OMB APPROVAL

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Page 1 of * 16		SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4			File No.* SR - 2012 - * 59  Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *)		
Proposed Rule Change by NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC.							
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange 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 *	Date Expires *		<u> </u>	9b-4(f)(1)		
Exhibit 2	ixhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document						
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 proposed rule change.  First Name * Arlinda Last Name * Clark							
Title * Assistant General C		unsel					
E-mail * arlinda.clark@nasdaqomx.com  Telephone * (301) 978-8317							
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 officer.  Date 04/27/2012  By Edward S. Knight  (Name *)  Executive Vice President and General Counsel  (Title *)							
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 (required) clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the Remove View proposal 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 Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing (required) as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Add Remove View 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) Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments. documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall **Transcripts, Other Communications** be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Add Remove View Exhibit Sent As Paper Document 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 the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which Add Remove View it has been working. The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text** 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 Add Remove View considered part 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 View 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 Proposed Rule Change

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC ("Phlx" or the "Exchange") is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") a proposed rule change to make permanent a pilot program to allow cabinet trading to take place below \$1 per option contract under specified circumstances (the "pilot program").

The text of the proposed rule change is below. Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.

\* \* \* \* \*

**RULES OF THE EXCHANGE** 

\* \* \* \* \*

**OPTIONS RULES** 

\* \* \* \* \*

Rule 1059. Accommodation Transactions (a) - (b) No change.

• • • Commentary: -----

.01 No change.

- .02 Limit Orders Priced Below \$1: Limit orders with a price of at least \$0 but less than \$1 per option contract may trade under the terms and conditions in Rule 1059 above in each series of option contracts open for trading on the Exchange, except that:
- (a) (c) No change.

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

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

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[(d) Unless otherwise extended, the effectiveness of the Commentary .02 terminates June 1, 2012.]

\* \* \* \* \*

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

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

The proposed rule change was approved by the Board of Directors of the Exchange on April 25, 2012. No other action by the Exchange is necessary for the filing of the rule change. Questions regarding this rule filing may be directed to Arlinda J. Clark, Assistant General Counsel at (301) 978-8317.

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

### (a) <u>Purpose</u>

Currently, the Exchange is operating a pilot program under Commentary .02 of Exchange Rule 1059, Accommodation Transactions, which sets forth specific procedures for engaging in cabinet trades.<sup>3</sup> Prior to the pilot program, Rule 1059 required that all orders placed in the cabinet be assigned priority based upon the sequence in which such orders were received by the specialist.<sup>4</sup> All closing bids and offers were submitted to the specialist in writing, and the specialist effected all closing cabinet transactions by matching such orders placed with him. Bids or offers on orders to open for the accounts

Cabinet or accommodation trading of option contracts is intended to accommodate persons wishing to effect closing transactions in those series of options dealt in on the Exchange for which there is no auction market.

A Specialist is an Exchange member who is registered as an options specialist pursuant to Rule 1020(a).

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of a customer, firm, specialist or Registered Options Trader ("ROT")<sup>5</sup> could be made at \$1 per option contract, but such orders could not be placed in the cabinet and were required to yield to all orders in the cabinet. Specialists effected all cabinet transactions by matching closing purchase or sale orders, which were placed in the cabinet, or provided there were no matching closing purchase or sale orders in the cabinet, by matching a closing purchase or sale order in the cabinet with an opening purchase or sale order.<sup>6</sup> All cabinet transactions were reported to the Exchange following the close of each business day.<sup>7</sup> Any (i) member, (ii) member organization, or (iii) other person who was a non-member broker or dealer and who directly or indirectly controlled, was controlled by, or was under common control with, a member or member organization (any such other person being referred to as an affiliated person) could effect any transaction as principal in the over-the-counter market in any class of options contracts listed on the Exchange for a premium not in excess of \$1.00 per contract.

On December 30, 2010, the Exchange filed an immediately effective proposal that established the pilot program. The pilot program allowed cabinet transactions to take place in open outcry at a price of at least \$0 but less than \$1 per option contract until June

A ROT includes a Streaming Quote Trader ("SQT"), a Remote Streaming Quote Trader ("RSQT") and a Non-SQT, which by definition is neither an SQT nor a RSQT. A ROT is defined in Exchange Rule 1014(b) as a regular member of the Exchange located on the trading floor who has received permission from the Exchange to trade in options for his own account. See Exchange Rule 1014 (b)(i) and (ii).

Specialists and ROTs are not subject to the requirements of Rule 1014 in respect of orders placed pursuant to Rule 1059. Also, the provisions of Rule 1033(b) and (c), Rule 1034 and Rule 1038 do not apply to orders placed in the cabinet. Cabinet transactions are not reported on the ticker.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See Exchange Rule 1059.

