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Estimated average burden hours per response.......38

Page 1 of * 5	0	WASHING	EXCHANGE COMMI TON, D.C. 20549 orm 19b-4		File No.* S	SR - 2016 - * 016 mendments *)	
Filing by	NASDAQ BX, Inc.						
Pursuant to	Rule 19b-4 under the S	Securities Exchange	Act of 1934				
Initial * ✓	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2) *	Section .	on 19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *	
1 1101	tension of Time Period Commission Action *	Date Expires *		19b-4(f) 19b-4(f) 19b-4(f))(2) 19b-4(f)(5)		
Notice of pro	oposed change pursuant (e)(1) *	to the Payment, Clear Section 806(e)(2) *	ing, and Settlement Ac	t of 2010	Security-Based Swap to the Securities Exch Section 3C(b)(2)	-	
Exhibit 2 Sent	_	exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Do	ocument				
Description Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *). A proposal to amend its Options Pricing at Chapter XV Section 2.							
Contact Information Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.							
First Name	* Jurij		Last Name * Trypup	enko			
Title *	Associate General Co	ounsel					
E-mail *							
Telephone '		Fax (301) 978-8472	2				
Signature Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.							
		г		(Title *)			
	1/2016		Executive Vice Presid	dent and Ge	eneral Counsel		
By Edw	ard S. Knight						
this form. A di	(Name *) g the button at right will digit: gital signature is as legally bi once signed, this form canno	nding as a physical	edward.kr	night@nasd	aq.com	_	

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a Form 19b-4 Information * clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal Remove is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act. The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change * in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Add Remove View Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication **Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule** in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies * guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such Transcripts, Other Communications documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Remove View Add Exhibit Sent As Paper Document П Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is Add Remove View referred to by the proposed rule change. Exhibit Sent As Paper Document The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies** deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit Add Remove View the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working. **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text** The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part Add Remove View of the proposed rule change. If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy **Partial Amendment** proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial

amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

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1. <u>Text of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

(a) Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") ¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, ² NASDAQ BX, Inc. ("BX" or "Exchange") ³ is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposal to amend its Options Pricing at Chapter XV Section 2, entitled "BX Options Market – Fees and Rebates," which governs pricing for BX members using the BX Options Market ("BX Options"). The Exchange proposes to modify certain fees and rebates (per executed contract) to adopt the Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule for certain Penny Pilot Options (each a "Select Symbol" and together the "Select Symbols").

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u> is attached as <u>Exhibit 1</u>. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as <u>Exhibit 5</u>.

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

The Exchange notes that it has legally changed its name to NASDAQ BX, Inc. with the state of Delaware and filed Form 1 reflecting the change, and is in the process of changing its rules to reflect the new name.

The Penny Pilot was established in June 2012 and extended in 2015. See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 67256 (June 26, 2012), 77 FR 39277 (July 2, 2012) (SR-BX-2012-030) (order approving BX option rules and establishing Penny Pilot); and 75326 (June 29, 2015), 80 FR 38481 (July 6, 2015) (SR-BX-2015-037) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness extending the Penny Pilot through June 30, 2016).

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2. <u>Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors of the Exchange (the "Board") on July 1, 2015. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to Jurij Trypupenko, Associate General Counsel, Nasdaq, Inc., (301) 978-8132.

3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

a. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend its Chapter XV, Section 2, to modify certain fees and rebates⁵ to adopt the Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule for certain Penny Pilot Options. The proposed Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule would apply to Customers,⁶ BX Options Market Makers,⁷ Non-Customers,⁸ and Firms⁹.

Fees and rebates are per executed contract. BX Chapter XV, Section 2(1).

The term "Customer" or ("C") applies to any transaction that is identified by a Participant for clearing in the Customer range at The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") which is not for the account of broker or dealer or for the account of a "Professional" (as that term is defined in Chapter I, Section 1(a)(48)). BX Chapter XV.

BX Options Market Makers may also be referred to as "Market Makers". The term "BX Options Market Maker" or ("M") means a Participant that has registered as a Market Maker on BX Options pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 2, and must also remain in good standing pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 4. In order to receive Market Maker pricing in all securities, the Participant must be registered as a BX Options Market Maker in at least one security. BX Chapter XV.

Note 1 to Chapter XV, Section 2, states: "¹A Non-Customer includes a Professional, Broker-Dealer and Non-BX Options Market Maker."

The term "Firm" or ("F") applies to any transaction that is identified by a Participant for clearing in the Firm range at OCC. BX Chapter XV.

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Currently, Chapter XV, Section 2, subsection (1), contains a SPY¹⁰ Options Tier Schedule ("SPY Schedule") that has four tiers. The Exchange proposes to convert the SPY Schedule into the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule, as discussed in detail below.

Change 1 - Penny Pilot Options: Modify Fees and Rebates To Add the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule

In Change 1, the Exchange proposes modifications to convert its current SPY Schedule to the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule. The proposed change keeps the great majority of the current SPY Schedule fees and rebates assessments (twelve out of sixteen) and tiers (three out of four) exactly the same in the new Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule; and updates the fees and rebates schedule to indicate "Select Symbols" rather than "SPY."

Specifically, the Exchange proposes, commensurate with renaming the SPY

Options Tier Schedule the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule, to set forth the BX

Options Select Symbol List. The Select Symbols¹¹ on this list represent, similarly to

SPY, some of the highest volume Penny Pilot Options traded on the Exchange and in the

U.S. The proposed Select Symbols are similar to those of other options exchanges (e.g.,

[&]quot;SPY" or Standard and Poor's Depositary Receipts/SPDRs options are Penny Pilot Options that are based on the SPDR exchange-traded fund ("ETF"), which is designed to track the performance of the S&P 500.

The following are Select Symbols: ASHR, DIA, DXJ, EEM, EFA, EWJ, EWT, EWW, EWY, EWZ, FAS, FAZ, FXE, FXI, FXP, GDX, GLD, HYG, IWM, IYR, KRE, OIH, QID, QLD, QQQ, RSX, SDS, SKF, SLV, SPY, SRS, SSO, TBT, TLT, TNA, TZA, UNG, URE, USO, UUP, UVXY, UYG, VXX, XHB, XLB, XLE, XLF, XLI, XLK, XLP, XLU, XLV, XLY, XME, XOP, XRT.

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the MIAX Options Exchange ("MIAX"). Like the SPY Options Tier Schedule, the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule will have four tiers.

