

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Page 1 of * 27	SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4	File No.* SR - 2017 - * 032 Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *)
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Filing by NASDAQ BX, Inc.  
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Initial * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendment * <input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(A) * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(B) * <input type="checkbox"/>
Pilot <input type="checkbox"/>			Rule		
Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * <input type="checkbox"/>		Date Expires * <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)	

Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010	Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Section 806(e)(1) * <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 806(e)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>
	Section 3C(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Description**

Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked \*).

Proposal to revise BX Rules at Chapter XV, Section 5 to (i) make adjustments to the amount of its Options Regulatory Fee; and (ii) more closely reflect the manner in which BX assesses and collects its ORF.

**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 \* Angela Last Name \* Dunn  
 Title \* Principal Associate General Counsel  
 E-mail \* Angela.Dunn@nasdaq.com  
 Telephone \* (215) 496-5692 Fax

**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.

(Title \*)  
 Executive Vice President and General Counsel

Date 07/26/2017  
 By Edward S. Knight  
 (Name \*)

edward.knight@nasdaq.com

NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFF website.

**Form 19b-4 Information \***

Add Remove View

The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

**Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change \***

Add Remove View

The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication 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 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)

**Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies \***

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication 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 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, Transcripts, Other Communications**

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.

**Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire**

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

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 referred to by the proposed rule change.

**Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies**

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The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit 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**

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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 of the proposed rule change.

**Partial Amendment**

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If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy 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.

1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) NASDAQ BX, Inc. (“BX” or “Exchange”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) a proposal to revise BX Rules at Chapter XV, Section 5 to: (i) make adjustments to the amount of its Options Regulatory Fee (“ORF”); and (ii) more closely reflect the manner in which BX assesses and collects its ORF.

While the changes proposed herein are effective upon filing, the Exchange has designated the amendments become operative on August 1, 2017.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register is at Exhibit 1. The text of the proposed rule change is at Exhibit 5.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors (the “Board”) on August 15, 2016. Exchange staff will advise the Board of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to:

Angela Saccomandi Dunn  
Principal Associate General Counsel  
Nasdaq, Inc.  
215-496-5692

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<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

a. Purpose

BX initially filed to establish its ORF in 2016.<sup>3</sup> The Exchange has amended its ORF several times since the inception of this fee.<sup>4</sup> At this time, the Exchange proposes to: (i) amend the amount of its ORF; and (ii) revise BX Rules at Chapter XV, Section 5 to more closely reflect the manner in which BX assesses and collects its ORF.

The Exchange supports a common approach for the assessment and collection of ORF among the various options exchanges that assess such a fee. Furthermore, the Exchange supports guidance from the Commission regarding regulatory cost structures to ensure equal knowledge and treatment among options markets assessing ORF.

Proposal 1 – Amend the Amount of the ORF

The Exchange assesses an ORF of \$0.0004 per contract side. The Exchange proposes to increase the ORF from \$0.0004 per contract side to \$0.0005 per contract side as of August 1, 2017 to account for a reduction in market volume. The Exchange's proposed change to the ORF should balance the Exchange's regulatory cost against the anticipated revenue. The Exchange regularly reviews its ORF to ensure that the ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs.

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<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 77053 (February 4, 2016), 81 FR 7163 (February 10, 2016) (SR-BX-2016-007); (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Adopt an Options Regulatory Fee).

<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78361 (July 19, 2016), 81 FR 48485 (July 25, 2016) (SR-BX-2016-043).

The Exchange believes this adjustment will permit the Exchange to cover a material portion of its regulatory costs, while not exceeding regulatory costs.

