Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Page 1 of * <mark>20</mark>	WASHINGTON, D.	ECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4 Amendme		File No. * SR 2023 - * 08 dment No. (req. for Amendments *)		
Filing by Nasdaq MRX, LLC						
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange	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 Commission Action * Image: Commission Action * Image: Commission Action *	Date Expires *		19b-4(f)(2) 19b-4	4(f)(4) 4(f)(5) 4(f)(6)		
Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Pay Section 806(e)(1) *	/ment, Clearing, and Settlement A Section 806(e)(2) *	Se	ecurity-Based Swap Subm ecurities Exchange Act of 7 ection 3C(b)(2) *	ission pursuant to the 1934		
Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Do	ocument				
Description Provide a brief description of the action (limit 2 Proposal to amend the Exchanges Pricing Sch		al is checked *).				
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 * <mark>Sun</mark>	Last Name * <mark>Kim</mark>					
Title * Associate General Counsel						
E-mail * sun.kim@nasdaq.com						
Telephone * (646) 420-7816	Fax					
Signature Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange of 1934, Nasdaq MRX, LLC has duty caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duty authorized.						
Date 04/24/2023		(Title *)				
By John Zecca (Name *) NOTE: Clicking the signature block at right will initiate digital! form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical sig once signed, this form cannot be changed.	y signing the	M. ATILER	e: 2023.04.24)6:01 -04'00'			

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION					
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549					
For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS 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.				
SR-MRX-2023-08 19b-4.doc					
Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change *AddRemoveViewSR-MRX-2023-08Exhibit 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 *AddRemoveView	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	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.				
Add Remove View	Exhibit Sent As Paper Document				
Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, orQuestionnaireAddRemoveView	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 Sent As Paper Document				
Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies Add Remove View	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-MRX-2023-08 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				
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.				

SR-MRX-2023-08

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

(a) Nasdaq MRX, LLC ("MRX" 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 Exchange's Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 3 (Regular Order 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:

Sun Kim Associate General Counsel Nasdaq, Inc. 646-420-7816

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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 3 (Regular Order Fees and Rebates).

Today, as set forth in Table 1 of Options 7, Section 3, the Exchange assesses the

following fees for regular orders in Penny Symbols:

Market Participant	Maker Fee Tier 1	Maker Fee Tier 2	Taker Fee Tier 1	Taker Fee Tier 2
Market Maker	\$0.20	\$0.10	\$0.50	\$0.50
Non-Nasdaq MRX Market Maker (FarMM)	\$0.47	\$0.47	\$0.50	\$0.50
Firm Proprietary / Broker-Dealer	\$0.47	\$0.47	\$0.50	\$0.50
Professional Customer	\$0.47	\$0.47	\$0.50	\$0.50
Priority Customer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
In addition, the Exchange	currently	offers a gro	wth incen	tive that allows Ma

Penny Symbols

Makers³ to reduce their maker fees described above.⁴ Specifically, Market Makers may qualify for a reduction in the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Maker Fees described above if the Market Maker has increased its volume which adds liquidity in Penny Symbols as a percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume⁵ by at least 100% over the Member's December 2022 Market Maker volume which adds liquidity in Penny Symbols as a percentage of

³ The term "Market Makers" refers to "Competitive Market Makers" and "Primary Market Makers" collectively. <u>See</u> Options 1, Section 1(a)(21).

⁴ <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 3, note 6.

⁵ "Customer Total Consolidated Volume" means the total volume cleared at The Options Clearing Corporation in the Customer range in equity and ETF options in that month. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1(c).

Customer Total Consolidated Volume. Market Makers that qualify would have their Tier 1 Maker Fee reduced to \$0.08 and their Tier 2 Maker Fee reduced to \$0.04. From January 3, 2023 until June 30, 2023, Market Makers with no volume in the Penny Symbol add liquidity segment for the month of December 2022 may qualify for the reduced Tier 1 and Tier 2 Maker Fees by having any new volume considered as added volume. As stated in the adopting filing, the Exchange offers this temporary incentive from January 3, 2023 until June 30, 2023 in order to encourage new Market Makers to join MRX, and is using this time period to evaluate the appropriate parameters going forward for market participants with no December 2022 volume in the targeted segment.⁶

The Exchange now proposes to amend this Market Maker growth incentive by expanding the sunset date from the current new Market Maker portion of the incentive to the entire incentive. As amended, note 6 will provide:

Market Makers may qualify for a reduction in the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Maker Fees described above if the Market Maker has increased its volume which adds liquidity in Penny Symbols as a percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume by at least 100% over the Member's December 2022 Market Maker volume which adds liquidity in Penny Symbols as a percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume. Market Makers that qualify will have their Tier 1 Maker Fee reduced to \$0.08 and their Tier 2 Maker Fee reduced to \$0.04. Market Makers with no volume in the Penny Symbol add liquidity segment for the month of December 2022 may qualify for the reduced Tier 1 and Tier 2 Maker Fees by having any new volume considered as added volume. This note 6 incentive will be available to Market Makers until June 30, 2023.

b. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the

Act,⁷ in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁸ in

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 97148 (March 15, 2023), 88 FR 17068 (March 21, 2023) (SR-MRX-2023-07).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

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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 schedule of credits 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 <u>NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange</u> <u>Commission</u>, 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'....²⁹

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

⁸ 15 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)).

market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."¹⁰

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 sixteen 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 share relative to its competitors.