Proposed Tier 1 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule, which has the same requirements as the current Tier I in the SPY Options Tier Schedule will be where a BX Participant ("Participant") executes less than 0.05% of total industry customer equity and exchange traded fund ("ETF") option average daily volume ("ADV") contracts per month. Proposed Tier 1 will range from a \$0.00 rebate to a \$0.44 fee:

- the Rebate to Add Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX

 Options Market Maker, or Firm will be \$0.00 (no rebate will be paid); 13
- the Fee to Add Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.44;¹⁴
- the Rebate to Remove Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX

 Options Market Maker, Customer, or Firm will be \$0.00; 15 and
- the Fee to Remove Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.42. 16

Proposed Tier 2 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule, which has the same requirements as current Tier 2 in the SPY Options Tier Schedule, will be where

See MIAX fee schedule at http://www.miaxoptions.com/sites/default/files/fee-schedules/MIAX_Options_Fee_Schedule_10012015.pdf.

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

Proposed \$0.44 is a modest fee increase from the current SPY Options Tier Schedule, which is \$0.42.

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

This is the same as the fee in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

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Participant executes 0.05% to less than 0.15% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month. Proposed Tier 2 will range from a \$0.25 rebate to a \$0.44 fee:

- the new Rebate to Add Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX

 Options Market Maker, or Firm will be \$0.10;¹⁷
- the new Fee to Add Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.44;¹⁸
- the new Rebate to Remove Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX Options Market Maker, Customer, or Firm will be \$0.25; ¹⁹ and
- the new Fee to Remove Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with
 Customer will be \$0.42.²⁰

Proposed Tier 3 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule, which has the same requirements the current Tier 3 in the SPY Options Tier Schedule, will be where Participant executes 0.15% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month. Proposed Tier 3 will range from a \$0.37 rebate to a \$0.40 fee:

- the new Rebate to Add Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX

Options Market Maker, or Firm will be \$0.20;²¹

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

Proposed \$0.44 is a modest fee increase from the current SPY Options Tier Schedule, which is \$0.42.

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

This is the same as the fee in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

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- the new Fee to Add Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.40;²²

- the new Rebate to Remove Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX Options Market Maker, Customer, or Firm will be \$0.37; ²³ and
- the new Fee to Remove Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.39.²⁴

Proposed Tier 4 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule, which is modified from the current Tier 4 in the SPY Options Tier Schedule, will be where Participant executes more than 10,000 BX Price Improvement Auction ("PRISM")²⁵ Agency Contracts per month; or Participant executes BX Options Market Maker volume of 0.30% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF options ADV per month. If a Participant qualifies for Tier 4 the rates applicable to this tier will supersede any other

Proposed \$0.40 is a modest fee increase from the current SPY Options Tier Schedule, which is \$0.39.

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

This is the same as the fee in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

PRISM is a Price Improvement Mechanism for all-electronic BX Options whereby a buy and sell order may be submitted in one order message to initiate an auction at a stop price and seek potential price improvement. Options are traded electronically on BX Options, and all options participants may respond to a PRISM Auction, the duration of which is set at 200 milliseconds. PRISM includes auto-match functionality in which a Participant (an "Initiating Participant") may electronically submit for execution an order it represents as agent on behalf of customer, broker dealer, or any other entity ("PRISM Order") against principal interest or against any other order it represents as agent (an "Initiating Order") provided it submits the PRISM Order for electronic execution into the PRISM Auction pursuant. See Chapter VI, Section 9; and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76301 (October 29, 2015), 80 FR 68347 (November 4, 2015) (SR-BX-2015-032) (order approving BX PRISM).

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Select Symbols tier rates that the Participant may qualify for. Proposed Tier 4 will range from a \$0.37 rebate to a \$0.29 fee:

- the new Rebate to Add Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX

 Options Market Maker, or Firm will be \$0.25;²⁶
- the new Fee to Add Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.29;²⁷
- the new Rebate to Remove Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX Options Market Maker, Customer, or Firm will be \$0.37;²⁸ and
- the new Fee to Remove Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.25.²⁹

In addition, there are currently six explanatory notes in the SPY Options Tier Schedule. In each such note the Exchange will, as elsewhere in the fees and rebates schedule, replace "SPY" with "Select Symbols." The Exchange proposes to also establish a fee on one note that is not currently fee liable in the SPY Options Tier Schedule. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to state that BX Options Market Maker fee to add liquidity in SPY Options will be \$0.04 when trading with Firm, Non-Customer, or BX Options Market Maker.

Chapter XV, Section 2 subsection (1) reflecting the proposed Select Symbols Options

Tier Schedule will read as follows:

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

Proposed \$0.29 is, in order to further promote liquidity on the Exchange, a modest fee decrease from the current SPY Options Tier Schedule, which is \$0.32.

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

This is the same as the fee in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

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Sec. 2 BX Options Market—Fees and Rebates

The following charges shall apply to the use of the order execution and routing services of the BX Options market for all securities.

(1) Fees for Execution of Contracts on the BX Options Market:

* * * * *

Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule

		Rebate to Add Liquidity	Fee to Add Liquidity	Rebate to Remove Liquidity	Fee to Remove Liquidity
	When:	Customer	BX Options Market Maker	Customer	BX Options Market Maker
	Trading with:	Non- Customer, BX Options Market Maker, or Firm	Customer	Non- Customer, BX Options Market Maker, Customer, or Firm	Customer
Tier 1	Participant executes less than 0.05% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month.	\$0.00	\$0.44	\$0.00	\$0.42
Tier 2	Participant executes 0.05% to less than 0.15% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts	\$0.10	\$0.44	\$0.25	\$0.42

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Tier 3	Participant executes 0.15% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month	\$0.20	\$0.40	\$0.37	\$0.39
Tier 4	Participant executes more than 10,000 PRISM Agency Contracts per month; or Participant executes BX Options Market Maker volume of 0.30% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF options ADV per month	\$0.25	\$0.29	\$0.37	\$0.25

BX Options Select Symbol List

The following are Select Symbols: ASHR, DIA, DXJ, EEM, EFA, EWJ, EWT, EWW, EWY, EWZ, FAS, FAZ, FXE, FXI, FXP, GDX, GLD, HYG, IWM, IYR, KRE, OIH, QID, QLD, QQQ, RSX, SDS, SKF, SLV, SPY, SRS, SSO, TBT, TLT, TNA, TZA, UNG, URE, USO, UUP, UVXY, UYG, VXX, XHB, XLB, XLE, XLF, XLI, XLK, XLP, XLU, XLV, XLY, XME, XOP, XRT

- BX Options Market Maker fee to add liquidity in Select Symbols Options will be \$0.04 when trading with Firm, Non-Customer, or BX Options Market Maker.
- Firm fee to add liquidity and fee to remove liquidity in Select Symbols Options will be \$0.33 per contract, regardless of counterparty.
- Non-Customer fee to add liquidity and fee to remove liquidity in Select Symbols Options will be \$0.46 per contract, regardless of counterparty.

