

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.

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-BX-2018-045 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-BX-2018-045. 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 (<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.

file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BX-2018-045 and should be submitted on or before October 16, 2018.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁰

Brent J. Fields,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-20898 Filed 9-24-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-84214; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2018-072]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Conform the Exchange's By-Law Provisions Regarding the Chief Regulatory Officer to Those of Its Affiliate, Nasdaq PHLX LLC

September 19, 2018.

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 September 6, 2018, 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 and II 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 a proposal [sic] to conform the Exchange's By-Law provisions regarding the Chief Regulatory Officer to those of its affiliate, Nasdaq PHLX LLC ("Phlx"). The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at <http://nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

²⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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 By-Laws at Article IV, Section 7 to conform its provisions regarding the Exchange's Chief Regulatory Officer ("CRO") to those of its affiliate, Nasdaq PHLX LLC ("Phlx").³ By-Law Article IV, Section 7 presently requires that an officer of the Exchange⁴ with the position of Executive Vice President or Senior Vice President be designated as the CRO of the Exchange. The Exchange now proposes to remove the requirement that the CRO be an Executive Vice President or Senior Vice President of the Exchange. The Exchange believes that this requirement is unnecessary and notes that there may be officers of the Exchange who are well qualified to serve in the CRO role, but who may not hold the position of an Executive Vice President or Senior Vice President.⁵ The Exchange does not seek to amend any of the current responsibilities of the CRO as set forth in Section 7;⁶ rather, the proposed changes are intended to give the Exchange more flexibility to attract and retain well qualified officers to the role

³ See Phlx By-Law Article IV, Section 4-7 (Chief Regulatory Officer).

⁴ In Exhibit 5, the references to "Company" mean the Exchange.

⁵ The Exchange notes that Phlx's CRO currently holds the position of Vice President.

⁶ The CRO's responsibilities include general supervision of the regulatory operations of the Exchange, including responsibility for overseeing the Exchange's surveillance, examination, and enforcement functions and for administering any regulatory services agreements with another SRO to which the Exchange is a party. In addition, the CRO shall meet with the Regulatory Oversight Committee of the Exchange in executive session at regularly scheduled meetings of such committee, and at any time upon request of the CRO or any member of the Regulatory Oversight Committee. Unlike Phlx, the Exchange's By-Laws provide that the CRO may also serve as the General Counsel of the Exchange. See By-Law Article IV, Section 7.

of CRO that are not designated as an Executive Vice President or Senior Vice President of the Exchange. As noted above, the Exchange desires to conform the requirements to become CRO in its By-Laws to those in the By-Laws of Phlx, which do not contain a similar restriction in Article IV, Section 4–7 of its By-Laws that its CRO be an Executive Vice President or Senior Vice President of Phlx.⁷

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁸ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(1) of the Act,⁹ in particular, in that it enables the Exchange to be so organized so as to have the capacity to be able to carry out the purposes of the Act and to comply, and to enforce compliance by its members and persons associated with its members, with the provisions of the Act, the rules and regulations thereunder, and the rules of the Exchange. The Exchange also believes that this proposal furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,¹⁰ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, 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 proposed changes will remove the requirement currently in Article IV, Section 7 of the Exchange's By-Laws that the CRO be an Executive Vice President or Senior Vice President of the Exchange. As discussed above, the current responsibilities of the CRO as provided in Article IV, Section 7 remain unchanged under this proposal, and the CRO will continue to have general oversight of the regulatory operations of the Exchange and be obligated to meet regularly with the Regulatory Oversight Committee. The proposed rule change is intended to provide the Exchange with greater flexibility to attract and retain capable individuals who are well qualified to serve in the CRO role. In addition, the proposed amendments will have the additional benefit of bringing the Exchange's requirements on the CRO role into greater conformity with those of its affiliate, Phlx, thereby creating equivalent standards among the affiliated exchanges owned by Nasdaq, Inc. ("HoldCo").¹¹ As such, the

Exchange believes that its proposal will bring greater consistency to its rules, which is beneficial to both investors and the public interest.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change does not address competitive issues but relates to the administration and functioning of the Exchange by allowing the Exchange greater flexibility in attracting and retaining well qualified officers to the role of CRO that are not designated as an Executive Vice President or Senior Vice President.

C. 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.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act¹² and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b–4 thereunder.¹³

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b–4(f)(6)¹⁴ normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing. However, Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii)¹⁵ permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day

MRX, LLC ("MRX") will file similar proposals to conform their By-Laws with Phlx's By-Laws. ISE, GEMX, MRX, NSM, BX, and Phlx will hereinafter be referred to collectively as "Affiliated Exchanges."