The Exchange notified its Participants of this ORF adjustment thirty (30) calendar days prior to the proposed operative date.<sup>5</sup>

Proposal 2 -Reflect the manner in which BX assesses and collects its ORF

Currently, BX assesses its ORF for each Customer option transaction that is either: (1) executed by a Participant on BX; or (2) cleared by a BX Participant at The Options Clearing Corporation (“OCC”) in the Customer range,<sup>6</sup> even if the transaction was executed by a non-member of BX, regardless of the exchange on which the transaction occurs.<sup>7</sup> If the OCC clearing member is a BX Participant, ORF is assessed and collected on all cleared Customer contracts (after adjustment for CMTA<sup>8</sup>); and (2) if the OCC clearing member is not a BX Participant, ORF is collected only on the cleared Customer contracts executed at BX, taking into account any CMTA instructions which may result in collecting the ORF from a non-member.

By way of example, if Broker A, a BX Participant, routes a Customer order to CBOE and the transaction executes on CBOE and clears in Broker A’s OCC Clearing account, ORF will be collected by BX from Broker A’s clearing account at OCC via

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<sup>5</sup> See Options Trader Alert #2017-54.

<sup>6</sup> Exchange Rules require each member to record the appropriate account origin code on all orders at the time of entry in order to allow the Exchange to properly prioritize and route orders and assess transaction fees pursuant to the Rules of the Exchange and report resulting transactions to OCC.

<sup>7</sup> The Exchange uses reports from OCC to determine the identity of the executing clearing firm and ultimate clearing firm.

<sup>8</sup> CMTA or Clearing Member Trade Assignment is a form of “give-up” whereby the position will be assigned to a specific clearing firm at OCC.

direct debit. While this transaction was executed on a market other than BX, it was cleared by a BX Participant in the Participant's OCC clearing account in the Customer range, therefore there is a regulatory nexus between BX and the transaction. If Broker A was not a BX Participant, then no ORF should be assessed and collected because there is no nexus; the transaction did not execute on BX nor was it cleared by a BX Participant.

In the case where a Participant both executes a transaction and clears the transaction, the ORF is assessed to and collected from the Participant only once. In the case where a Participant executes a transaction and a different Participant clears the transaction, the ORF is assessed to and collected from the Participant who clears the transaction and not the Participant who executes the transaction. In the case where a non-member executes a transaction at an away market and a Participant clears the transaction, the ORF is assessed to and collected from the Participant who clears the transaction. In the case where a Participant executes a transaction on BX and a non-member clears the transaction, the ORF is assessed to the Participant that executed the transaction and collected from the non-member who cleared the transaction. In the case where a Participant executes a transaction at an away market and a non-member clears the transaction, the ORF is not assessed to the Participant who executed the transaction or collected from the non-member who cleared the transaction because the Exchange does not have access to the data to make absolutely certain that ORF should apply. Further, the data does not allow the Exchange to identify the Participant executing the trade at an away market.

#### *ORF Revenue and Monitoring of ORF*

The Exchange monitors the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory

costs. In determining whether an expense is considered a regulatory cost, the Exchange reviews all costs and makes determinations if there is a nexus between the expense and a regulatory function. For example, a cost related to BX's equity platform, would not be considered an expense that is compared to ORF revenue. An options surveillance employee's cost, however would be an expense that is compared to ORF revenue. The Exchange notes that fines collected by the Exchange in connection with a disciplinary manner offset ORF.

The ORF is designed to recover a material portion of the costs to the Exchange of the supervision and regulation of its Participants, including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, and policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities.

The Exchange believes that revenue generated from the ORF, when combined with all of the Exchange's other regulatory fees, will cover a material portion, but not all, of the Exchange's regulatory costs. The Exchange will continue to monitor the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs. If the Exchange determines regulatory revenues exceed regulatory costs, the Exchange will adjust the ORF by submitting a fee change filing to the Commission.

Finally, the Exchange notes that it is amending its rule text at Chapter XV, Section 5 to remove certain rule text and include new text to make clear the manner in which ORF is assessed and collected on BX.

b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>9</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>10</sup> 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 its facility and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes the proposed clarifications in the Fee Schedule to the ORF further the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) of the Act and are equitable and reasonable since they expressly describe the Exchange's existing practices regarding the manner in which the Exchange assesses and collects its ORF.

