Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0045
Estimated average burden hours per response.......38

Page 1 of * 15		SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION File No. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4 Amendment No. (req. fc			File No.* S	
Filing by Nasdaq GEMX, LLC						
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934						
Initial *	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2) *	Section .	on 19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *	Date Expires *		☐ 19b-4(f ☐ 19b-4(f ☐ 19b-4(f)(1)	
Notice of proposed change pursuant Section 806(e)(1) *		to the Payment, Cleari Section 806(e)(2) *	the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of Section 806(e)(2) *		Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Section 3C(b)(2) *	
Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document						
Description Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *). A proposal to increase the monthly cap on the fees assessed for Specialized Quote Feed.						
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 Na	ame * Sun		Last Name * Kim			
Title *	Assistant General Co	punsel				
E-mail *	E-mail * sun.kim@nasdaq.com					
Telepho	one * (212) 231-5106	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 *)						
Date	10/02/2017	Executive Vice Pre		ident and General Counsel		
Ву	Edward S. Knight					
(Name *) 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 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. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) Nasdaq GEMX, LLC ("GEMX" or "Exchange"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposal to amend the Schedule of Fees, as described further below.

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.

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 (the "Board") on September 19, 2017. 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:

Sun Kim Assistant General Counsel Nasdaq, Inc. 212-231-5106

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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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 is proposing to amend its Schedule of Fees to increase the monthly cap on the fees assessed for Specialized Quote Feed ("SQF")³ and SQF Purge⁴ Ports that Market Makers⁵ utilize to connect to the Exchange. Currently, the Exchange charges monthly SQF and SQF Purge Port Fees of \$1,250 per port, and caps these fees for Market Makers utilizing these ports at \$12,500 per month ("SQF Fee Cap"). The Exchange now proposes to increase the SQF Fee Cap from \$12,500 to \$17,500. The monthly \$1,250 per port fees for SQF and SQF Purge Ports will remain unchanged.

b. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁶ in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁷ in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and

SQF is an interface that allows market makers to connect and send quotes, sweeps and auction responses into the Exchange. Data includes the following: (1) Options Auction Notifications (e.g., opening imbalance, Flash, PIM, Solicitation and Facilitation or other information); (2) Options Symbol Directory Messages; (3) System Event Messages (e.g., start of messages, start of system hours, start of quoting, start of opening); (4) Option Trading Action Messages (e.g., halts, resumes); (5) Execution Messages; (6) Quote Messages (quote/sweep messages, risk protection triggers or purge notifications).

SQF Purge is a specific port for the SQF interface that only receives and notifies of purge requests from the market maker.

The term "Market Makers" refers to "Competitive Market Makers" and "Primary Market Makers" collectively. See GEMX Rule 100(a)(25).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

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other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes that increasing the SQF Fee Cap from \$12,500 to \$17,500 is reasonable because it better aligns the fees collected from Market Makers utilizing the SQF and SQF Purge Ports with the costs associated with maintaining and supporting the ports, as well as the initial investment in such ports for the Exchange. The Exchange also believes that the proposed increase of the SQF Fee Cap is reasonable because it will allow the Exchange to recoup costs while continuing to cap infrastructure costs for Market Makers that subscribe to a large number of ports due to their larger market making footprint on the Exchange. Without such a cap, Market Makers may be inhibited from expanding their activity on the Exchange. As a general principal, the Exchange believes that greater participation on the Exchange by members improves market quality for all market participants. Thus, in arriving at a fee cap of \$17,500, the Exchange balanced the desire to improve market quality against the need to cover costs and make a profit. Lastly, the Exchange notes that its affiliate, Nasdaq Phlx ("Phlx"), offers its members a monthly fee cap of \$42,000 for its active SQF ports.

The Exchange believes that the proposed increase of the SQF Fee Cap is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the fee cap will apply uniformly to all Market Makers utilizing SQF and SQF Purge Ports.

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

^{8 &}lt;u>See</u> Phlx Pricing Schedule, VII. Other Member Fees, B. Port Fees.

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Act. The Exchange 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 this instance, the proposed increase in the SQF Fee Cap would not burden competition because it would apply uniformly to all Market Makers utilizing SQF and SQF Purge Ports. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed fee changes herein will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

- 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.

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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,⁹ 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>

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

- Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act
 Not applicable.
- 10. <u>Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act</u>

Not applicable.

11. Exhibits

- 1. Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>.
- 5. Text of the proposed rule change.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. ; File No. SR-GEMX-2017-44)

October , 2017

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq GEMX, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend its Schedule of Fees to Increase the Monthly Cap on the Fees Assessed for Specialized Quote Feed and SQF Purge Ports that Market Makers Utilize to Connect to the Exchange.