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1, 2011.<sup>8</sup> These lower priced transactions are traded today pursuant to the same procedures applicable to \$1 cabinet trades, with the exception that (i) bids and offers for opening transactions are only permitted to accommodate closing transactions in order to limit use of the procedure to liquidations of existing positions, and (ii) the procedures are also made available for trading in options participating in the Penny Pilot Program.<sup>9</sup> On May 31, 2011, the Exchange filed an immediately effective proposal that extended the pilot program until December 1, 2011 to consider whether to seek permanent approval of the temporary procedure.<sup>10</sup> Most recently, the Exchange filed an immediately effective proposal that extended the pilot program until June 1, 2012.<sup>11</sup>

The results of the pilot program indicate that allowing cabinet trading at a price of at least \$0 but less than \$1 better accommodates the closing of options positions in series that are worthless or not actively traded, particularly due to recent market conditions that have resulted in a significant number of series being out-of-the-money. For example, if a

See Phlx Rule 1059, Commentary .02. See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 63626 (December 30, 2010), 76 FR 812 (January 6, 2011) (SR-Phlx-2010-185).

Prior to the pilot program, the \$1 cabinet trading procedures were limited to options classes traded in \$0.05 or \$0.10 standard increments. The \$1 cabinet trading procedures were not available in Penny Pilot Program classes because in those classes, an options series could trade in a standard increment as low as \$0.01 per share (or \$1.00 per option contract with a 100 share multiplier). The pilot program allows trading below \$0.01 per share (or \$1.00 per option contract with a 100 share multiplier) in all classes, including those classes participating in the Penny Pilot Program.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64571 (May 31, 2011), 76 FR 32385 (June 6, 2011) (SR-Phlx-2011-72).

 <sup>&</sup>lt;u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 65852 (November 30, 2011), 76 FR 76212 (December 6, 2011) (SR-Phlx-2011-156).

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market participant has a long position in a call series with a strike price of \$100, the underlying stock could now trade at \$30. Frequently there is not a market to close-out the market participant's position even at the \$1 cabinet price (e.g., the series might be quoted no bid) without the proposed cabinet trading procedures. Therefore, the Exchange now seeks permanent approval of the pilot program that allows cabinet trading at a price of at least \$0 but less than \$1 to accommodate the closing of options positions in series that are worthless or not actively traded.

### (b) <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act, <sup>12</sup> in general, and with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, <sup>13</sup> in particular, in that the proposal is designed to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. Specifically, the Exchange believes that allowing liquidations at a price less than \$1 per option contract facilitates the closing of options positions that are worthless or not actively trading, especially in Penny Pilot issues where cabinet trades are not otherwise permitted. The Exchange further believes that facilitating the closing of options position in the proposed manner further serves to protect the investors and the public interest since the proposed procedure could result in the elimination of all open positions.

<sup>15</sup> U.S.C. 78f.

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

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. This proposal is available to the Exchange's competitors. In fact, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("CBOE") and NYSE Arca, Inc. ("NYSEArca") have similar temporary procedures. <sup>14</sup>

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

The Exchange does not consent at this time to an extension of the time period for Commission action specified in Section 19(b)(2) of the Act.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

### 9. Exhibits

 Completed notice of proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal</u> <u>Register</u>.

See CBOE Rule 6.54, which expires on June 29, 2012; and see also NYSEArca Rule 6.80, which expires on June 1, 2012. The Exchange is unaware of any permanent approval request from either CBOE or NYSEArca regarding their temporary procedures.

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#### Exhibit 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. ; File No. SR-Phlx-2012-59)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change by NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC Relating to Permanent Approval of the Cabinet Trading Pilot Program

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup>, and Rule 19b-4<sup>2</sup> thereunder, notice is hereby given that on April 27, 2012, NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC ("Phlx" 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 make permanent a pilot program to allow cabinet trading to take place below \$1 per option contract under specified circumstances (the "pilot program").

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Website at <a href="http://nasdaqtrader.com/micro.aspx?id=PHLXRulefilings">http://nasdaqtrader.com/micro.aspx?id=PHLXRulefilings</a>, 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

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

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

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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. Purpose

Currently, the Exchange is operating a pilot program under Commentary .02 of Exchange Rule 1059, Accommodation Transactions, which sets forth specific procedures for engaging in cabinet trades.<sup>3</sup> Prior to the pilot program, Rule 1059 required that all orders placed in the cabinet be assigned priority based upon the sequence in which such orders were received by the specialist.<sup>4</sup> All closing bids and offers were submitted to the specialist in writing, and the specialist effected all closing cabinet transactions by matching such orders placed with him. Bids or offers on orders to open for the accounts of a customer, firm, specialist or Registered Options Trader ("ROT")<sup>5</sup> could be made at \$1 per option contract, but such orders could not be placed in the cabinet and were

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required to yield to all orders in the cabinet. Specialists effected all cabinet transactions by matching closing purchase or sale orders, which were placed in the cabinet, or provided there were no matching closing purchase or sale orders in the cabinet, by matching a closing purchase or sale order in the cabinet with an opening purchase or sale order. All cabinet transactions were reported to the Exchange following the close of each business day. Any (i) member, (ii) member organization, or (iii) other person who was a non-member broker or dealer and who directly or indirectly controlled, was controlled by, or was under common control with, a member or member organization (any such other person being referred to as an affiliated person) could effect any transaction as principal in the over-the-counter market in any class of options contracts listed on the Exchange for a premium not in excess of \$1.00 per contract.

