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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC Form 424B3

Index Maturity: One Month

October 01, 2001

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 76 Rule 424(b)(3) DATED: September 26, 2001 File No. 333-52902 (To Prospectus dated January 11, 2001, and Prospectus Supplement dated January 11, 2001) \$9,015,893,162 THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC. MEDIUM-TERM NOTES, SERIES B Principal Amount: \$10,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x] Original Issue Date: 10/1/2001 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes [] Maturity Date: 10/1/2002 CUSIP#: 073928VK6 Option to Extend Maturity: No [x] Yes [] Final Maturity Date: Redeemable On Price(s) Date(s) Price(s) Price(s) N/A N/A N/A N/A Applicable Only to Fixed Rate Notes: _____ Interest Rate: Interest Payment Dates: Applicable Only to Floating Rate Notes: Interest Rate Basis: Maximum Interest Rate: N/A [] Commercial Paper Rate Minimum Interest Rate: N/A [] Federal Funds Effective Rate [] Federal Funds Open Rate Interest Reset Date(s): * [] Treasury Rate Interest Reset Period: Monthly [] LIBOR Reuters Interest Payment Date(s): ** [x] LIBOR Telerate [] Prime Rate [] CMT Rate Initial Interest Rate: 2.658% Interest Payment Period: Monthly

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Spread (plus or minus): + 0.02%

- * On the 1st of each month prior to Maturity.
- ** On the 1st of each month and at Maturity.

The distribution of Notes will conform to the requirements set forth in Rule 2720 of the NASD Conduct Rules.