

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 email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-BOX-2015-36 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-BOX-2015-36. 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 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 Web site 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 such 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-BOX-2015-36, and should be submitted on or before December 11, 2015.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹³

Robert W. Errett,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-29603 Filed 11-19-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-76442; File No. SR-CBOE-2015-101]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Fees Schedule

November 16, 2015.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on November 2, 2015, Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated (the "Exchange" or "CBOE") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of the Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fees Schedule. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Web site (<http://www.cboe.com/AboutCBOE/CBOELegalRegulatoryHome.aspx>), at the Exchange's Office of the Secretary, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of

the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fees Schedule, effective November 2, 2015. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to increase the Customer Priority Surcharge fee assessed to contracts executed in VIX volatility index options ("VIX options") and weekly S&P 500 options ("SPXW options"). Currently, the VIX Customer Priority Surcharge ("VIX Surcharge") is assessed on all Customer (C) VIX contracts executed electronically that are Maker and not Market Turner. Additionally, the VIX Surcharge is only assessed on such contracts that have a premium of \$0.11 or greater. The Exchange proposes to increase the VIX Surcharge from \$0.10 per contract to \$0.20 per contract on such contracts that have a premium of \$0.11 or greater. The SPXW Customer Priority Surcharge ("SPXW Surcharge") is currently assessed on all Customer (C) SPXW contracts executed electronically.³ The Exchange also proposes to increase the SPXW Surcharge from \$0.05 per contract to \$0.10 per contract.

The Exchange also proposes to amend the Fees Schedule with respect to the Qualified Contingent Cross ("QCC") Orders Rate Table. By way of background, the Fees Schedule currently provides for a "QCC Rate Table" which sets forth a transaction fee and credit for QCC transactions. In addition, the "Notes" section of the QCC Rate Table includes the definition of a QCC transaction. Specifically the "Notes" section currently provides that "A QCC transaction is comprised of an 'initiating order' to buy (sell) at least 1,000 contracts, coupled with a contra-side order to sell (buy) an equal number of contracts . . ." The Exchange notes that it recently amended its QCC rules to expand the availability of QCC orders by permitting multiple contra-parties on a QCC order.⁴ As such, the definition of QCC Orders in CBOE Rule 6.53 has been amended. The Exchange proposes to similarly amend the Fees Schedule to

³ The SPXW Surcharge is not assessed to contracts executed by a floor broker using a PAR terminal or orders in SPXW options in SPXW electronic book that are executed during opening rotation on the final settlement day of VIX options and futures which have the expiration that contribute to the VIX settlement calculation.

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 75756 (August 25, 2015), 80 FR 168 (August 31, 2015) (SR-CBOE-2015-073).

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

incorporate this new definition to maintain consistency in the Rules and Fees Schedule and avoid potential confusion.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of section 6(b) of the Act.⁵ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the section 6(b)(5)⁶ requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitation transactions in securities, 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. The Exchange also believes the proposed rule change is consistent with section 6(b)(4) of the Act,⁷ which provides that Exchange rules may provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its Trading Permit Holders.

The Exchange believes that the SPXW and VIX Customer Priority Surcharge increases are reasonable because the amount of the new fees are within the range of surcharges assessed for customer transactions in other CBOE proprietary products (for example customers are currently assessed a \$0.20 Hybrid 3.0 Execution Surcharge (which essentially acts as a customer priority surcharge) in SPX options).

The Exchange believes that it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to assess the SPXW and VIX Priority Surcharges to Customers and not other market participants because Customers are not subject to additional costs for effecting transactions in SPXW and VIX which are applicable to other market participants, such as license surcharges. Additionally, Customers are not subject to fees applicable to other market participants such as connectivity fees and fees relating to Trading Permits, and are not subject to the same obligations as other market participants, including regulatory and compliance requirements and quoting obligations. The Exchange

believes that it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to only assess the VIX Surcharge to Maker Non-Turners because the Exchange wants to encourage improving the market ("turning").

The Exchange believes that it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to only assess the VIX Surcharge when the contract premium is at least \$0.11 because the Exchange wants to reduce costs on low priced VIX options to encourage Customers to close and roll over positions close to expiration at low premium levels. Currently, such Customers are less likely to do this because the transaction fee is closer to the premium level. The Exchange believes that maintaining lowered fees overall for VIX options trading with a premium of \$0.00–\$0.10 will encourage the trading of such options. As such, the Exchange does not wish to assess the VIX Surcharge on such options in order to keep the costs low.