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

¹³ 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(6).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(6)(iii).

operative delay so that the proposed rule change may become operative immediately upon filing. The Exchange notes that waiver of the operative delay will allow it to amend its By-Laws by September 26, 2018. The Exchange states that the boards of the Affiliated Exchanges will collectively meet on that date to address, among other matters, certain annual corporate "housekeeping items," which the Exchange states has historically included Exchange officer appointments. As such, the Commission believes that waiver of the operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby waives the 30-day operative delay and designates the proposed rule change as operative upon filing.¹⁶

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 email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR–NASDAQ–2018–072 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–NASDAQ–2018–072. 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

¹⁶ For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has also considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁷ See note 5 above.

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(1).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹¹ Nasdaq BX, Inc. ("BX"), Nasdaq ISE, LLC ("ISE"), Nasdaq GEMX, LLC ("GEMX"), and Nasdaq

internet website (<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. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2018-072 and should be submitted on or before October 16, 2018.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁷

Brent J. Fields,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-20768 Filed 9-24-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 33242; 812-14895]

Variant Alternative Income Fund and Variant Investments, LLC

September 20, 2018.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").

ACTION: Notice.

Notice of an application under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") for an exemption from sections 18(a)(2), 18(c) and 18(i) of the Act, under sections 6(c) and 23(c) of the Act for an exemption from rule 23c-3 under the Act, and for an order pursuant to section 17(d) of the Act and rule 17d-1 under the Act.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants request an order to permit certain

registered closed-end management investment companies to issue multiple classes of shares and to impose asset-based distribution and/or service fees, early withdrawal charges ("EWCs") and early repurchase fees.

APPLICANTS: Variant Alternative Income Fund (the "Initial Fund") and Variant Investments, LLC (the "Adviser").

FILING DATES: The application was filed on April 13, 2018, and amended on August 3, 2018.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the requested relief will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission's Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail.

Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on October 11, 2018, and should be accompanied by proof of service on the applicants, in the form of an affidavit, or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Pursuant to rule 0-5 under the Act, hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, any facts bearing upon the desirability of a hearing on the matter, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Commission's Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090; Applicants: 10250 SW Greenburg Road, Suite 215, Portland, OR 97223.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean E. Minarick, Senior Counsel, at (202) 551-6811, or Kaitlin C. Bottock, Branch Chief, at (202) 551-6825 (Division of Investment Management, Chief Counsel's Office).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained via the Commission's website by searching for the file number, or for an applicant using the Company name box, at <http://www.sec.gov/search/search.htm> or by calling (202) 551-8090.

Applicants' Representations

1. The Initial Fund is a Delaware statutory trust that is registered under the Act as a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company. The Initial Fund's primary investment objective is to provide a high level of current income. Capital appreciation will be considered a secondary objective.

2. The Adviser, a Delaware limited liability company, is registered as an

investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. The Adviser will serve as investment adviser to the Initial Fund.

3. The applicants seek an order to permit the Initial Fund to issue multiple classes of shares and to impose asset-based distribution and/or service fees and EWCs.

4. Applicants request that the order also apply to any continuously offered registered closed-end management investment company that has been previously organized or that may be organized in the future for which the Adviser, or any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Adviser, or any successor in interest to any such entity,¹ acts as investment adviser and which operates as an interval fund pursuant to rule 23c-3 under the Act or provides periodic liquidity with respect to its shares pursuant to rule 13e-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") (each, a "Future Fund" and together with the Initial Fund, the "Funds").²

5. The Initial Fund anticipates making a continuous public offering of beneficial interest in connection with its registration statement. Applicants state that additional offerings by any Fund relying on the order may be on a private placement or public offering basis. Shares of the Funds will not be listed on any securities exchange nor quoted on any quotation medium. The Funds do not expect there to be a secondary trading market for their shares.

6. If the requested relief is granted, the Initial Fund anticipates offering Institutional Class Shares and Investor Class Shares. Each of the Institutional Class Shares and Investor Class Shares will have their own fee and expense structure. The Funds may in the future offer additional classes of shares and/or another sales charge structure. Because of the different distribution fees, services and any other class expenses that may be attributable to each class of shares, the net income attributable to, and the dividends payable on, each class of shares may differ from each other.

7. Applicants state that, from time to time, the Fund may create additional classes of shares, the terms of which may differ from the initial classes

¹ A successor in interest is limited to an entity that results from a reorganization into another jurisdiction or a change in the type of business organization.

² Any Fund relying on this relief in the future will do so in a manner consistent with the terms and conditions of the application. Applicants represent that each entity presently intending to rely on the requested relief is listed as an applicant.

¹⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).