Page 1 of * 20		SECURITIES AND EXCHA WASHINGTON, E Form 19b	D.C. 20549		File No. * S it No. (req. for A	
Filing by Nasd	aq GEMX, LLC					
Pursuant to Rul	e 19b-4 under the Securities Exch	ange Act of 1934				
Initial *	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)	(2) * Section 19(b	)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for	Date Expires *		Rule	7	
	Commission Action *	Date Expires		19b-4(f)(1)	19b-4(f)(4) 19b-4(f)(5)	
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				19b-4(f)(3)	19b-4(f)(6)	
Notice of pro	posed change pursuant to the Pay	ment, Clearing, and Settlement A	Act of 2010	Security-Based Swa Securities Exchange Section 3C(b)(2) *	ap Submission p ∍ Act of 1934	oursuant to the
Exhibit 2 Ser	nt As Paper Document	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper D	ocument			
	on rief description of the action (limit 2  MX Options 7, Section 4	250 characters, required when Ini	tial is checked *).			
	formation name, telephone number, and e-m respond to questions and commer		staff of the self-re	gulatory organization		
First Name *	Angela	Last Name * Duni	າ			
Title *	Principal Associate General Counsel					
E-mail *	Angela.Dunn@nasdaq.com					
Telephone *	(215) 496-5692	Fax				
	the requirements of the Securities used this filing to be signed on its b			d.		
Date	11/01/2023		(Т	itle *)	_	
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# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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

Form 19b-4 Information *							
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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 SR-GEMX-2023-14 Exhibit 1.doc

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 Advanced Notice by Clearing Agencies \*

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 2- Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications

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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 Sent As Paper Document

**Exhibit Sent As Paper Document** 

# Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire

Add Remove View

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

Add Remove View
SR-GEMX-2023-14 Exhibit 5.doc

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**

Add Remove View

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.

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

(a) Nasdaq GEMX, LLC ("GEMX" 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 amend the Exchange's Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 4, Other Options Fees and Rebates.

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"). 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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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 purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend the Exchange's Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 4, Other Options Fees and Rebates. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend Part A, Route-Out Fees. The Routing Fees apply to executions of orders that are routed to one or more exchanges in connection with the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan.

Today, the Exchange assesses Market Makers,<sup>3</sup> Non-Nasdaq GEMX Market Makers (FarMM),<sup>4</sup> Firm Proprietary<sup>5</sup>/Broker-Dealers<sup>6</sup> and Professional Customers<sup>7</sup> a \$0.55 per contract Penny Symbol Routing Fee and a \$1.09 Non-Penny Symbol Routing Fee to route to another options exchange. Additionally, today, the Exchange assess Priority Customers<sup>8</sup> a \$0.50 per contract Penny Symbol Routing Fee and a \$0.90 Non-Penny Symbol Routing Fee to route to another options exchange.

The term "Market Makers" refers to "Competitive Market Makers" and "Primary Market Makers" collectively. See Options 1, Section 1(a)(21).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A "Non-Nasdaq GEMX Market Maker" is a market maker as defined in Section 3(a)(38) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, registered in the same options class on another options exchange. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

A "Firm Proprietary" order is an order submitted by a member for its own proprietary account. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

A "Broker-Dealer" order is an order submitted by a member for a broker-dealer account that is not its own proprietary account. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

A "Professional Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer and is not a Priority Customer. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

A "Priority Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer in securities, and does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s), as defined in Nasdaq GEMX Options 1, Section 1(a)(36). Unless otherwise noted, when used in the Pricing Schedule the term "Priority Customer" includes "Retail". See Options 7, Section 1(c).

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The Exchange proposes to instead assess a \$0.60 per contract Penny Symbol Routing Fee and a \$1.20 Non-Penny Symbol Routing Fee to route to another options exchange regardless of the capacity of the order. The purpose of the proposed Routing Fees is to recoup costs incurred by the Exchange when routing orders to other options exchanges on behalf of options Members. In determining its proposed Routing Fees, the Exchange took into account transaction fees assessed by other options exchanges, the Exchange's projected clearing costs, and the projected administrative, regulatory, and technical costs associated with routing orders to other options exchanges. The Exchange will continue to use its affiliated broker-dealer, Nasdaq Execution Services, to route orders to other options exchanges. Routing services offered by the Exchange are completely optional and market participants can readily select between various providers of routing services, including other exchanges and broker-dealers. Also, the Exchange notes that market participants may elect to mark their orders as "Do Not Route" to avoid any Routing Fees. The proposed structure for Routing Fees is similar to another options market. The Exchange believes that the proposed Routing Fees would enable the Exchange to recover the costs it incurs to route orders to away markets after taking into account the other costs associated with routing orders to other options exchanges.

### b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act, <sup>10</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act, <sup>11</sup>

See MEMX's Options Fee Schedule at <a href="https://info.memxtrading.com/us-options-trading-resources/us-options-fee-schedule/">https://info.memxtrading.com/us-options-trading-resources/us-options-fee-schedule/</a>. MEMX assesses a \$0.60 per contract Penny Symbol routing fee and a \$1.20 Non-Penny Symbol routing fee.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

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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's proposed changes to Routing Fees are reasonable in several respects. As a threshold matter, the Exchange is subject to significant competitive forces in the market for options securities transaction services that constrain its pricing determinations in that market. The fact that this market is competitive has long been recognized by the courts. In NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: "[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'...."

