

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-EMERALD-2021-43 and should be submitted on or before January 10, 2022.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>80</sup>

**J. Matthew DeLesDernier,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-93779; File No. SR-MRX-2021-12]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq MRX, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend MRX's Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 1, General Provisions

December 14, 2021.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on December 1, 2021, 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. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend MRX's Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 1, General Provisions.

While the changes proposed herein are effective upon filing, the Exchange has designated the amendments become operative on December 1, 2021.

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. 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

MRX proposes to amend its Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 1, General Provisions. Specifically, MRX proposes to amend the way an Exchange Member indicates its participation in the Affiliated Entity Program. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend the description of "Affiliated Entity" within Options 7, Section 1, General Provisions. Currently, the term "Affiliated Entity" is described as,

a relationship between an Appointed Market Maker and an Appointed OFF for purposes of qualifying for certain pricing specified in the Pricing Schedule. Market Makers and OFFs are required to send an email to the Exchange to appoint their counterpart, at least 3 business days prior to the last day of the month to qualify for the next month. The Exchange will acknowledge receipt of the emails and specify the date the Affiliated Entity is eligible for applicable pricing, as specified in the Pricing Schedule. Each Affiliated Entity relationship will commence on the 1st of a month and may not be terminated prior to the end of any month. An Affiliated Entity relationship will terminate after a one (1) year period, unless either party terminates earlier in writing by sending an email to the Exchange at least 3 business

days prior to the last day of the month to terminate for the next month. Affiliated Entity relationships must be renewed annually by each party sending an email to the Exchange. Affiliated Members may not qualify as a counterparty comprising an Affiliated Entity. Each Member may qualify for only one (1) Affiliated Entity relationship at any given time.

Today, Members are required to annually renew their Affiliate Entity relationship at the end of one year if they desire to continue the relationship. The parties must both send an email to the Exchange to avoid termination of the relationship, provided the relationship was not terminated earlier in the year. The Exchange believes that this process is burdensome for Members that desire to remain in the program. The consequence of not renewing is termination. The Exchange desires to remove the administrative burden associated with the requirement to annually renew and instead provide that the Affiliated Entity relationship will automatically renew each month, unless otherwise terminated. The proposed new rule text would provide,

An "Affiliated Entity" is a relationship between an Appointed Market Maker and an Appointed OFF for purposes of qualifying for certain pricing specified in the Pricing Schedule. Market Makers and OFFs are required to send an email to the Exchange to appoint their counterpart, at least 3 business days prior to the last day of the month to qualify for the next month. The Exchange will acknowledge receipt of the emails and specify the date the Affiliated Entity is eligible for applicable pricing, as specified in the Pricing Schedule. Each Affiliated Entity relationship will commence on the 1st of a month and may not be terminated prior to the end of any month. An Affiliated Entity relationship will automatically renew each month until or unless either party terminates earlier in writing by sending an email to the Exchange at least 3 business days prior to the last day of the month to terminate for the next month. Affiliated Members may not qualify as a counterparty comprising an Affiliated Entity. Each Member may qualify for only one (1) Affiliated Entity relationship at any given time.

As is the case today, parties to the Affiliated Entity relationship may decide to terminate the relationship during any month by sending an email to the Exchange at least 3 business days prior to the last day of the month to terminate for the next month. Cboe Exchange, Inc. ("Cboe") has a similar automatic renewal process for its Appointed OFF and Appointed Market-Maker Program.<sup>3</sup> The Exchange believes

<sup>3</sup> See Cboe's Fees Schedule at footnote 23 "A Market-Maker may designate an Order Flow Provider ("OFF") as its "Appointed OFF" and an OFF may designate a Market-Maker to be its "Appointed Market-Maker" for purposes of

<sup>80</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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