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• BX Options Market Maker fee to remove liquidity in Select Symbols Options will be \$0.46 per contract when trading with Firm, Non-Customer, or BX Options Market Maker.

- Customer fee to add liquidity in Select Symbols Options when contra to another Customer is \$0.33 per contract.
- Volume from all products listed on BX Options will apply to the Select Symbols Options Tiers.

* * * * *

The Exchange is proposing fees and rebate changes and adopting the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule at this time because it believes that this will provide incentives for execution of contracts, and in particular Select Symbols Options contracts, on the BX Options Market.

The Exchange also believes that its proposal should provide increased opportunities for participation in executions on the Exchange, facilitating the ability of the Exchange to bring together participants and encourage more robust competition for orders.

b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend its Pricing Schedule is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,³⁰ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) and (b)(5) of the Act,³¹ in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system which the Exchange operates or controls, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

³⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

³¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4), (5).

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The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."³²

Likewise, in NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission³³

("NetCoalition") the D.C. Circuit upheld the Commission's use of a market-based approach in evaluating the fairness of market data fees against a challenge claiming that Congress mandated a cost-based approach.³⁴ As the court emphasized, the Commission "intended in Regulation NMS that 'market forces, rather than regulatory requirements' play a role in determining the market data . . . to be made available to investors and at what cost."³⁵

Further, "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' ... As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or

Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 at 37499 (June 9, 2005) ("Regulation NMS Adopting Release").

³³ <u>NetCoalition v. SEC</u>, 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

See id. at 534-535.

³⁵ See id. at 537.

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otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'...."³⁶ Although the court and the SEC were discussing the cash equities markets, the Exchange believes that these views apply with equal force to the options markets.

The Exchange proposes to amend its Chapter XV, Section 2 to modify certain fees and rebates to adopt the Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule for certain Penny Pilot Options. The proposed modified fees and rebates and new Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule would, as discussed, apply to Customers, BX Options Market Makers, Non-Customers, and Firms. The Exchange believes that its proposal is reasonable, equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory and should provide increased opportunities for participation in executions on the Exchange, facilitating the ability of the Exchange to bring together participants and encourage more robust competition for orders.

Change 1 - Penny Pilot Options: Modify Fees and Rebates To Add the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule

In Change 1, the Exchange proposes to convert its current SPY Options Tier Schedule to the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule and to set forth the BX Options Select Symbol List. The Select Symbols on this list represent, similarly to SPY, some of the highest volume Penny Pilot Options traded on the Exchange and in the U.S and are similar to those of other options exchanges (e.g., the MIAX).

As discussed, the proposed change updates the fees and rebates schedule to indicate "Select Symbols" rather than "SPY" and keeps the great majority of the current SPY Schedule fees and rebates assessments and tiers exactly the same in the new Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule. The proposed fee changes are in respect of the Fee to

See id. at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21) at 73 FR at 74782-74783).

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Add Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trades with Customer. Each of the Tier 1, 2, and 3 changes is a modest fee increase from the current schedule, not exceeding two pennies. The Tier 4 change is a fee decrease from the current fee schedule in order to further promote liquidity on the Exchange.³⁷ The Exchange also proposes to change one explanatory note applicable to the Select Symbols to make it fee liable.

The proposed rule change is reasonable because it continues to encourage market participant behavior through the fees and rebates system, which is an accepted methodology among options exchanges.³⁸ Converting SPY Options Tier Schedule to the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule is reasonable because of the nature of Select Symbol options, which are the most heavily traded options on the Exchange as well as in the industry. By expanding from SPY Options to Select Symbol Options, the Exchange is further promoting options liquidity the Exchange.

The Exchange believes that the proposed Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule is reasonable because it is not a novel, untested structure but rather is similar to what is offered by other options markets, such as MIAX, and is based on the Exchange's existing SPY Options Tier Schedule. The proposed Tiers in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule clearly reflect the progressively increasing nature of Participant executions structured for the purpose of attracting order flow to the Exchange. This encourages

Tier 4 is updated from the current SPY Options Tier Schedule to give additional ways to achieve the tier requirements through specified PRISM volume as well as options volume.

See, e.g., fee and rebate schedules of other options exchanges, including, but not limited to, NASDAQ Options Market ("NOM"), NASDAQ PHLX LLC ("Phlx"), and Chicago Board Options Exchange ("CBOE").

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market participant behavior through progressive tiered fees and rebates using an accepted methodology among options exchanges.³⁹

Tier 1 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule is, similarly to Tier 1 in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule, set up to enable a Participant to earn a Rebate to Add Liquidity or pay a Fee to Add Liquidity in Select Symbols where the Participant executes less than 0.05% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month.

Tier 2 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule is, similarly to Tier 2 in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule, set up to enable a Participant to earn a Rebate to Add Liquidity or pay a Fee to Add Liquidity in the Select Symbols where the Participant executes 0.05% to less than 0.15% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month.

And Tier 3 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule is, similarly to Tier 3 in the SPY Options Tier Schedule, set up to enable a Participant to earn a Rebate to Add Liquidity or pay a Fee to Add Liquidity in the Select Symbols to Participant executes 0.15% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month. The fees and rebates that BX Options Market Makers and Customers are assessed are, as has been discussed, almost all comparable to the fees and rebates in the SPY Options Tier Schedule.

The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to also adjust the current Tier 4 in the SPY Options Tier Schedule as reflected in the new Tier 4 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule, in order to enable a Participant to earn a Rebate to Add Liquidity or pay a

³⁹ Id.

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Fee to Add Liquidity in Select Symbols where the Participant executes more than 10,000 PRISM Agency Contracts per month; or Participant executes BX Options Market Maker volume of 0.30% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF options ADV per month. By so doing, the Exchange encourages Participants to trade PRISM and/or make markets on the exchange.

In addition, the Exchange believes that making changes to add the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule in terms of Rebate to Add Liquidity and Fee to Add Liquidity, and Rebate to Remove Liquidity and Fee to Remove Liquidity, is reasonable because it encourages the desired Customer behavior by attracting Customer interest in Select Symbols to the Exchange. Customer activity enhances liquidity on the Exchange for the benefit of all market participants and benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts market makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants.

The Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule is reasonable in that it is, similarly to the current SPY Options Tier Schedule, set up to incentivize Participants to direct liquidity to the Exchange; using volume from all products listed on BX Options will further incentivize Participants. As Participants execute more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month on the Exchange, they can in certain categories earn higher rebates and be assessed lower fees. For example, in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule the Tier 3 Rebate to Add Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX Options Market Maker, or Firm is higher (\$0.20) than the Tier 1 Rebate to Add Liquidity (\$0.00); and the Tier 3 Rebate to Remove Liquidity

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when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX Options Market Maker, Customer, or Firm is higher (\$0.37) that the Tier 2 Rebate to Remove Liquidity (\$0.25).

Similarly, the proposed Fee to Add Liquidity when BX Option Market Maker trading with Customer is lower for Tier 3 (\$0.40) than for Tier 1 (\$0.44); and, the Fee to Remove Liquidity when BX Option Market Maker trading with Customer is lower for Tier 3 (\$0.39) than for Tier 1 (\$0.42).

The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to indicate a \$0.04 fee assessment in the discussed BX Options Market Maker explanatory note. This explanatory note, which is currently not fee liable for options on SPY, will be fee liable for Select Symbols. The Exchange believes that this is in line with its continued effort to promote liquidity on the Exchange while covering costs through fees and rebates.

Establishing the Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory. This is because the Exchange's proposal to assess fees and pay rebates according to Tiers 1, 2, 3, and 4 as proposed to be amended will apply uniformly to all similarly situated Participants. Customers would earn a Rebate to Add Liquidity and a Rebate to Remove Liquidity according to the Tiers, 40 and BX Market Makers would be assessed a Fee to Add Liquidity and a Fee to Remove Liquidity according to the same Tiers per the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule; and certain fees would be the same regardless of counterparty. The fee and rebate schedule as proposed continues to reflect differentiation among different market participants. The Exchange believes that

Per a note to the Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule, Customer fee to add liquidity in Select Symbols Options when contra to another Customer is \$0.33 per contract. The only change in this note, which is currently applicable to the SPY Options Tier Schedule, is that the note will be applicable to the Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule.

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the differentiation is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory, as well as reasonable, because transactions of a BX Options Market Maker must constitute a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and BX Options Market Makers should not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with such course of dealings. Further, all BX Options Market Makers are designated as specialists on BX for all purposes under the Act or rules thereunder.⁴¹

The Exchange believes that by making the proposed changes it is continuing to incentivize Participants to execute more volume on the Exchange to further enhance liquidity in this market.

4. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Specifically, the Exchange does not believe that its proposal to make changes to its Penny Pilot Options to establish a Select Symbols Options Tiers Schedule will impose any undue burden on competition, as discussed below.

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which many sophisticated and knowledgeable market participants can readily and do send order flow to competing exchanges if they deem fee levels or rebate incentives at a particular exchange to be excessive or inadequate. Additionally, new competitors have entered the market and still others are reportedly entering the market shortly. These market forces ensure that the Exchange's fees and rebates remain competitive with the fee structures at other trading platforms. In that sense, the Exchange's proposal is actually pro-

See Chapter VII, Section 5, entitled "Obligations of Market Makers."

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competitive because the Exchange is simply continuing its fees and rebates for Penny Pilot Options and establishing a Select Symbols Options Tiers Schedule in order to remain competitive in the current environment.

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited.

In terms of intra-market competition, the Exchange notes that price differentiation among different market participants operating on the Exchange (e.g., Customer and BX Options Market Maker) is reasonable. Customer activity, for example, enhances liquidity on the Exchange for the benefit of all market participants and benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts market makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants (particularly in response to pricing) in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants.

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Moreover, unlike others market participants each BX Options Market Maker commits to various obligations. These obligations include, for example, transactions of a BX Market Maker must constitute a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and Market Makers should not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with such course of dealings.⁴²

In this instance, the proposed changes to the fees and rebates to establish a Select Symbols Options Tiers Schedule, does not impose a burden on competition because the Exchange's execution and routing services are completely voluntary and subject to extensive competition both from other exchanges and from off-exchange venues. If the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result.

Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets. Additionally, the changes proposed herein are procompetitive to the extent that they continue to allow the Exchange to promote and maintain order executions.

- Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others
 No written comments were either solicited or received.
- Extension of Time Period for Commission Action
 Not applicable.

See Chapter VII, Section 5.

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7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,⁴³ the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-regulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

- 8. <u>Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission</u>
 - Not applicable.44
- Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act
 Not applicable.
- 10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

^{43 15} U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

Other options exchanges, such as for example MIAX, have similar select symbols in their fee schedules that reflect different fees and rebates.

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11. Exhibits

1. Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>.

5. Text of the proposed rule change.

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EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. ; File No. SR-BX-2016-016)

March ___, 2016

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Regarding Fees and Rebates to Adopt Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹, and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on March 1, 2016, NASDAQ BX, Inc. ("BX" or "Exchange")³ filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III, below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the</u> Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend its Options Pricing at Chapter XV Section 2, entitled "BX Options Market – Fees and Rebates," which governs pricing for BX members using the BX Options Market ("BX Options"). The Exchange proposes to modify certain fees and rebates (per executed contract) to adopt the Select Symbol

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

The Exchange notes that it has legally changed its name to NASDAQ BX, Inc. with the state of Delaware and filed Form 1 reflecting the change, and is in the process of changing its rules to reflect the new name.

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Options Tier Schedule for certain Penny Pilot⁴ Options (each a "Select Symbol" and together the "Select Symbols").

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Website at http://nasdaqomxbx.cchwallstreet.com/, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u> <u>Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

1. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend its Chapter XV, Section 2, to modify certain fees and rebates⁵ to adopt the Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule for certain Penny

The Penny Pilot was established in June 2012 and extended in 2015. See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 67256 (June 26, 2012), 77 FR 39277 (July 2, 2012) (SR-BX-2012-030) (order approving BX option rules and establishing Penny Pilot); and 75326 (June 29, 2015), 80 FR 38481 (July 6, 2015) (SR-BX-2015-037) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness extending the Penny Pilot through June 30, 2016).

⁵ Fees and rebates are per executed contract. BX Chapter XV, Section 2(1).

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Pilot Options. The proposed Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule would apply to Customers, ⁶ BX Options Market Makers, ⁷ Non-Customers, ⁸ and Firms ⁹.

Currently, Chapter XV, Section 2, subsection (1), contains a SPY¹⁰ Options Tier Schedule ("SPY Schedule") that has four tiers. The Exchange proposes to convert the SPY Schedule into the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule, as discussed in detail below.