Proposal 1 – Amend the Amount of the ORF

The Exchange believes that increasing the ORF from \$0.0004 per contract side to \$0.0005 per contract side as of August 1, 2017 is reasonable because the Exchange's collection of ORF needs to be balanced against the amount of regulatory cost collected by the Exchange. The Exchange believes that the proposed adjustments noted herein will serve to balance the Exchange's regulatory cost against the anticipated regulatory revenue. The Exchange regularly reviews its ORF to ensure that the ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs.

The Exchange believes that increasing the ORF from \$0.0004 per contract side to \$0.0005 per contract side as of August 1, 2017 is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because this modest increase will serve to balance the Exchange's

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<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).



regulatory revenue against the anticipated regulatory costs. The ORF seeks to recover the costs of supervising and regulating members, including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, and policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities. Moreover, the Exchange believes the ORF ensures fairness by assessing fees to those Participants that are directly based on the amount of Customer options business they conduct. Regulating Customer trading activity is much more labor intensive and requires greater expenditure of human and technical resources than regulating non-customer trading activity, which tends to be more automated and less labor-intensive. As a result, the costs associated with administering the Customer component of the Exchange's overall regulatory program are materially higher than the costs associated with administering the non-Customer component (e.g. Participant proprietary transactions) of its regulatory program.

The ORF is designed to recover a material portion of the costs of supervising and regulating Participants' Customer options business including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, and policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities. The Exchange will monitor the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed the Exchange's total regulatory costs. The Exchange has designed the ORF to generate revenues that, when combined with all of the Exchange's other regulatory fees, will be less than or equal to the Exchange's regulatory costs, which is consistent with the Commission's view that regulatory fees be used for regulatory purposes and not to support the Exchange's business side. In this regard, the Exchange believes that the proposed amount of the fee is reasonable.

Proposal 2 -Reflect the manner in which BX assesses and collects its ORF

The Exchange believes it is reasonable and appropriate for the Exchange to charge the ORF for options transactions regardless of the exchange on which the transactions occur. The Exchange has a statutory obligation to enforce compliance by Participants and their associated persons under the Act and the rules of the Exchange and to surveil for other manipulative conduct by market participants (including non-members) trading on the Exchange. The Exchange cannot effectively surveil for such conduct without looking at and evaluating activity across all options markets. Many of the Exchange's market surveillance programs require the Exchange to look at and evaluate activity across all options markets, such as surveillance for position limit violations, manipulation, front-running and contrary exercise advice violations/expiring exercise declarations. The Exchange, because it lacks access to information on the identity of the entering firm for executions that occur on away markets, believes it is appropriate to assess the ORF on its Participant's clearing activity, based on information the Exchange receives from OCC, including for away market activity. Among other reasons, doing so better and more accurately captures activity that occurs away from the Exchange over which the Exchange has a degree of regulatory responsibility. In so doing, the Exchange believes that assessing ORF on Participant clearing firms in certain instances equitably distributes the collection of ORF in a fair and reasonable manner. Also, the Exchange and the other options exchanges are required to populate a consolidated options audit trail ("COATS")<sup>11</sup> system in order to surveil a Participant's activities across markets.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> COATS effectively enhances intermarket options surveillance by enabling the options exchanges to reconstruct the market promptly to effectively surveil certain rules.

The Exchange believes that assessing the ORF to each Exchange member for options transactions cleared by OCC in the Customer range where the execution occurs on another exchange and is cleared by a BX member is an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members and issuers and other persons using its facilities. The ORF is collected by OCC on behalf of BX from Exchange clearing members for all Customer transactions they clear or from non-members for all Customer transactions they clear that were executed on BX. The Exchange believes that this collection practice is reasonable and appropriate because higher fees are assessed to those members that require more Exchange regulatory services based on the amount of Customer options business they conduct.