The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to have the growth incentive in note 6 expire on June 30, 2023. Currently, only the new Market Maker portion of this incentive expires on June 30, 2023.¹¹ The proposal is reasonable because it will continue to provide extra incentives to Market Makers to engage in substantial amounts of liquidity adding activity in Penny Symbols on the Exchange, as well as to grow substantially the extent to which they do so relative to a recent benchmark month. The Exchange believes that sunsetting the note 6 incentive within six months of the base month (December 2022) will ensure that the benchmark against which Market Maker growth is measured is timely and meets the intended purpose of encouraging increased order flow.

¹⁰ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) ("Regulation NMS Adopting Release").

¹¹ Specifically, the rule provides that from January 3, 2023 until June 30, 2023, Market Makers with no volume in the Penny Symbol add liquidity segment for the month of December 2022 may qualify for the reduced Tier 1 and Tier 2 Maker Fees by having any new volume considered as added volume.

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The Exchange believes that its proposal to have the note 6 growth incentive expire on June 30, 2023 is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the proposed expiration date will be applied uniformly to all Market Makers. The Exchange continues to believe that it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to provide the note 6 growth incentive to only Market Makers because Market Makers have different requirements and additional obligations to the Exchange that other market participants do not (such as quoting requirements). As such, this growth incentive is designed to increase Market Maker participation and reward Market Makers for the unique role they play in ensuring a robust market. As discussed above, the note 6 incentive is designed to encourage Market Makers to substantially add Penny Symbol liquidity to the Exchange, to the benefit of all market participants.

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 does not believe that its proposal will place any category of market participant at a competitive disadvantage. The proposed change to sunset the note 6 incentive on June 30, 2023 does not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition because all Market Makers will have the opportunity to qualify for this growth incentive for the six months it is offered. The Exchange also believes that the Market Maker growth incentive will continue to encourage the provision of liquidity from both existing and new Market Makers that enhances the quality of the Exchange's market and increases the number of trading

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opportunities on the Exchange for all market participants who will be able to compete for such opportunities.

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 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 sum, if the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

 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.

 <u>Extension of Time Period for Commission Action</u> Not applicable.

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

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,¹² the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the selfregulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the selfregulatory 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</u> or of the Commission

Not applicable.

- 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</u> <u>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.

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. ; File No. SR-MRX-2023-08)

April ____, 2023

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq MRX, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend the Exchange's Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 3

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 April 24, 2023, Nasdaq MRX,

LLC ("MRX" 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</u> <u>Proposed Rule Change</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend the Exchange's Pricing Schedule at Options 7,

Section 3 (Regular Order Fees and Rebates).

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Website at

https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/mrx/rules, 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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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> Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change
 - 1. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend the Exchange's Pricing

Schedule at Options 7, Section 3 (Regular Order Fees and Rebates).

Today, as set forth in Table 1 of Options 7, Section 3, the Exchange assesses the

following fees for regular orders in Penny Symbols:

Market Participant	Maker Fee Tier 1	Maker Fee Tier 2	Taker Fee Tier 1	Taker Fee Tier 2
Market Maker	\$0.20	\$0.10	\$0.50	\$0.50
Non-Nasdaq MRX Market Maker (FarMM)	\$0.47	\$0.47	\$0.50	\$0.50
Firm Proprietary / Broker-Dealer	\$0.47	\$0.47	\$0.50	\$0.50
Professional Customer	\$0.47	\$0.47	\$0.50	\$0.50
Priority Customer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Penny Symbols

In addition, the Exchange currently offers a growth incentive that allows Market

Makers³ to reduce their maker fees described above.⁴ Specifically, Market Makers may qualify for a reduction in the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Maker Fees described above if the Market Maker has increased its volume which adds liquidity in Penny Symbols as a percentage

³ The term "Market Makers" refers to "Competitive Market Makers" and "Primary Market Makers" collectively. <u>See</u> Options 1, Section 1(a)(21).

⁴ <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 3, note 6.

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of Customer Total Consolidated Volume⁵ by at least 100% over the Member's December 2022 Market Maker volume which adds liquidity in Penny Symbols as a percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume. Market Makers that qualify would have their Tier 1 Maker Fee reduced to \$0.08 and their Tier 2 Maker Fee reduced to \$0.04. From January 3, 2023 until June 30, 2023, Market Makers with no volume in the Penny Symbol add liquidity segment for the month of December 2022 may qualify for the reduced Tier 1 and Tier 2 Maker Fees by having any new volume considered as added volume. As stated in the adopting filing, the Exchange offers this temporary incentive from January 3, 2023 until June 30, 2023 in order to encourage new Market Makers to join MRX, and is using this time period to evaluate the appropriate parameters going forward for market participants with no December 2022 volume in the targeted segment.⁶