On December 30, 2010, the Exchange filed an immediately effective proposal that established the pilot program. The pilot program allowed cabinet transactions to take place in open outcry at a price of at least \$0 but less than \$1 per option contract until June 1, 2011. These lower priced transactions are traded today pursuant to the same procedures applicable to \$1 cabinet trades, with the exception that (i) bids and offers for opening transactions are only permitted to accommodate closing transactions in order to limit use of the procedure to liquidations of existing positions, and (ii) the procedures are

Specialists and ROTs are not subject to the requirements of Rule 1014 in respect of orders placed pursuant to Rule 1059. Also, the provisions of Rule 1033(b) and (c), Rule 1034 and Rule 1038 do not apply to orders placed in the cabinet. Cabinet transactions are not reported on the ticker.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See Exchange Rule 1059.

See Phlx Rule 1059, Commentary .02. See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 63626 (December 30, 2010), 76 FR 812 (January 6, 2011) (SR-Phlx-2010-185).

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also made available for trading in options participating in the Penny Pilot Program. On May 31, 2011, the Exchange filed an immediately effective proposal that extended the pilot program until December 1, 2011 to consider whether to seek permanent approval of the temporary procedure. Most recently, the Exchange filed an immediately effective proposal that extended the pilot program until June 1, 2012. 11

The results of the pilot program indicate that allowing cabinet trading at a price of at least \$0 but less than \$1 better accommodates the closing of options positions in series that are worthless or not actively traded, particularly due to recent market conditions that have resulted in a significant number of series being out-of-the-money. For example, if a market participant has a long position in a call series with a strike price of \$100, the underlying stock could now trade at \$30. Frequently there is not a market to close-out the market participant's position even at the \$1 cabinet price (e.g., the series might be quoted no bid) without the proposed cabinet trading procedures. Therefore, the Exchange now seeks permanent approval of the pilot program that allows cabinet trading at a price

Prior to the pilot program, the \$1 cabinet trading procedures were limited to options classes traded in \$0.05 or \$0.10 standard increments. The \$1 cabinet trading procedures were not available in Penny Pilot Program classes because in those classes, an options series could trade in a standard increment as low as \$0.01 per share (or \$1.00 per option contract with a 100 share multiplier). The pilot program allows trading below \$0.01 per share (or \$1.00 per option contract with a 100 share multiplier) in all classes, including those classes participating in the Penny Pilot Program.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64571 (May 31, 2011), 76 FR 32385 (June 6, 2011) (SR-Phlx-2011-72).

 <sup>&</sup>lt;u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 65852 (November 30, 2011), 76 FR 76212 (December 6, 2011) (SR-Phlx-2011-156).

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of at least \$0 but less than \$1 to accommodate the closing of options positions in series that are worthless or not actively traded.

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

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act, <sup>12</sup> in general, and with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, <sup>13</sup> in particular, in that the proposal is designed to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. Specifically, the Exchange believes that allowing liquidations at a price less than \$1 per option contract facilitates the closing of options positions that are worthless or not actively trading, especially in Penny Pilot issues where cabinet trades are not otherwise permitted. The Exchange further believes that facilitating the closing of options position in the proposed manner further serves to protect the investors and the public interest since the proposed procedure could result in the elimination of all open positions.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. This proposal is available to the Exchange's competitors. In

<sup>15</sup> U.S.C. 78f.

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

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fact, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("CBOE") and NYSE Arca, Inc. ("NYSEArca") have similar temporary procedures. <sup>14</sup>

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>

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the Exchange consents, the Commission shall: (a) by order approve or disapprove such proposed rule change, or (b) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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
 (<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml);</u> or

See CBOE Rule 6.54, which expires on June 29, 2012; and see also NYSEArca Rule 6.80, which expires on June 1, 2012. The Exchange is unaware of any permanent approval request from either CBOE or NYSEArca regarding their temporary procedures.

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 Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-Phlx-2012-59 on the subject line.

### Paper comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2012-59. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml).

Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2012-59 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

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For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.  $^{15}$ 

Kevin M. O'Neill Deputy Secretary

<sup>15 17</sup> CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).