Regulating Customer trading activity is more labor intensive and requires greater expenditure of human and technical resources than regulating non-Customer trading activity. Surveillance, regulation and examination of non-Customer trading activity generally tends to be more automated and less labor intensive. As a result, the costs associated with administering the Customer component of the Exchange's overall regulatory program are anticipated to be typically higher than the costs associated with

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<sup>12</sup> In addition to its own surveillance programs, the Exchange works with other SROs and exchanges on intermarket surveillance related issues. Through its participation in the Intermarket Surveillance Group ("ISG"), the Exchange shares information and coordinates inquiries and investigations with other exchanges designed to address potential intermarket manipulation and trading abuses. The Exchange's participation in ISG helps it to satisfy the requirement that it has coordinated surveillance with markets on which security futures are traded and markets on which any security underlying security futures are traded to detect manipulation and insider trading. See Section 6(h)(3)(I) of the Act. ISG is an industry organization formed in 1983 to coordinate intermarket surveillance among the SROs by co-operatively sharing regulatory information pursuant to a written agreement between the parties. The goal of the ISG's information sharing is to coordinate regulatory efforts to address potential intermarket trading abuses and manipulations.

administering the non-Customer component of its regulatory program. The Exchange proposes assessing higher fees to those members that will require more Exchange regulatory services based on the amount of Customer options business they conduct. Additionally, the dues and fees paid by members go into the general funds of the Exchange, a portion of which is used to help pay the costs of regulation. The Exchange has in place a regulatory structure to surveil, conduct examinations and monitor the marketplace for violations of Exchange Rules. The ORF assists the Exchange to fund the cost of this regulation of the marketplace.

4. 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. The ORF is not intended to have any impact on competition. Rather, it is designed to enable the Exchange to recover a material portion of the Exchange's cost related to its regulatory activities. The Exchange is obligated to ensure that the amount of regulatory revenue collected from the ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs.

5. 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.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

Not applicable.

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

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,<sup>13</sup> BX 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. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission

The proposed rule change is not based on the rules of another self-regulatory organization or of the Commission.

9. 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.

11. Exhibits

1. Notice of proposed rule for publication in the Federal Register.
5. Text of the proposed rule change.

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<sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

**EXHIBIT 1**

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. \_\_\_\_\_ ; File No. SR-BX-2017-032)

July \_\_, 2017

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Revise the Rules Regarding the Exchange's Options Regulatory Fee

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup>, and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on July 26, 2017, NASDAQ BX, Inc. ("BX" or "Exchange") 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. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to revise BX Rules at Chapter XV, Section 5 to: (i) make adjustments to the amount of its Options Regulatory Fee ("ORF"); and (ii) more closely reflect the manner in which BX assesses and collects its ORF.

While the changes proposed herein are effective upon filing, the Exchange has designated the amendments become operative on August 1, 2017.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

1. Purpose

BX initially filed to establish its ORF in 2016.<sup>3</sup> The Exchange has amended its ORF several times since the inception of this fee.<sup>4</sup> At this time, the Exchange proposes to: (i) amend the amount of its ORF; and (ii) revise BX Rules at Chapter XV, Section 5 to more closely reflect the manner in which BX assesses and collects its ORF.

The Exchange supports a common approach for the assessment and collection of ORF among the various options exchanges that assess such a fee. Furthermore, the Exchange supports guidance from the Commission regarding regulatory cost structures to ensure equal knowledge and treatment among options markets assessing ORF.

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<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 77053 (February 4, 2016), 81 FR 7163 (February 10, 2016) (SR-BX-2016-007); (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Adopt an Options Regulatory Fee).

<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78361 (July 19, 2016), 81 FR 48485 (July 25, 2016) (SR-BX-2016-043).

Proposal 1 – Amend the Amount of the ORF

The Exchange assesses an ORF of \$0.0004 per contract side. The Exchange proposes to increase the ORF from \$0.0004 per contract side to \$0.0005 per contract side as of August 1, 2017 to account for a reduction in market volume. The Exchange's proposed change to the ORF should balance the Exchange's regulatory cost against the anticipated revenue. The Exchange regularly reviews its ORF to ensure that the ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs. The Exchange believes this adjustment will permit the Exchange to cover a material portion of its regulatory costs, while not exceeding regulatory costs.