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

that this amendment will streamline the workflow for Members by not requiring Members to renew each year to continue the affiliated relationship.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>4</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>5</sup> in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange's proposal to amend the way Exchange Members indicate their participation in the Affiliated Entity Program is reasonable. Today, Members are required to annually renew their Affiliated Entity relationship at the end of one year if they desire to continue the relationship. The parties must both send an email to the Exchange to avoid termination of the relationship, provided the relationship was not terminated earlier in the year. The Exchange believes that this process is burdensome for Members that desire to remain in the program. The consequence of not renewing is termination of their participation in the program. The Exchange desires to remove the administrative burden associated with the requirement to annually renew and instead provide that the Affiliated Entity relationship will automatically renew each month, unless otherwise terminated. As is the case today, parties to the Affiliated Entity relationship may decide to terminate the relationship during any month by sending an email to the Exchange at least 3 business days prior to the last day of the month to terminate for the next month. Also, Cboe has a similar automatic renewal process for its Appointed OFP and Appointed Market-

qualifying for credits under AVP. In order to effectuate the appointment, the parties would need to submit the Appointed Affiliate Form to the Exchange by 3:00 p.m. CST on the first business day of the month in order to be eligible to qualify for credits under AVP for that month. The Exchange will recognize only one such designation for each party once every calendar month, which designation will automatically renew each month until or unless the Exchange receives an email from either party indicating that the appointment has been terminated. A Market-Maker that has both an Affiliate OFP and Appointed OFP will only qualify based upon the volume of its Appointed OFP. The volume of an OFP that has both an Affiliate Market-Maker and Appointed Market-Maker will only count towards qualifying the Appointed Market-Maker. Volume executed in open outcry is not eligible to receive a credit under AVP."

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

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

Maker Program.<sup>6</sup> The Exchange believes that this amendment will streamline the workflow for Members by not requiring Members to renew each year to continue the affiliated relationship.

The Exchange's proposal to amend the way Exchange Member indicate their participation in the Affiliated Entity Program is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory. Today, any Member may participate in the Affiliated Entity Program. The proposed changes would impact all Members that voluntarily elect to participate in the Affiliated Entity Program in a uniform manner.

## 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.

## Inter-Market Competition

The proposal does not impose an undue burden on inter-market competition. Cboe has a similar automatic renewal process for its Appointed OFP and Appointed Market-Maker Program<sup>7</sup> as proposed herein for the Affiliated Entity Program.

## Intra-Market Competition

The Exchange's proposal to amend the way Exchange Members indicate their participation in the Affiliated Entity Program does not impose an undue burden on competition. Today, any Member may participate in an Affiliated Entity relationship. The proposed changes would impact all Members that voluntarily elect to participate in the Affiliated Entity Program in a uniform manner.

<sup>6</sup> See Cboe's Fees Schedule at footnote 23 "A Market-Maker may designate an Order Flow Provider ("OFP") as its "Appointed OFP" and an OFP may designate a Market-Maker to be its "Appointed Market-Maker" for purposes of qualifying for credits under AVP. In order to effectuate the appointment, the parties would need to submit the Appointed Affiliate Form to the Exchange by 3:00 p.m. CST on the first business day of the month in order to be eligible to qualify for credits under AVP for that month. The Exchange will recognize only one such designation for each party once every calendar month, which designation will automatically renew each month until or unless the Exchange receives an email from either party indicating that the appointment has been terminated. A Market-Maker that has both an Affiliate OFP and Appointed OFP will only qualify based upon the volume of its Appointed OFP. The volume of an OFP that has both an Affiliate Market-Maker and Appointed Market-Maker will only count towards qualifying the Appointed Market-Maker. Volume executed in open outcry is not eligible to receive a credit under AVP."