Change 1 - Penny Pilot Options: Modify Fees and Rebates To Add the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule

In Change 1, the Exchange proposes modifications to convert its current SPY
Schedule to the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule. The proposed change keeps the
great majority of the current SPY Schedule fees and rebates assessments (twelve out of
sixteen) and tiers (three out of four) exactly the same in the new Select Symbols Options

The term "Customer" or ("C") applies to any transaction that is identified by a Participant for clearing in the Customer range at The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") which is not for the account of broker or dealer or for the account of a "Professional" (as that term is defined in Chapter I, Section 1(a)(48)). BX Chapter XV.

BX Options Market Makers may also be referred to as "Market Makers". The term "BX Options Market Maker" or ("M") means a Participant that has registered as a Market Maker on BX Options pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 2, and must also remain in good standing pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 4. In order to receive Market Maker pricing in all securities, the Participant must be registered as a BX Options Market Maker in at least one security. BX Chapter XV.

Note 1 to Chapter XV, Section 2, states: "¹A Non-Customer includes a Professional, Broker-Dealer and Non-BX Options Market Maker."

The term "Firm" or ("F") applies to any transaction that is identified by a Participant for clearing in the Firm range at OCC. BX Chapter XV.

[&]quot;SPY" or Standard and Poor's Depositary Receipts/SPDRs options are Penny Pilot Options that are based on the SPDR exchange-traded fund ("ETF"), which is designed to track the performance of the S&P 500.

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Tier Schedule; and updates the fees and rebates schedule to indicate "Select Symbols" rather than "SPY."

Specifically, the Exchange proposes, commensurate with renaming the SPY

Options Tier Schedule the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule, to set forth the BX

Options Select Symbol List. The Select Symbols¹¹ on this list represent, similarly to

SPY, some of the highest volume Penny Pilot Options traded on the Exchange and in the

U.S. The proposed Select Symbols are similar to those of other options exchanges (e.g., the MIAX Options Exchange ("MIAX"). Like the SPY Options Tier Schedule, the

Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule will have four tiers.

Proposed Tier 1 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule, which has the same requirements as the current Tier I in the SPY Options Tier Schedule will be where a BX Participant ("Participant") executes less than 0.05% of total industry customer equity and exchange traded fund ("ETF") option average daily volume ("ADV") contracts per month. Proposed Tier 1 will range from a \$0.00 rebate to a \$0.44 fee:

- the Rebate to Add Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX

 Options Market Maker, or Firm will be \$0.00 (no rebate will be paid); 13
- the Fee to Add Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.44;¹⁴

The following are Select Symbols: ASHR, DIA, DXJ, EEM, EFA, EWJ, EWT, EWW, EWY, EWZ, FAS, FAZ, FXE, FXI, FXP, GDX, GLD, HYG, IWM, IYR, KRE, OIH, QID, QLD, QQQ, RSX, SDS, SKF, SLV, SPY, SRS, SSO, TBT, TLT, TNA, TZA, UNG, URE, USO, UUP, UVXY, UYG, VXX, XHB, XLB, XLE, XLF, XLI, XLK, XLP, XLU, XLV, XLY, XME, XOP, XRT.

<u>See MIAX</u> fee schedule at http://www.miaxoptions.com/sites/default/files/fee-schedules/MIAX_Options_Fee_Schedule_10012015.pdf.

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

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- the Rebate to Remove Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX

Options Market Maker, Customer, or Firm will be \$0.00; ¹⁵ and

- the Fee to Remove Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.42.¹⁶

Proposed Tier 2 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule, which has the same requirements as current Tier 2 in the SPY Options Tier Schedule, will be where Participant executes 0.05% to less than 0.15% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month. Proposed Tier 2 will range from a \$0.25 rebate to a \$0.44 fee:

- the new Rebate to Add Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX
 Options Market Maker, or Firm will be \$0.10;¹⁷
- the new Fee to Add Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.44;¹⁸
- the new Rebate to Remove Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX Options Market Maker, Customer, or Firm will be \$0.25; 19 and

Proposed \$0.44 is a modest fee increase from the current SPY Options Tier Schedule, which is \$0.42.

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

This is the same as the fee in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

Proposed \$0.44 is a modest fee increase from the current SPY Options Tier Schedule, which is \$0.42.

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

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 the new Fee to Remove Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.42.²⁰

Proposed Tier 3 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule, which has the same requirements the current Tier 3 in the SPY Options Tier Schedule, will be where Participant executes 0.15% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month. Proposed Tier 3 will range from a \$0.37 rebate to a \$0.40 fee:

- the new Rebate to Add Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX

 Options Market Maker, or Firm will be \$0.20;²¹
- the new Fee to Add Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.40;²²
- the new Rebate to Remove Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX Options Market Maker, Customer, or Firm will be \$0.37; ²³ and
- the new Fee to Remove Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.39.²⁴

Proposed Tier 4 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule, which is modified from the current Tier 4 in the SPY Options Tier Schedule, will be where Participant

This is the same as the fee in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

Proposed \$0.40 is a modest fee increase from the current SPY Options Tier Schedule, which is \$0.39.

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

This is the same as the fee in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

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executes more than 10,000 BX Price Improvement Auction ("PRISM")²⁵ Agency

Contracts per month; or Participant executes BX Options Market Maker volume of

0.30% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF options ADV per month. If a

Participant qualifies for Tier 4 the rates applicable to this tier will supersede any other

Select Symbols tier rates that the Participant may qualify for. Proposed Tier 4 will range from a \$0.37 rebate to a \$0.29 fee:

- the new Rebate to Add Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX
 Options Market Maker, or Firm will be \$0.25;²⁶
- the new Fee to Add Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.29;²⁷
- the new Rebate to Remove Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX Options Market Maker, Customer, or Firm will be \$0.37;²⁸ and

PRISM is a Price Improvement Mechanism for all-electronic BX Options whereby a buy and sell order may be submitted in one order message to initiate an auction at a stop price and seek potential price improvement. Options are traded electronically on BX Options, and all options participants may respond to a PRISM Auction, the duration of which is set at 200 milliseconds. PRISM includes auto-match functionality in which a Participant (an "Initiating Participant") may electronically submit for execution an order it represents as agent on behalf of customer, broker dealer, or any other entity ("PRISM Order") against principal interest or against any other order it represents as agent (an "Initiating Order") provided it submits the PRISM Order for electronic execution into the PRISM Auction pursuant. See Chapter VI, Section 9; and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76301 (October 29, 2015), 80 FR 68347 (November 4, 2015) (SR-BX-2015-032) (order approving BX PRISM).

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

Proposed \$0.29 is, in order to further promote liquidity on the Exchange, a modest fee decrease from the current SPY Options Tier Schedule, which is \$0.32.