The Exchange notified its Participants of this ORF adjustment thirty (30) calendar days prior to the proposed operative date.<sup>5</sup>

Proposal 2 -Reflect the manner in which BX assesses and collects its ORF

Currently, BX assesses its ORF for each Customer option transaction that is either: (1) executed by a Participant on BX; or (2) cleared by a BX Participant at The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") in the Customer range,<sup>6</sup> even if the transaction was executed by a non-member of BX, regardless of the exchange on which the transaction occurs.<sup>7</sup> If the OCC clearing member is a BX Participant, ORF is assessed

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<sup>5</sup> See Options Trader Alert #2017-54.

<sup>6</sup> Exchange Rules require each member to record the appropriate account origin code on all orders at the time of entry in order to allow the Exchange to properly prioritize and route orders and assess transaction fees pursuant to the Rules of the Exchange and report resulting transactions to OCC.

<sup>7</sup> The Exchange uses reports from OCC to determine the identity of the executing clearing firm and ultimate clearing firm.



and collected on all cleared Customer contracts (after adjustment for CMTA<sup>8</sup>); and (2) if the OCC clearing member is not a BX Participant, ORF is collected only on the cleared Customer contracts executed at BX, taking into account any CMTA instructions which may result in collecting the ORF from a non-member.

By way of example, if Broker A, a BX Participant, routes a Customer order to CBOE and the transaction executes on CBOE and clears in Broker A's OCC Clearing account, ORF will be collected by BX from Broker A's clearing account at OCC via direct debit. While this transaction was executed on a market other than BX, it was cleared by a BX Participant in the Participant's OCC clearing account in the Customer range, therefore there is a regulatory nexus between BX and the transaction. If Broker A was not a BX Participant, then no ORF should be assessed and collected because there is no nexus; the transaction did not execute on BX nor was it cleared by a BX Participant.

In the case where a Participant both executes a transaction and clears the transaction, the ORF is assessed to and collected from the Participant only once. In the case where a Participant executes a transaction and a different Participant clears the transaction, the ORF is assessed to and collected from the Participant who clears the transaction and not the Participant who executes the transaction. In the case where a non-member executes a transaction at an away market and a Participant clears the transaction, the ORF is assessed to and collected from the Participant who clears the transaction. In the case where a Participant executes a transaction on BX and a non-member clears the transaction, the ORF is assessed to the Participant that executed the transaction and collected from the non-member who cleared the transaction. In the case where a

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<sup>8</sup> CMTA or Clearing Member Trade Assignment is a form of "give-up" whereby the position will be assigned to a specific clearing firm at OCC.

Participant executes a transaction at an away market and a non-member clears the transaction, the ORF is not assessed to the Participant who executed the transaction or collected from the non-member who cleared the transaction because the Exchange does not have access to the data to make absolutely certain that ORF should apply. Further, the data does not allow the Exchange to identify the Participant executing the trade at an away market.

*ORF Revenue and Monitoring of ORF*

The Exchange monitors the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs. In determining whether an expense is considered a regulatory cost, the Exchange reviews all costs and makes determinations if there is a nexus between the expense and a regulatory function. For example, a cost related to BX's equity platform, would not be considered an expense that is compared to ORF revenue. An options surveillance employee's cost, however would be an expense that is compared to ORF revenue. The Exchange notes that fines collected by the Exchange in connection with a disciplinary manner offset ORF.

The ORF is designed to recover a material portion of the costs to the Exchange of the supervision and regulation of its Participants, including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, and policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities.

The Exchange believes that revenue generated from the ORF, when combined with all of the Exchange's other regulatory fees, will cover a material portion, but not all, of the Exchange's regulatory costs. The Exchange will continue to monitor the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with its other

regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs. If the Exchange determines regulatory revenues exceed regulatory costs, the Exchange will adjust the ORF by submitting a fee change filing to the Commission.