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 October 2, 2017, Nasdaq GEMX, LLC ("GEMX" 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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend its Schedule of Fees to increase the monthly cap on the fees assessed for Specialized Quote Feed ("SQF")³ and SQF Purge⁴ Ports that Market Makers⁵ utilize to connect to the Exchange.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

SQF is an interface that allows market makers to connect and send quotes, sweeps and auction responses into the Exchange. Data includes the following: (1) Options Auction Notifications (e.g., opening imbalance, Flash, PIM, Solicitation and Facilitation or other information); (2) Options Symbol Directory Messages; (3) System Event Messages (e.g., start of messages, start of system hours, start of quoting, start of opening); (4) Option Trading Action Messages (e.g., halts, resumes); (5) Execution Messages; (6) Quote Messages (quote/sweep messages, risk protection triggers or purge notifications).

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The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Website at www.ise.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 is proposing to amend its Schedule of Fees to increase the monthly cap on the fees assessed for Specialized Quote Feed ("SQF")⁶ and SQF Purge⁷ Ports that

SQF Purge is a specific port for the SQF interface that only receives and notifies of purge requests from the market maker.

The term "Market Makers" refers to "Competitive Market Makers" and "Primary Market Makers" collectively. <u>See GEMX Rule 100(a)(25)</u>.

SQF is an interface that allows market makers to connect and send quotes, sweeps and auction responses into the Exchange. Data includes the following: (1) Options Auction Notifications (e.g., opening imbalance, Flash, PIM, Solicitation and Facilitation or other information); (2) Options Symbol Directory Messages; (3) System Event Messages (e.g., start of messages, start of system hours, start of quoting, start of opening); (4) Option Trading Action Messages (e.g., halts, resumes); (5) Execution Messages; (6) Quote Messages (quote/sweep messages, risk protection triggers or purge notifications).

SQF Purge is a specific port for the SQF interface that only receives and notifies of purge requests from the market maker.

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Market Makers⁸ utilize to connect to the Exchange. Currently, the Exchange charges monthly SQF and SQF Purge Port Fees of \$1,250 per port, and caps these fees for Market Makers utilizing these ports at \$12,500 per month ("SQF Fee Cap"). The Exchange now proposes to increase the SQF Fee Cap from \$12,500 to \$17,500. The monthly \$1,250 per port fees for SQF and SQF Purge Ports will remain unchanged.

2. Statutory Basis

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

The Exchange believes that increasing the SQF Fee Cap from \$12,500 to \$17,500 is reasonable because it better aligns the fees collected from Market Makers utilizing the SQF and SQF Purge Ports with the costs associated with maintaining and supporting the ports, as well as the initial investment in such ports for the Exchange. The Exchange also believes that the proposed increase of the SQF Fee Cap is reasonable because it will allow the Exchange to recoup costs while continuing to cap infrastructure costs for Market Makers that subscribe to a large number of ports due to their larger market making footprint on the Exchange. Without such a cap, Market Makers may be inhibited from expanding their activity on the Exchange. As a general principal, the Exchange

The term "Market Makers" refers to "Competitive Market Makers" and "Primary Market Makers" collectively. See GEMX Rule 100(a)(25).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

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believes that greater participation on the Exchange by members improves market quality for all market participants. Thus, in arriving at a fee cap of \$17,500, the Exchange balanced the desire to improve market quality against the need to cover costs and make a profit. Lastly, the Exchange notes that its affiliate, Nasdaq Phlx ("Phlx"), offers its members a monthly fee cap of \$42,000 for its active SQF ports.¹¹

The Exchange believes that the proposed increase of the SQF Fee Cap is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the fee cap will apply uniformly to all Market Makers utilizing SQF and SQF Purge Ports.

B. <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. The Exchange 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.

^{11 &}lt;u>See</u> Phlx Pricing Schedule, VII. Other Member Fees, B. Port Fees.

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In this instance, the proposed increase in the SQF Fee Cap would not burden competition because it would apply uniformly to all Market Makers utilizing SQF and SQF Purge Ports. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed fee changes herein will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

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>

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act. ¹² 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:

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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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-GEMX-2017-44 on the subject line.

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-GEMX-2017-44. 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.

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All submissions should refer to File Number SR-GEMX-2017-44 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. 13

Eduardo A. Aleman Assistant Secretary

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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EXHIBIT 5

Deleted text is [bracketed]. New text is <u>underlined</u>.

Nasdaq GEMX Schedule of Fees

* * * * *

IV. Access Services

* * * * *

E. Port Fees

- 1. 2. No change.
- 3. Ports*

SQF Port Fee: \$1,250 per port per month SQF Purge Port Fee: \$1,250 per port per month

OTTO Port Fee: \$650 per port, per month, per account number CTI Port Fee: \$650 per port, per month, per account number FIX Port Fee: \$650 per port, per month, per account number FIX Drop Port Fee: \$650 per port, per month, per account number Disaster Recovery Port Fee: \$50 per port, per month, per account number

Market Data Port Fee: \$0 per port, per month, per account number

The SQF Port and the SQF Purge Port are subject to a monthly cap of \$[12,500]17,500, which cap is applicable to Market Makers. OTTO Port, CTI Port, FIX Port, FIX Drop Port and Disaster Recovery Port are subject to a monthly cap of \$7,500.

* * * * *

^{*} The connectivity provided under this section applies to ports used to connect to the re-platformed Nasdaq GEMX trading system.