This is the same as the rebate in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

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- the new Fee to Remove Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trading with Customer will be \$0.25.²⁹

In addition, there are currently six explanatory notes in the SPY Options Tier Schedule. In each such note the Exchange will, as elsewhere in the fees and rebates schedule, replace "SPY" with "Select Symbols." The Exchange proposes to also establish a fee on one note that is not currently fee liable in the SPY Options Tier Schedule. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to state that BX Options Market Maker fee to add liquidity in SPY Options will be \$0.04 when trading with Firm, Non-Customer, or BX Options Market Maker.

Chapter XV, Section 2 subsection (1) reflecting the proposed Select Symbols Options

Tier Schedule will read as follows:

Sec. 2 BX Options Market—Fees and Rebates

The following charges shall apply to the use of the order execution and routing services of the BX Options market for all securities.

(1) Fees for Execution of Contracts on the BX Options Market:

* * * * *

Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule

	Rebate to Add Liquidity	Fee to Add Liquidity	Rebate to Remove Liquidity	Fee to Remove Liquidity
When:	Customer	BX Options Market Maker	Customer	BX Options Market Maker
Trading with:	Non-	Customer	Non-	Customer

This is the same as the fee in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule.

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		Customer, BX Options Market Maker, or Firm		Customer, BX Options Market Maker, Customer, or Firm	
Tier 1	Participant executes less than 0.05% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month.	\$0.00	\$0.44	\$0.00	\$0.42
Tier 2	Participant executes 0.05% to less than 0.15% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month.	\$0.10	\$0.44	\$0.25	\$0.42
Tier 3	Participant executes 0.15% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month	\$0.20	\$0.40	\$0.37	\$0.39
Tier 4	Participant executes more than 10,000 PRISM Agency Contracts per month; or Participant executes BX Options Market Maker volume of	\$0.25	\$0.29	\$0.37	\$0.25

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0.30% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF options ADV per month

BX Options Select Symbol List

The following are Select Symbols: ASHR, DIA, DXJ, EEM, EFA, EWJ, EWT, EWW, EWY, EWZ, FAS, FAZ, FXE, FXI, FXP, GDX, GLD, HYG, IWM, IYR, KRE, OIH, QID, QLD, QQQ, RSX, SDS, SKF, SLV, SPY, SRS, SSO, TBT, TLT, TNA, TZA, UNG, URE, USO, UUP, UVXY, UYG, VXX, XHB, XLB, XLE, XLF, XLI, XLK, XLP, XLU, XLV, XLY, XME, XOP, XRT

- BX Options Market Maker fee to add liquidity in Select Symbols Options will be \$0.04 when trading with Firm, Non-Customer, or BX Options Market Maker.
- Firm fee to add liquidity and fee to remove liquidity in Select Symbols Options will be \$0.33 per contract, regardless of counterparty.
- Non-Customer fee to add liquidity and fee to remove liquidity in Select Symbols Options will be \$0.46 per contract, regardless of counterparty.
- BX Options Market Maker fee to remove liquidity in Select Symbols Options will be \$0.46 per contract when trading with Firm, Non-Customer, or BX Options Market Maker.
- Customer fee to add liquidity in Select Symbols Options when contra to another Customer is \$0.33 per contract.
- Volume from all products listed on BX Options will apply to the Select Symbols Options Tiers.

* * * * *

The Exchange is proposing fees and rebate changes and adopting the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule at this time because it believes that this will provide incentives for execution of contracts, and in particular Select Symbols Options contracts, on the BX Options Market.

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The Exchange also believes that its proposal should provide increased opportunities for participation in executions on the Exchange, facilitating the ability of the Exchange to bring together participants and encourage more robust competition for orders.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend its Pricing Schedule is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,³⁰ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) and (b)(5) of the Act,³¹ in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system which the Exchange operates or controls, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."³²

³⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

³¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4), (5).

Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 at 37499 (June 9, 2005) ("Regulation NMS Adopting Release").

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Likewise, in NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission³³

("NetCoalition") the D.C. Circuit upheld the Commission's use of a market-based approach in evaluating the fairness of market data fees against a challenge claiming that Congress mandated a cost-based approach.³⁴ As the court emphasized, the Commission "intended in Regulation NMS that 'market forces, rather than regulatory requirements' play a role in determining the market data . . . to be made available to investors and at what cost."³⁵

Further, "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' ... As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'...." Although the court and the SEC were discussing the cash equities markets, the Exchange believes that these views apply with equal force to the options markets.

The Exchange proposes to amend its Chapter XV, Section 2 to modify certain fees and rebates to adopt the Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule for certain Penny Pilot Options. The proposed modified fees and rebates and new Select Symbols Options Tier

NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

See id. at 534-535.

³⁵ See id. at 537.

See id. at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21) at 73 FR at 74782-74783).

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Schedule would, as discussed, apply to Customers, BX Options Market Makers, Non-Customers, and Firms. The Exchange believes that its proposal is reasonable, equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory and should provide increased opportunities for participation in executions on the Exchange, facilitating the ability of the Exchange to bring together participants and encourage more robust competition for orders.

Change 1 - Penny Pilot Options: Modify Fees and Rebates To Add the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule

In Change 1, the Exchange proposes to convert its current SPY Options Tier Schedule to the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule and to set forth the BX Options Select Symbol List. The Select Symbols on this list represent, similarly to SPY, some of the highest volume Penny Pilot Options traded on the Exchange and in the U.S and are similar to those of other options exchanges (e.g., the MIAX).

As discussed, the proposed change updates the fees and rebates schedule to indicate "Select Symbols" rather than "SPY" and keeps the great majority of the current SPY Schedule fees and rebates assessments and tiers exactly the same in the new Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule. The proposed fee changes are in respect of the Fee to Add Liquidity when BX Options Market Maker trades with Customer. Each of the Tier 1, 2, and 3 changes is a modest fee increase from the current schedule, not exceeding two pennies. The Tier 4 change is a fee decrease from the current fee schedule in order to further promote liquidity on the Exchange.³⁷ The Exchange also proposes to change one explanatory note applicable to the Select Symbols to make it fee liable.

Tier 4 is updated from the current SPY Options Tier Schedule to give additional ways to achieve the tier requirements through specified PRISM volume as well as options volume.

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The proposed rule change is reasonable because it continues to encourage market participant behavior through the fees and rebates system, which is an accepted methodology among options exchanges.³⁸ Converting SPY Options Tier Schedule to the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule is reasonable because of the nature of Select Symbol options, which are the most heavily traded options on the Exchange as well as in the industry. By expanding from SPY Options to Select Symbol Options, the Exchange is further promoting options liquidity the Exchange.