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

## 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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.<sup>8</sup> At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) Necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

## IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

### 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-MRX-2021-12 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-2021-12. 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

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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-MRX-2021-12 and should be submitted on or before January 10, 2022.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>9</sup>

**J. Matthew DeLesDernier,**  
Assistant Secretary.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-93773; File No. SR-MEMX-2021-18]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; MEMX LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Exchange's Fee Schedule

December 14, 2021.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on December 1, 2021, MEMX LLC ("MEMX" or the "Exchange") 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 Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange is filing with the Commission a proposed rule change to amend the Exchange's fee schedule

applicable to Members<sup>3</sup> (the "Fee Schedule") pursuant to Exchange Rules 15.1(a) and (c). The Exchange proposes to implement the changes to the Fee Schedule pursuant to this proposal on December 1, 2021. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

#### 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 purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend the Fee Schedule to provide free executions for Retail Orders<sup>4</sup> with a time-in-force ("TIF") instruction of Day,<sup>5</sup> GTT<sup>6</sup> or RHO<sup>7</sup> that

<sup>3</sup> See Exchange Rule 1.5(p).

<sup>4</sup> A "Retail Order" means an agency or riskless principal order that meets the criteria of FINRA Rule 5320.03 that originates from a natural person and is submitted to the Exchange by a Retail Member Organization ("RMO"), provided that no change is made to the terms of the order with respect to price or side of market and the order does not originate from a trading algorithm or any other computerized methodology. See Exchange Rule 11.21(a).

<sup>5</sup> "Day" is an instruction the User may attach to an order stating that an order to buy or sell is designated for execution starting with the Pre-Market Session and, if not executed, expires at the end of Regular Trading Hours. Any Day Order entered into the System before the opening for business on the Exchange as determined pursuant to Exchange Rule 11.1, or after the closing of Regular Trading Hours, will be rejected. See Exchange Rule 11.6(o)(2). The term "System" refers to the electronic communications and trading facility designated by the Board through which securities orders of Users are consolidated for ranking, execution and, when applicable, routing. See Exchange Rule 1.5(gg).

<sup>6</sup> "GTT" or "Good-'til-Time" is an instruction the User may attach to an order specifying the time of day at which the order expires, which is designated for execution starting with the Pre-Market Session. Any unexecuted portion of an order with a TIF instruction of GTT will be cancelled at the expiration of the User's specified time, which can be no later than the close of the Post-Market Session. See Exchange Rule 11.6(o)(4).

<sup>7</sup> "RHO" or "Regular Hours Only" is instruction a User may attach to an order stating that an order to buy or sell is designated for execution only

remove liquidity from the Exchange upon entry into the System.

The Exchange first notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive or incentives to be insufficient. More specifically, the Exchange is only one of 16 registered equities exchanges, as well as a number of alternative trading systems and other off-exchange venues, to which market participants may direct their order flow. Based on publicly available information, no single registered equities exchange currently has more than approximately 16% of the total market share of executed volume of equities trading.<sup>8</sup> Thus, in such a low-concentrated and highly competitive market, no single equities exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of order flow, and the Exchange currently represents approximately 4% of the overall market share.<sup>9</sup> The Exchange in particular operates a "Maker-Taker" model whereby it provides rebates to Members that add liquidity to the Exchange and charges fees to Members that remove liquidity from the Exchange. The Fee Schedule sets forth the standard rebates and fees applied per share for orders that add and remove liquidity, respectively. Additionally, in response to the competitive environment, the Exchange also offers tiered pricing, which provides Members with opportunities to qualify for higher rebates or lower fees where certain volume criteria and thresholds are met. Tiered pricing provides an incremental incentive for Members to strive for higher tier levels, which provides increasingly higher benefits or discounts for satisfying increasingly more stringent criteria.

As noted above, the Exchange is proposing to provide free executions (*i.e.*, the Exchange would charge no fee and provide no rebate) for Retail Orders with a TIF instruction of Day, GTT or RHO that remove liquidity from the Exchange upon entry into the System (such orders, "Removing Retail Orders"). As proposed, the free executions would apply to Removing Retail Orders in securities priced at,

during Regular Trading Hours and, if not executed, expires at the end of Regular Trading Hours. Any order with a TIF instruction of RHO entered into the System before the opening or after the closing of Regular Trading Hours will be rejected. See Exchange Rule 11.6(o)(5).

<sup>8</sup> Market share percentage calculated as of November 30, 2021. The Exchange receives and processes data made available through consolidated data feeds (*i.e.*, CTS and UTDF).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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

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