The Exchange now proposes to amend this Market Maker growth incentive by expanding the sunset date from the current new Market Maker portion of the incentive to the entire incentive. As amended, note 6 will provide:

Market Makers may qualify for a reduction in the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Maker Fees described above if the Market Maker has increased its volume which adds liquidity in Penny Symbols as a percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume by at least 100% over the Member's December 2022 Market Maker volume which adds liquidity in Penny Symbols as a percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume. Market Makers that qualify will have their Tier 1 Maker Fee reduced to \$0.08 and their Tier 2 Maker Fee reduced to \$0.04. Market Makers with no volume in the Penny Symbol add liquidity segment for the month of December 2022 may qualify for the reduced Tier 1 and Tier 2 Maker Fees by having any new volume considered as added volume. This note 6 incentive will be available to Market Makers until June 30, 2023.

⁵ "Customer Total Consolidated Volume" means the total volume cleared at The Options Clearing Corporation in the Customer range in equity and ETF options in that month. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1(c).

⁶ <u>See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 97148 (March 15, 2023), 88 FR 17068 (March 21, 2023) (SR-MRX-2023-07).</u>

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2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁷ in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁸ 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 schedule of credits 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 <u>NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange</u> <u>Commission</u>, 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'.....^{''9}

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁸ 15 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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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."¹⁰

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 sixteen 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 share relative to its competitors.

The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to have the growth incentive in note 6 expire on June 30, 2023. Currently, only the new Market Maker portion of this incentive expires on June 30, 2023.¹¹ The proposal is reasonable because it will continue to provide extra incentives to Market Makers to engage in substantial amounts of liquidity adding activity in Penny Symbols on the Exchange, as well as to grow substantially the

¹⁰ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) ("Regulation NMS Adopting Release").

¹¹ Specifically, the rule provides that from January 3, 2023 until June 30, 2023, Market Makers with no volume in the Penny Symbol add liquidity segment for the month of December 2022 may qualify for the reduced Tier 1 and Tier 2 Maker Fees by having any new volume considered as added volume.

extent to which they do so relative to a recent benchmark month. The Exchange believes that sunsetting the note 6 incentive within six months of the base month (December 2022) will ensure that the benchmark against which Market Maker growth is measured is timely and meets the intended purpose of encouraging increased order flow.

The Exchange believes that its proposal to have the note 6 growth incentive expire on June 30, 2023 is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the proposed expiration date will be applied uniformly to all Market Makers. The Exchange continues to believe that it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to provide the note 6 growth incentive to only Market Makers because Market Makers have different requirements and additional obligations to the Exchange that other market participants do not (such as quoting requirements). As such, this growth incentive is designed to increase Market Maker participation and reward Market Makers for the unique role they play in ensuring a robust market. As discussed above, the note 6 incentive is designed to encourage Market Makers to substantially add Penny Symbol liquidity to the Exchange, to the benefit of all market participants.

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 does not believe that its proposal will place any category of market participant at a competitive disadvantage. The proposed change to sunset the note 6 incentive on June 30, 2023 does not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition because all Market Makers will have the opportunity to qualify for this growth incentive for the six months it is offered. The

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Exchange also believes that the Market Maker growth incentive will continue to encourage the provision of liquidity from both existing and new Market Makers that enhances the quality of the Exchange's market and increases the number of trading opportunities on the Exchange for all market participants who will be able to compete for such opportunities.

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 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 sum, if the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

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. 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.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:

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-MRX-2023-08 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-MRX-2023-08. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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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-MRX-2023-08 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

J. Matthew DeLesDernier Assistant Secretary

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

EXHIBIT 5

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

NASDAQ MRX, LLC RULES

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OPTIONS 7 PRICING SCHEDULE

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Section 3. Regular Order Fees and Rebates Table 1

Penny Symbols

	Maker	Maker	Taker	Taker
	Fee	Fee	Fee	Fee
Market Participant	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 1	Tier 2
Market Maker ⁽¹⁾⁽⁵⁾	\$0.20 ⁽⁶⁾	\$0.10 ⁽⁶⁾	\$0.50 ⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	\$0.50 ⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾
Non-Nasdaq MRX Market Maker				
(FarMM)	\$0.47	\$0.47	\$0.50	\$0.50
Firm Proprietary / Broker-Dealer	\$0.47	\$0.47	\$0.50	\$0.50
Professional Customer	\$0.47	\$0.47	\$0.50	\$0.50
Priority Customer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

* * * * *

6. Market Makers may qualify for a reduction in the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Maker Fees described above if the Market Maker has increased its volume which adds liquidity in Penny Symbols as a percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume by at least 100% over the Member's December 2022 Market Maker volume which adds liquidity in Penny Symbols as a percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume. Market Makers that qualify will have their Tier 1 Maker Fee reduced to \$0.08 and their Tier 2 Maker Fee reduced to \$0.04. [From January 3, 2023 until June 30, 2023,] Market Makers with no volume in the Penny Symbol add liquidity segment for the month of December 2022 may qualify for the reduced Tier 1 and Tier 2 Maker Fees by having any new volume considered as added volume. <u>This note 6 incentive will be available to Market Makers until June 30, 2023.</u>

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