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

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

NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525, 539 (D.C. Cir. 2010) (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

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market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."<sup>13</sup>

Numerous indicia demonstrate the competitive nature of this market. For example, clear substitutes to the Exchange exist in the market for options security transaction services. The Exchange is only one of seventeen options exchanges to which market participants may direct their order flow. Within this environment, market participants can freely and often do shift their order flow among the Exchange and competing venues in response to changes in their respective pricing schedules. As such, the proposal represents a reasonable attempt by the Exchange to increase its liquidity and market.

The Exchange's proposal to amend its Routing Fees such that all Members would pay a \$0.60 per contract Penny Symbol Routing Fee and a \$1.20 Non-Penny Symbol Routing Fee to route to another options exchange, regardless of capacity, is reasonable because the proposed Routing Fees would enable the Exchange to recover the costs it incurs to route orders to away markets after taking into account the other costs associated with routing orders to other options exchanges. Routing services offered by the Exchange are completely optional and market participants can readily select between various providers of routing services, including other exchanges and broker-dealers.

Also, the Exchange notes that market participants may elect to mark their orders as "Do

Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) ("Regulation NMS Adopting Release").

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Not Route" to avoid any Routing Fees. The proposed structure for Routing Fees is similar to another options market. 14

The Exchange's proposal to amend its Routing Fees such that all Members would pay a \$0.60 per contract Penny Symbol Routing Fee and a \$1.20 Non-Penny Symbol Routing Fee, regardless of capacity, to route to another options exchange is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because these uniform Routing Fees will apply equally to all options Members.

## 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.

In terms of intra-market competition, the Exchange's proposal to amend its

Routing Fees such that all Members would pay a \$0.60 per contract Penny Symbol

Routing Fee and a \$1.20 Non-Penny Symbol Routing Fee, regardless of capacity, to route
to another options exchange does not impose an undue burden on competition because
these uniform Routing Fees will apply equally to all options Members.

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 options

See MEMX's Options Fee Schedule at <a href="https://info.memxtrading.com/us-options-trading-resources/us-options-fee-schedule/">https://info.memxtrading.com/us-options-trading-resources/us-options-fee-schedule/</a>. MEMX assesses a \$0.60 per contract Penny Symbol routing fee and a \$1.20 Non-Penny Symbol routing fee.

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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.

- 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.
- 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, <sup>15</sup> 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.

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

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8. <u>Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission</u>

Not applicable.

9. <u>Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act</u>
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 Federal Register.
- 5. Text of the proposed rule change.

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**EXHIBIT 1** 

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. ; File No. SR-GEMX-2023-14)

November , 2023

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq GEMX, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend GEMX Options 7, Section 4

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 November 1, 2023, 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 the Exchange's Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 4, Other Options Fees and Rebates.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Website at <a href="https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/gemx/rules">https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/gemx/rules</a>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

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

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# 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 purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend the Exchange's Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 4, Other Options Fees and Rebates. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend Part A, Route-Out Fees. The Routing Fees apply to executions of orders that are routed to one or more exchanges in connection with the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan.

Today, the Exchange assesses Market Makers,<sup>3</sup> Non-Nasdaq GEMX Market Makers (FarMM),<sup>4</sup> Firm Proprietary<sup>5</sup>/Broker-Dealers<sup>6</sup> and Professional Customers<sup>7</sup> a

The term "Market Makers" refers to "Competitive Market Makers" and "Primary Market Makers" collectively. See Options 1, Section 1(a)(21).

A "Non-Nasdaq GEMX Market Maker" is a market maker as defined in Section 3(a)(38) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, registered in the same options class on another options exchange. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

A "Firm Proprietary" order is an order submitted by a member for its own proprietary account. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

A "Broker-Dealer" order is an order submitted by a member for a broker-dealer account that is not its own proprietary account. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1(c).

A "Professional Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer and is not a Priority Customer. See Options 7, Section 1(c).

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\$0.55 per contract Penny Symbol Routing Fee and a \$1.09 Non-Penny Symbol Routing Fee to route to another options exchange. Additionally, today, the Exchange assess Priority Customers<sup>8</sup> a \$0.50 per contract Penny Symbol Routing Fee and a \$0.90 Non-Penny Symbol Routing Fee to route to another options exchange.