The Exchange believes that the proposed Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule is reasonable because it is not a novel, untested structure but rather is similar to what is offered by other options markets, such as MIAX, and is based on the Exchange's existing SPY Options Tier Schedule. The proposed Tiers in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule clearly reflect the progressively increasing nature of Participant executions structured for the purpose of attracting order flow to the Exchange. This encourages market participant behavior through progressive tiered fees and rebates using an accepted methodology among options exchanges.³⁹

Tier 1 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule is, similarly to Tier 1 in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule, set up to enable a Participant to earn a Rebate to Add Liquidity or pay a Fee to Add Liquidity in Select Symbols where the Participant executes less than 0.05% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month.

See, e.g., fee and rebate schedules of other options exchanges, including, but not limited to, NASDAQ Options Market ("NOM"), NASDAQ PHLX LLC ("Phlx"), and Chicago Board Options Exchange ("CBOE").

³⁹ <u>Id.</u>

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Tier 2 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule is, similarly to Tier 2 in the current SPY Options Tier Schedule, set up to enable a Participant to earn a Rebate to Add Liquidity or pay a Fee to Add Liquidity in the Select Symbols where the Participant executes 0.05% to less than 0.15% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month.

And Tier 3 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule is, similarly to Tier 3 in the SPY Options Tier Schedule, set up to enable a Participant to earn a Rebate to Add Liquidity or pay a Fee to Add Liquidity in the Select Symbols to Participant executes 0.15% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month. The fees and rebates that BX Options Market Makers and Customers are assessed are, as has been discussed, almost all comparable to the fees and rebates in the SPY Options Tier Schedule.

The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to also adjust the current Tier 4 in the SPY Options Tier Schedule as reflected in the new Tier 4 in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule, in order to enable a Participant to earn a Rebate to Add Liquidity or pay a Fee to Add Liquidity in Select Symbols where the Participant executes more than 10,000 PRISM Agency Contracts per month; or Participant executes BX Options Market Maker volume of 0.30% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF options ADV per month. By so doing, the Exchange encourages Participants to trade PRISM and/or make markets on the exchange.

In addition, the Exchange believes that making changes to add the Select Symbols

Options Tier Schedule in terms of Rebate to Add Liquidity and Fee to Add Liquidity, and

Rebate to Remove Liquidity and Fee to Remove Liquidity, is reasonable because it

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encourages the desired Customer behavior by attracting Customer interest in Select Symbols to the Exchange. Customer activity enhances liquidity on the Exchange for the benefit of all market participants and benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts market makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants.

The Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule is reasonable in that it is, similarly to the current SPY Options Tier Schedule, set up to incentivize Participants to direct liquidity to the Exchange; using volume from all products listed on BX Options will further incentivize Participants. As Participants execute more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month on the Exchange, they can in certain categories earn higher rebates and be assessed lower fees. For example, in the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule the Tier 3 Rebate to Add Liquidity when Customer trading with Non-Customer, BX Options Market Maker, or Firm is higher (\$0.20) than the Tier 1 Rebate to Add Liquidity (\$0.00); and the Tier 3 Rebate to Remove Liquidity when Customer, or Firm is higher (\$0.37) that the Tier 2 Rebate to Remove Liquidity (\$0.25).

Similarly, the proposed Fee to Add Liquidity when BX Option Market Maker trading with Customer is lower for Tier 3 (\$0.40) than for Tier 1 (\$0.44); and, the Fee to Remove Liquidity when BX Option Market Maker trading with Customer is lower for Tier 3 (\$0.39) than for Tier 1 (\$0.42).

The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to indicate a \$0.04 fee assessment in the discussed BX Options Market Maker explanatory note. This explanatory note, which

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is currently not fee liable for options on SPY, will be fee liable for Select Symbols. The Exchange believes that this is in line with its continued effort to promote liquidity on the Exchange while covering costs through fees and rebates.

Establishing the Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory. This is because the Exchange's proposal to assess fees and pay rebates according to Tiers 1, 2, 3, and 4 as proposed to be amended will apply uniformly to all similarly situated Participants. Customers would earn a Rebate to Add Liquidity and a Rebate to Remove Liquidity according to the Tiers, 40 and BX Market Makers would be assessed a Fee to Add Liquidity and a Fee to Remove Liquidity according to the same Tiers per the Select Symbols Options Tier Schedule; and certain fees would be the same regardless of counterparty. The fee and rebate schedule as proposed continues to reflect differentiation among different market participants. The Exchange believes that the differentiation is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory, as well as reasonable, because transactions of a BX Options Market Maker must constitute a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and BX Options Market Makers should not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with such course of dealings. Further, all BX Options Market Makers are designated as specialists on BX for all purposes under the Act or rules thereunder.⁴¹

Per a note to the Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule, Customer fee to add liquidity in Select Symbols Options when contra to another Customer is \$0.33 per contract. The only change in this note, which is currently applicable to the SPY Options Tier Schedule, is that the note will be applicable to the Select Symbol Options Tier Schedule.

See Chapter VII, Section 5, entitled "Obligations of Market Makers."

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The Exchange believes that by making the proposed changes it is continuing to incentivize Participants to execute more volume on the Exchange to further enhance liquidity in this market.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Specifically, the Exchange does not believe that its proposal to make changes to its Penny Pilot Options to establish a Select Symbols Options Tiers Schedule will impose any undue burden on competition, as discussed below.

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which many sophisticated and knowledgeable market participants can readily and do send order flow to competing exchanges if they deem fee levels or rebate incentives at a particular exchange to be excessive or inadequate. Additionally, new competitors have entered the market and still others are reportedly entering the market shortly. These market forces ensure that the Exchange's fees and rebates remain competitive with the fee structures at other trading platforms. In that sense, the Exchange's proposal is actually procompetitive because the Exchange is simply continuing its fees and rebates for Penny Pilot Options and establishing a Select Symbols Options Tiers Schedule in order to remain competitive in the current environment.

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities

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available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited.

In terms of intra-market competition, the Exchange notes that price differentiation among different market participants operating on the Exchange (e.g., Customer and BX Options Market Maker) is reasonable. Customer activity, for example, enhances liquidity on the Exchange for the benefit of all market participants and benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts market makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants (particularly in response to pricing) in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants.