Finally, the Exchange notes that it is amending its rule text at Chapter XV, Section 5 to remove certain rule text and include new text to make clear the manner in which ORF is assessed and collected on BX.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>9</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>10</sup> 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 its facility and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes the proposed clarifications in the Fee Schedule to the ORF further the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) of the Act and are equitable and reasonable since they expressly describe the Exchange's existing practices regarding the manner in which the Exchange assesses and collects its ORF.

### Proposal 1 – Amend the Amount of the ORF

The Exchange believes that increasing the ORF from \$0.0004 per contract side to \$0.0005 per contract side as of August 1, 2017 is reasonable because the Exchange's collection of ORF needs to be balanced against the amount of regulatory cost collected by the Exchange. The Exchange believes that the proposed adjustments noted herein will

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<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

serve to balance the Exchange's regulatory cost against the anticipated regulatory revenue. The Exchange regularly reviews its ORF to ensure that the ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs.

The Exchange believes that increasing the ORF from \$0.0004 per contract side to \$0.0005 per contract side as of August 1, 2017 is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because this modest increase will serve to balance the Exchange's regulatory revenue against the anticipated regulatory costs. The ORF seeks to recover the costs of supervising and regulating members, including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, and policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities. Moreover, the Exchange believes the ORF ensures fairness by assessing fees to those Participants that are directly based on the amount of Customer options business they conduct. Regulating Customer trading activity is much more labor intensive and requires greater expenditure of human and technical resources than regulating non-customer trading activity, which tends to be more automated and less labor-intensive. As a result, the costs associated with administering the Customer component of the Exchange's overall regulatory program are materially higher than the costs associated with administering the non-Customer component (e.g. Participant proprietary transactions) of its regulatory program.

The ORF is designed to recover a material portion of the costs of supervising and regulating Participants' Customer options business including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, and policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities. The Exchange will monitor the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory

fees and fines, does not exceed the Exchange's total regulatory costs. The Exchange has designed the ORF to generate revenues that, when combined with all of the Exchange's other regulatory fees, will be less than or equal to the Exchange's regulatory costs, which is consistent with the Commission's view that regulatory fees be used for regulatory purposes and not to support the Exchange's business side. In this regard, the Exchange believes that the proposed amount of the fee is reasonable.

Proposal 2 -Reflect the manner in which BX assesses and collects its ORF

The Exchange believes it is reasonable and appropriate for the Exchange to charge the ORF for options transactions regardless of the exchange on which the transactions occur. The Exchange has a statutory obligation to enforce compliance by Participants and their associated persons under the Act and the rules of the Exchange and to surveil for other manipulative conduct by market participants (including non-members) trading on the Exchange. The Exchange cannot effectively surveil for such conduct without looking at and evaluating activity across all options markets. Many of the Exchange's market surveillance programs require the Exchange to look at and evaluate activity across all options markets, such as surveillance for position limit violations, manipulation, front-running and contrary exercise advice violations/expiring exercise declarations. The Exchange, because it lacks access to information on the identity of the entering firm for executions that occur on away markets, believes it is appropriate to assess the ORF on its Participant's clearing activity, based on information the Exchange receives from OCC, including for away market activity. Among other reasons, doing so better and more accurately captures activity that occurs away from the Exchange over which the Exchange has a degree of regulatory responsibility. In so doing, the Exchange believes that assessing ORF on Participant clearing firms in certain instances equitably

distributes the collection of ORF in a fair and reasonable manner. Also, the Exchange and the other options exchanges are required to populate a consolidated options audit trail (“COATS”)<sup>11</sup> system in order to surveil a Participant’s activities across markets.<sup>12</sup>

The Exchange believes that assessing the ORF to each Exchange member for options transactions cleared by OCC in the Customer range where the execution occurs on another exchange and is cleared by a BX member is an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members and issuers and other persons using its facilities. The ORF is collected by OCC on behalf of BX from Exchange clearing members for all Customer transactions they clear or from non-members for all Customer transactions they clear that were executed on BX. The Exchange believes that this collection practice is reasonable and appropriate because higher fees are assessed to those members that require more Exchange regulatory services based on the amount of Customer options business they conduct.