The Exchange proposes to instead assess a \$0.60 per contract Penny Symbol Routing Fee and a \$1.20 Non-Penny Symbol Routing Fee to route to another options exchange regardless of the capacity of the order. The purpose of the proposed Routing Fees is to recoup costs incurred by the Exchange when routing orders to other options exchanges on behalf of options Members. In determining its proposed Routing Fees, the Exchange took into account transaction fees assessed by other options exchanges, the Exchange's projected clearing costs, and the projected administrative, regulatory, and technical costs associated with routing orders to other options exchanges. The Exchange will continue to use its affiliated broker-dealer, Nasdag Execution Services, to route orders to other options exchanges. Routing services offered by the Exchange are completely optional and market participants can readily select between various providers of routing services, including other exchanges and broker-dealers. Also, the Exchange notes that market participants may elect to mark their orders as "Do Not Route" to avoid any Routing Fees. The proposed structure for Routing Fees is similar to another options market. The Exchange believes that the proposed Routing Fees would enable the

A "Priority Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer in securities, and does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s), as defined in Nasdaq GEMX Options 1, Section 1(a)(36). Unless otherwise noted, when used in the Pricing Schedule the term "Priority Customer" includes "Retail". See Options 7, Section 1(c).

See MEMX's Options Fee Schedule at <a href="https://info.memxtrading.com/us-options-trading-resources/us-options-fee-schedule/">https://info.memxtrading.com/us-options-trading-resources/us-options-fee-schedule/</a>. MEMX assesses a \$0.60 per contract Penny Symbol routing fee and a \$1.20 Non-Penny Symbol routing fee.

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Exchange to recover the costs it incurs to route orders to away markets after taking into account the other costs associated with routing orders to other options exchanges.

### 2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act, <sup>10</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act, <sup>11</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 any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange's proposed changes to its Routing Fees are reasonable in several respects. As a threshold matter, the Exchange is subject to significant competitive forces in the market for options securities transaction services that constrain its pricing determinations in that market. The fact that this market is competitive has long been recognized by the courts. In <a href="NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission">NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission</a>, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: "[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'...."

dealers'...."

The Exchange is subject to significant competitive forces in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'..."

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

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

NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525, 539 (D.C. Cir. 2010) (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

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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." <sup>13</sup>

Numerous indicia demonstrate the competitive nature of this market. For example, clear substitutes to the Exchange exist in the market for options security transaction services. The Exchange is only one of seventeen options exchanges to which market participants may direct their order flow. Within this environment, market participants can freely and often do shift their order flow among the Exchange and competing venues in response to changes in their respective pricing schedules. As such, the proposal represents a reasonable attempt by the Exchange to increase its liquidity and market.

The Exchange's proposal to amend its Routing Fees such that all Members would pay a \$0.60 per contract Penny Symbol Routing Fee and a \$1.20 Non-Penny Symbol Routing Fee to route to another options exchange, regardless of capacity, is reasonable because the proposed Routing Fees would enable the Exchange to recover the costs it incurs to route orders to away markets after taking into account the other costs associated with routing orders to other options exchanges. Routing services offered by the Exchange are completely optional and market participants can readily select between

Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) ("Regulation NMS Adopting Release").

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various providers of routing services, including other exchanges and broker-dealers.

Also, the Exchange notes that market participants may elect to mark their orders as "Do Not Route" to avoid any Routing Fees. The proposed structure for Routing Fees is similar to another options market. <sup>14</sup>

The Exchange's proposal to amend its Routing Fees such that all Members would pay a \$0.60 per contract Penny Symbol Routing Fee and a \$1.20 Non-Penny Symbol Routing Fee, regardless of capacity, to route to another options exchange is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because these uniform Routing Fees will apply equally to all options Members.

### 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.

In terms of intra-market competition, the Exchange's proposal to amend its

Routing Fees such that all Members would pay a \$0.60 per contract Penny Symbol

Routing Fee and a \$1.20 Non-Penny Symbol Routing Fee, regardless of capacity, to route
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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

See MEMX's Options Fee Schedule at <a href="https://info.memxtrading.com/us-options-trading-resources/us-options-fee-schedule/">https://info.memxtrading.com/us-options-trading-resources/us-options-fee-schedule/</a>. MEMX assesses a \$0.60 per contract Penny Symbol routing fee and a \$1.20 Non-Penny Symbol routing fee.

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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 options 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.

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. <sup>15</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:

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

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### **Electronic Comments:**

 Use the Commission's internet comment form (https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or

• Send an email to <a href="mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov">rule-comments@sec.gov</a>. Please include file number SR-GEMX-2023-14 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-2023-14. This file number should be included on the subject line if email 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 website (https://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 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or

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subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-GEMX-2023-14 and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.  $^{16}$ 

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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### **EXHIBIT 5**

New text is underlined; deleted text is in brackets.

# Nasdaq GEMX, LLC Rules

\* \* \* \* \*

**Options Rules** 

\* \* \* \* \*

**Options 7 Pricing Schedule** 

\* \* \* \* \*

# **Section 4. Other Options Fees and Rebates**

# A. Route-Out Fees<sup>1.</sup>

Market Participant	Penny	Non-Penny
[Market Maker]All Market Participants	\$0.[55] <u>60</u>	\$1.[09] <u>20</u>
[Non-Nasdaq GEMX Market Maker (FarMM)]	[\$0.55]	[\$1.09]
[Firm Proprietary / Broker-Dealer]	[\$0.55]	[\$1.09]
[Professional Customer]	[\$0.55]	[\$1.09]
[Priority Customer]	[\$0.50]	[\$0.90]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1.</sup> Fee applies to executions of orders that are routed to one or more exchanges in connection with the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan.

\* \* \* \* \*