Finally, the Exchange believes that codifying the amended definition of a QCC transaction in the Fees Schedule (in addition to the Exchange's Rules, where it is currently provided for), will alleviate potential confusion and maintain clarity in the Fees Schedule, which serves 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.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

CBOE does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because, while different electronic transaction fees are assessed to different market participants, different market participants have different obligations and circumstances as noted above. The Exchange believes that the proposal to increase the surcharge amount assessed to Customers for executions in SPXW and VIX contracts will not cause an unnecessary burden on intermarket competition because SPXW and VIX are only traded on CBOE. To the extent that the proposed changes make CBOE a more attractive marketplace for market participants at other exchanges, such market participants are welcome to become CBOE market participants.

Additionally, the proposed change to codify in the Fees Schedule the revised definition of a QCC order is not intended for competitive reasons and only applies to CBOE. The Exchange notes that no rights or obligations of

Trading Permit Holders are affected by this particular change.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

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) of the Act⁸ and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4⁹ thereunder. 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 necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission will institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change 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 email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-CBOE-2015-101 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-CBOE-2015-101. 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 Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

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 Web site 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 such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices 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-CBOE-2015-101, and should be submitted on or before December 11, 2015.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁰

Robert W. Errett,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-29598 Filed 11-19-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-76445; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2015-133]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Create a Market Access and Routing Subsidy or "MARS"

November 16, 2015.

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 November 2, 2015, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend the Exchange's transaction fees at Chapter XV, Section 2 entitled "NASDAQ Options Market—Fees and Rebates," which governs pricing for Nasdaq Participants using the NASDAQ Options Market ("NOM"), Nasdaq's facility for executing and routing standardized equity and index options. The Exchange proposes to create a subsidy program, the Market Access and Routing Subsidy or "MARS," for NOM Participants that provide certain order routing functionalities³ to other NOM Participants and/or use such functionalities themselves.

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

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

³ The order routing functionalities permit a NOM Participant to provide access and connectivity to other Participants as well utilize such access for themselves. The Exchange notes that under this arrangement it will be possible for one NOM Participant to be eligible for payments under MARS, while another NOM Participant might potentially be liable for transaction charges associated with the execution of the order, because those orders were delivered to the Exchange through a NOM Participant's connection to the Exchange and that Participant qualified for the MARS Payment. Consider the following example: both Participants A and B are NOM Participants but A does not utilize its own connections to route orders to the Exchange, and instead utilizes B's connections. Under this program, B will be eligible for the MARS Payment while A is liable for any transaction charges resulting from the execution of orders that originate from A, arrive at the Exchange via B's connectivity, and subsequently execute and clear at The Options Clearing Corporation or "OCC," where A is the valid executing clearing Participant or give-up on the transaction. Similarly, where B utilizes its own connections to execute transactions, B will be eligible for the MARS Payment, but would also be liable for any transaction [sic] resulting from the execution of orders that originate from B, arrive at the Exchange via B's connectivity, and subsequently execute and clear at OCC, where B is the valid executing clearing Participant or give-up on the transaction.

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

1. Purpose

NOM proposes a new subsidy program, MARS, which would pay a subsidy to NOM Participants that provide certain order routing functionalities to other NOM Participants and/or use such functionalities themselves. Generally, under MARS, NOM proposes to make payments to participating NOM Participants to subsidize their costs of providing routing services to route orders to NOM. The Exchange believes that MARS will attract higher volumes of electronic equity and ETF options volume to the Exchange from non-NOM Participants as well as NOM Participants.

MARS System Eligibility

To qualify for MARS, a NOM Participant's routing system (hereinafter "System") would be required to meet certain criteria. Specifically the Participant's System would be required to: (1) Enable the electronic routing of orders to all of the U.S. options exchanges, including NOM; (2) provide current consolidated market data from the U.S. options exchanges; and (3) be capable of interfacing with NOM's API to access current NOM match engine functionality. The NOM Participant's System would also need to cause NOM to be one of the top three default destination exchanges for individually executed marketable orders if NOM is at the national best bid or offer ("NBBO"), regardless of size or time, but allow any user to manually override NOM as the default destination on an order-by-order basis.

The Exchange would require NOM Participants desiring to participate in MARS⁴ to complete a form, in a manner prescribed by the Exchange, and reaffirm their information on a quarterly basis to the Exchange. Any NOM Participant would be permitted to apply for MARS, provided the above-referenced requirements are met,

⁴ For example, a NOM Participant that desires to qualify for MARS in November must complete the form and submit it to the Exchange no later than the last business day of November. Such form will require the NOM Participant to identify the NOM Participant seeking the MARS Payment and must list, among other things, the connections utilized by the NOM Participant to provide Exchange access to other NOM Participants and/or itself. MARS Payments would be made one month in arrears (i.e., a MARS Payment earned for activity in November would be paid to the qualifying NOM Participant in December), as is the case with all other transactional payments and assessments made by the Exchange.

¹⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.