

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Page 1 of * 23

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
Form 19b-4

File No. * SR 2024 - * 015

Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *)

Filing by NASDAQ BX, Inc.

Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Initial * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendment * <input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(A) * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(B) * <input type="checkbox"/>
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Pilot <input type="checkbox"/>	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Expires * <input type="text"/>
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Rule

<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5)
<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)

Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010
Section 806(e)(1) *

Section 806(e)(2) *

Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Section 3C(b)(2) *

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document

Description

Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *).

A proposal to amend the Exchanges Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 2.

Contact Information

Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.

First Name * Angela Last Name * Dunn

Title * Principal Associate General Counsel

E-mail * Angela.Dunn@Nasdaq.com

Telephone * (215) 496-5692 Fax

Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange of 1934, NASDAQ BX, Inc. has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date 05/01/2024


(Title *)

By John Zecca

EVP and Chief Legal Officer

(Name *)

NOTE: Clicking the signature block at right will initiate digitally signing the form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.

 Date: 2024.05.01 10:47:42 -04'00'

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and astericks.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.

Form 19b-4 Information *

Add Remove View

SR-BX-2024-015 19b-4.docx

The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change *

Add Remove View

SR-BX-2024-015 Exhibit 1.docx

The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advanced Notice by Clearing Agencies *

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Exhibit 2- Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications

Add Remove View

Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire

Add Remove View

Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies

Add Remove View

The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.

Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text

Add Remove View

SR-BX-2024-015 Exhibit 5.docx

The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change

Partial Amendment

Add Remove View

If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) Nasdaq BX, Inc. (“BX” or “Exchange”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) a proposal to amend the Exchange’s Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 2.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register is attached as Exhibit 1. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit 5.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors (the “Board”). Exchange staff will advise the Board of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to:

Angela Saccomandi Dunn
Principal Associate General Counsel
Nasdaq, Inc.
215-496-5692

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

a. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 2(1) to establish an additional incentive for Participants with respect to Apple, Inc. (“AAPL”).

Today, the Exchange assesses the following fees and rebates in Penny and Non-Penny Symbols:

Penny Symbols

Market Participant	Maker Rebate	Taker Fee
Lead Market Maker	(\$0.24) ⁽²⁾	\$0.50
Market Maker	(\$0.20) ⁽²⁾	\$0.50
Non-Customer	(\$0.12)	\$0.50
Firm	(\$0.12)	\$0.50
Customer	(\$0.30)	\$0.40 ⁽¹⁾⁽⁴⁾

Non-Penny Symbols

Market Participant	Maker Rebate / Fee	Taker Fee
Lead Market Maker	(\$0.45) ⁽²⁾	\$1.25
Market Maker	(\$0.40) ⁽²⁾	\$1.25
Non-Customer	\$0.45	\$1.25
Firm	\$0.45	\$1.25
Customer	(\$1.10) ⁽³⁾	\$0.79

Today, the Exchange offers Participants two ways to reduce the Penny Symbol Customer Taker Fee which is currently \$0.40 per contract. In note 1 of Options 7,

Section 2, the Exchange offers Participants a reduced Penny Symbol Customer³ Taker Fee of \$0.33 per contract, instead of \$0.40 per contract, in SPDR S&P 500 ETF (“SPY”), Invesco QQQ Trust Series 1 (“QQQ”) and iShares Russell 2000 ETF (“IWM”). Further, in note 4 of Options 7, Section 2, the Exchange offers Participants⁴ that increase their executed Customer volume which removes liquidity in a given month by at least 70% above their March 2024 volume as measured by a percentage of TCV, a Taker Fee discount of \$0.05 per contract in Penny Symbols, excluding SPY, QQQ, and IWM.⁵

At this time, the Exchange proposes to amend note 1 of Options 7, Section 2 to extend the discounted Penny Symbol Customer Taker Fee of \$0.33 per contract to AAPL, in addition to SPY, QQQ, and IWM. Further, the Exchange proposes to exclude AAPL from the Penny Taker Fee discount in note 4 of Options 7, Section 2, similar to SPY, QQQ, and IWM. With note 4, qualifying Participants pay a Customer Taker Fee of \$0.35 per contract (instead of \$0.40 per contract) in Penny Symbols, however, BX excludes SPY, QQQ, and IWM from the note 4 incentive because Participants are entitled to a lower Penny Customer Taker Fees of \$0.33 per contract for those symbols per note 1. Penny transactions in AAPL that remove liquidity would similarly be entitled to the note 1 discount, but not the note 4 discount.

