see the section entitled “The Fund and its Management” in the Prospectus.

*New York Life Investments* is both a service mark, and the common trade name, of certain investment advisors affiliated with New York Life Insurance Company.