Moreover, unlike others market participants each BX Options Market Maker commits to various obligations. These obligations include, for example, transactions of a BX Market Maker must constitute a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and Market Makers should not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with such course of dealings. ⁴² In this instance, the proposed changes to the fees and rebates to establish a Select Symbols Options Tiers Schedule, does not impose a burden on competition

See Chapter VII, Section 5.

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because the Exchange's execution and routing services are completely voluntary and subject to extensive competition both from other exchanges and from off-exchange venues. If the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

Additionally, the changes proposed herein are pro-competitive to the extent that they continue to allow the Exchange to promote and maintain order executions.

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

No written comments were either solicited or received.

III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action</u>

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,⁴³ the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-regulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

⁴³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-BX-2016-016 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

 Send paper comments in triplicate to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BX-2016-016. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml).

Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing

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also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange.

All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BX-2016-016 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. 44

Robert W. Errett Deputy Secretary

⁴⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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EXHIBIT 5

Deleted text is [bracketed]. New text is underlined.

Rules of NASDAQ OMX BX

Options Rules

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Chapter XV Options Pricing

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Sec. 2 BX Options Market—Fees and Rebates

The following charges shall apply to the use of the order execution and routing services of the BX Options market for all securities.

(1) Fees for Execution of Contracts on the BX Options Market:

Fees and Rebates (per executed contract)

	Customer	BX Options Market Maker	Non- Customer ¹	Firm
Penny Pilot Options (Excluding Options in				
[SPY] <u>Select Symbols</u>):				
Rebate to Add Liquidity	#	\$0.10 ²	N/A	N/A
Fee to Add Liquidity	#	\$0.39 ³	\$0.45	\$0.45
Rebate to Remove Liquidity	#	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fee to Remove Liquidity	N/A	#	\$0.46	\$0.46
Non-Penny Pilot Options:				
Rebate to Add Liquidity	*	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fee to Add Liquidity	*	\$0.50/\$0.95 ⁵	\$0.98	\$0.98
Rebate to Remove Liquidity	*	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fee to Remove Liquidity	N/A	*	\$0.89	\$0.89

¹A Non-Customer includes a Professional, Broker-Dealer and Non-BX Options Market Maker.

²The Rebate to Add Liquidity will be paid to a BX Options Market Maker only when the BX Options Market Maker is contra to a Non-Customer, Firm, or BX Options Market Maker.

³The Fee to Add Liquidity will be assessed to a BX Options Market Maker only when the BX Options Market Maker is contra to a Customer.

⁴Reserved

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⁵The higher Fee to Add Liquidity will be assessed to a BX Options Market Maker only when the BX Options Market Maker is contra to a Customer.

Penny Pilot Options Tier Schedule (excluding [SPY]Select Symbols Options)

		Rebate to Add Liquidity	Fee to Add Liquidity	Rebate to Remove Liquidity	Fee to Remove Liquidity	Fee To Remove Liquidity
	When:	Customer	Customer	Customer	BX Options Market Maker	BX Options Market Maker
	Trading with:	Non- Customer, BX Options Market Maker, or Firm	Customer	Non- Customer, BX Options Market Maker, Customer, or Firm	Customer	Non- Customer, BX Options Market Maker, or Firm
Tier 1	Participant executes less than 0.05% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month.	\$0.00	\$0.39	\$0.00	\$0.39	\$0.46
Tier 2	Participant executes 0.05% to less than 0.15% of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month.	\$0.10	\$0.39	\$0.25	\$0.39	\$0.46

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Tier 3	Participant executes 0.15% or more of total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month	\$0.20	\$0.39	\$0.35	\$0.30	\$0.46
[SPY] <u>S</u>	elect Symbol	<u>s</u> Options Ti	er Schedule			
			Rebate to Add Liquidity	Fee to Add Liquidity	Rebate to Remove Liquidity	Remove
	Wh	en:	Customer	BX Options Market Maker	Customer	BX Options Market Maker
	Tra	ding with:	Non- Customer, BX Options Market Maker, or Firm	Customer	Non- Customer, BX Options Market Maker, Customer, or Firm	Customer
Tier 1	exe tha tota cus equ opt con	ticipant cutes less n 0.05% of al industry tomer ity and ETF ion ADV tracts per nth.	\$0.00	\$0.[42] <u>44</u>	\$0.00	\$0.42
Tier 2	exe 0.0	ticipant cutes 5% to less n 0.15% of	\$0.10	\$0.[42] <u>44</u>	\$0.25	\$0.42

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total industry customer equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month.

Participant
executes
0.15% or more
of total
industry
solutions \$0.20

Tier 3 \$0.20 \$0.[39]40 \$0.37 \$0.39 customer

equity and ETF option ADV contracts per month

Participant executes more than [5,000 ADV in]10,000

> PRISM Agency Contracts per month; or Participant

Tier 4 <u>executes BX</u> \$0.25 \$0.[32]<u>29</u> \$0.37 \$0.25

Options Market
Maker volume
of 0.30% or
more of total
industry
customer
equity and ETF
options ADV
per month
\$0.25

BX Options Select Symbol List

The following are Select Symbols: ASHR, DIA, DXJ, EEM, EFA, EWJ, EWT, EWW, EWY, EWZ, FAS, FAZ, FXE, FXI, FXP, GDX, GLD, HYG, IWM, IYR, KRE, OIH, QID, QLD, QQQ, RSX, SDS, SKF, SLV, SPY, SRS, SSO, TBT, TLT, TNA, TZA, UNG, URE, USO, UUP, UVXY, UYG, VXX, XHB, XLB, XLE, XLF, XLI, XLK, XLP, XLU, XLV, XLY, XME, XOP, XRT

- BX Options Market Maker fee to add liquidity in [SPY]<u>Select Symbols</u> Options will be \$0.[00]<u>04</u> when trading with Firm, Non-Customer, or BX Options Market Maker.
- Firm fee to add liquidity and fee to remove liquidity in [SPY]<u>Select Symbols</u> Options will be \$0.33 per contract, regardless of counterparty.

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• Non-Customer fee to add liquidity and fee to remove liquidity in [SPY]<u>Select Symbols</u> Options will be \$0.46 per contract, regardless of counterparty.

- BX Options Market Maker fee to remove liquidity in [SPY]<u>Select Symbols</u> Options will be \$0.46 per contract when trading with Firm, Non-Customer, or BX Options Market Maker.
- Customer fee to add liquidity in [SPY]<u>Select Symbols</u> Options when contra to another Customer is \$0.33 per contract.
- Volume from all products listed on BX Options will apply to the [SPY]<u>Select Symbols</u> Options Tiers.

* Non-Penny Pilot Options Tier Schedule

No Change.

(2) - (5) No Change.

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