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<sup>11</sup> COATS effectively enhances intermarket options surveillance by enabling the options exchanges to reconstruct the market promptly to effectively surveil certain rules.

<sup>12</sup> In addition to its own surveillance programs, the Exchange works with other SROs and exchanges on intermarket surveillance related issues. Through its participation in the Intermarket Surveillance Group (“ISG”), the Exchange shares information and coordinates inquiries and investigations with other exchanges designed to address potential intermarket manipulation and trading abuses. The Exchange’s participation in ISG helps it to satisfy the requirement that it has coordinated surveillance with markets on which security futures are traded and markets on which any security underlying security futures are traded to detect manipulation and insider trading. See Section 6(h)(3)(I) of the Act. ISG is an industry organization formed in 1983 to coordinate intermarket surveillance among the SROs by co-operatively sharing regulatory information pursuant to a written agreement between the parties. The goal of the ISG’s information sharing is to coordinate regulatory efforts to address potential intermarket trading abuses and manipulations.

Regulating Customer trading activity is more labor intensive and requires greater expenditure of human and technical resources than regulating non-Customer trading activity. Surveillance, regulation and examination of non-Customer trading activity generally tends to be more automated and less labor intensive. As a result, the costs associated with administering the Customer component of the Exchange's overall regulatory program are anticipated to be typically higher than the costs associated with administering the non-Customer component of its regulatory program. The Exchange proposes assessing higher fees to those members that will require more Exchange regulatory services based on the amount of Customer options business they conduct. Additionally, the dues and fees paid by members go into the general funds of the Exchange, a portion of which is used to help pay the costs of regulation. The Exchange has in place a regulatory structure to surveil, conduct examinations and monitor the marketplace for violations of Exchange Rules. The ORF assists the Exchange to fund the cost of this regulation of the marketplace.

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. The ORF is not intended to have any impact on competition. Rather, it is designed to enable the Exchange to recover a material portion of the Exchange's cost related to its regulatory activities. The Exchange is obligated to ensure that the amount of regulatory revenue collected from the ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs.

C. 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.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.<sup>13</sup>

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.

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 [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-BX-2017-032 on the subject line.

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<sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).



Paper comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BX-2017-032. 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 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-2017-032 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>14</sup>

Eduardo A. Aleman  
Assistant Secretary

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<sup>14</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

**EXHIBIT 5**

New text is underlined; deleted text is bracketed.

**Rules of NASDAQ BX**

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**Options Rules**

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**Chapter XV Options Pricing**

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**Sec. 5 BX Options Regulatory Fee**

BX Participants will be assessed an Options Regulatory Fee of \$0.0004 per contract side.  
[\*]

Effective August 1, 2017, the ORF shall be \$0.0005 per contract side.

[\*Effective February 1, 2016, the Options Regulatory Fee will be assessed by BX to each BX Participant for all options transactions executed or cleared by a BX Participant at The Options Clearing Corporation (OCC) in the Customer range regardless of the exchange on which the transaction occurs. The Options Regulatory Fee is collected indirectly from BX Participants through their clearing firms by OCC on behalf of BX].The Options Regulatory Fee (“ORF”) is assessed by BX to each BX Participant for options transactions cleared by OCC in the Customer range where: (1) the execution occurs on BX or (2) the execution occurs on another exchange and is cleared by a BX Participant. The ORF is collected by OCC on behalf of BX from (1) BX clearing members for all Customer transactions they clear or (2) non-members for all Customer transactions they clear that were executed on BX. BX uses reports from OCC when assessing and collecting ORF. The Exchange will notify [members]Participants via an Options Trader Alert of any change in the amount of the fee at least 30 calendar days prior to the effective date of the change.

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