³ The term “Customer” or (“C”) applies to any transaction that is identified by a Participant for clearing in the Customer range at The Options Clearing Corporation (“OCC”) which is not for the account of broker or dealer or for the account of a “Professional” (as that term is defined in Options 1, Section 1(a)(48)). See Options 7, Section 1(a).

⁴ The Exchange proposes to change the word “Members” to Participants” in note 4 of Options 7, Section 2 to conform with the definition of options participants on BX in Options 1, Section 1(a)(40).

⁵ Members with no Customer volume in the remove liquidity segment for the month of March 2024 may qualify for the Taker Fee discount by having any new volume considered as added volume. The note 4 incentive is available through September 30, 2024.

The Exchange believes that the proposed amendments will attract additional AAPL Penny transactions that remove liquidity to BX similar to SPY, QQQ and IWM.

b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁶ in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁷ 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.

BX's proposed changes to its Pricing Schedule are reasonable in several respects. As a threshold matter, the Exchange is subject to significant competitive forces in the market for options securities transaction services that constrain its pricing determinations in that market. The fact that this market is competitive has long been recognized by the courts. In NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: “[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is ‘fierce.’ ... As the SEC explained, ‘[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution’; [and] ‘no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted’ because ‘no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’”⁸

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

⁸ NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525, 539 (D.C. Cir. 2010) (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system “has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”⁹

Numerous indicia demonstrate the competitive nature of this market. For example, clear substitutes to the Exchange exist in the market for options security transaction services. The Exchange is only one of seventeen options exchanges to which market participants may direct their order flow. Within this environment, market participants can freely and often do shift their order flow among the Exchange and competing venues in response to changes in their respective pricing schedules. As such, the proposal represents a reasonable attempt by the Exchange to increase its liquidity and market share relative to its competitors.

The Exchange’s proposal to reduce the Penny Symbol Customer Taker Fee from \$0.40 to \$0.33 per contract for trades which remove liquidity in AAPL in note 1 of Options 7, Section 2 is reasonable because it will attract additional Customer Penny Symbol AAPL transactions that remove liquidity to BX. The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to pay lower fees in AAPL, similar to SPY, QQQ, and IWM, as compared to other options symbols because the Exchange is seeking to incentivize greater order flow

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

in these highly liquid Penny Symbols which are subject to greater competition among options exchanges.

The Exchange's proposal to reduce the Penny Symbol Customer Taker Fee from \$0.40 to \$0.33 per contract for trades which remove liquidity in AAPL in note 1 of Options 7, Section 2 is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because Customer liquidity enhances market quality on the Exchange by providing more trading opportunities, which benefits all market participants. Additionally, the Exchange will assess the lower Taker Fee in AAPL uniformly to all Customer Penny Symbol Taker Fee transactions similar to SPY, QQQ and IWM.

The Exchange's proposal to exclude AAPL Penny transactions that remove liquidity from note 4 of Options 7, Section 2 is reasonable because with the proposed change to note 1 of Options 7, Section 2, Participants would be entitled to a lower Penny Customer Taker Fee of \$0.33 per contract in AAPL.

The Exchange's proposal to exclude AAPL Penny transactions that remove liquidity from note 4 of Options 7, Section 2 is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange would not permit any transaction to remove liquidity in AAPL in Penny Symbols to receive the discount in note 4 of Options 7, Section 2.

4. 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.

In terms of intra-market competition, the Exchange does not believe that its proposal will place any category of market participant at a competitive disadvantage. The Exchange's proposal to reduce the Penny Symbol Customer Taker Fee from \$0.40 to

\$0.33 per contract for trades which remove liquidity in AAPL in note 1 of Options 7, Section 2 does not impose an undue burden on competition because Customer liquidity enhances market quality on the Exchange by providing more trading opportunities, which benefits all market participants. Additionally, the Exchange will assess the lower Taker Fee in AAPL uniformly to all Customer Penny Symbol Taker Fee transactions similar to SPY, QQQ and IWM. Also, the Exchange's proposal to exclude AAPL Penny transactions that remove liquidity from note 4 of Options 7, Section 2 does not impose an undue burden on competition because the Exchange would not permit any transaction to remove liquidity in AAPL in Penny Symbols to receive the discount in note 4 of Options 7, Section 2.

In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other options exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited. In sum, if the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

5. 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.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

Not applicable.

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

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,¹⁰ the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-regulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

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

Not applicable.

9. Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act

Not applicable.

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

11. Exhibits

1. Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the Federal Register.
5. Text of the proposed rule change.

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. _____ ; File No. SR-BX-2024-015)

May __, 2024

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend BX Options 7, Section 2

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 May 1, 2024, Nasdaq BX, Inc. (“BX” 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 Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 2.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Website at <https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/bx/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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. 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 Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 2(1) to establish an additional incentive for Participants with respect to Apple, Inc. ("AAPL").

Today, the Exchange assesses the following fees and rebates in Penny and Non-Penny Symbols:

Penny Symbols

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Non-Customer	(\$0.12)	\$0.50
Firm	(\$0.12)	\$0.50
Customer	(\$0.30)	\$0.40 ⁽¹⁾⁽⁴⁾

Non-Penny Symbols

Market Participant	Maker Rebate / Fee	Taker Fee
Lead Market Maker	(\$0.45) ⁽²⁾	\$1.25
Market Maker	(\$0.40) ⁽²⁾	\$1.25
Non-Customer	\$0.45	\$1.25
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Today, the Exchange offers Participants two ways to reduce the Penny Symbol Customer Taker Fee which is currently \$0.40 per contract. In note 1 of Options 7, Section 2, the Exchange offers Participants a reduced Penny Symbol Customer³ Taker Fee of \$0.33 per contract, instead of \$0.40 per contract, in SPDR S&P 500 ETF (“SPY”), Invesco QQQ Trust Series 1 (“QQQ”) and iShares Russell 2000 ETF (“IWM”). Further, in note 4 of Options 7, Section 2, the Exchange offers Participants⁴ that increase their executed Customer volume which removes liquidity in a given month by at least 70% above their March 2024 volume as measured by a percentage of TCV, a Taker Fee discount of \$0.05 per contract in Penny Symbols, excluding SPY, QQQ, and IWM.⁵

At this time, the Exchange proposes to amend note 1 of Options 7, Section 2 to extend the discounted Penny Symbol Customer Taker Fee of \$0.33 per contract to AAPL, in addition to SPY, QQQ, and IWM. Further, the Exchange proposes to exclude AAPL from the Penny Taker Fee discount in note 4 of Options 7, Section 2, similar to SPY, QQQ, and IWM. With note 4, qualifying Participants pay a Customer Taker Fee of \$0.35 per contract (instead of \$0.40 per contract) in Penny Symbols, however, BX excludes SPY, QQQ, and IWM from the note 4 incentive because Participants are entitled to a lower Penny Customer Taker Fees of \$0.33 per contract for those symbols per note 1.

³ The term “Customer” or (“C”) applies to any transaction that is identified by a Participant for clearing in the Customer range at The Options Clearing Corporation (“OCC”) which is not for the account of broker or dealer or for the account of a “Professional” (as that term is defined in Options 1, Section 1(a)(48)). See Options 7, Section 1(a).

⁴ The Exchange proposes to change the word “Members” to Participants” in note 4 of Options 7, Section 2 to conform with the definition of options participants on BX in Options 1, Section 1(a)(40).

⁵ Members with no Customer volume in the remove liquidity segment for the month of March 2024 may qualify for the Taker Fee discount by having any new volume considered as added volume. The note 4 incentive is available through September 30, 2024.

Penny transactions in AAPL that remove liquidity would similarly be entitled to the note 1 discount, but not the note 4 discount.

The Exchange believes that the proposed amendments will attract additional AAPL Penny transactions that remove liquidity to BX similar to SPY, QQQ and IWM.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁶ in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁷ 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.

BX's proposed changes to its Pricing Schedule are reasonable in several respects. As a threshold matter, the Exchange is subject to significant competitive forces in the market for options securities transaction services that constrain its pricing determinations in that market. The fact that this market is competitive has long been recognized by the courts. In NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: “[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is ‘fierce.’ ... As the SEC explained, ‘[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution’; [and] ‘no exchange can afford to take its market

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'"⁸

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."⁹

Numerous indicia demonstrate the competitive nature of this market. For example, clear substitutes to the Exchange exist in the market for options security transaction services. The Exchange is only one of seventeen options exchanges to which market participants may direct their order flow. Within this environment, market participants can freely and often do shift their order flow among the Exchange and competing venues in response to changes in their respective pricing schedules. As such, the proposal represents a reasonable attempt by the Exchange to increase its liquidity and market share relative to its competitors.

The Exchange's proposal to reduce the Penny Symbol Customer Taker Fee from \$0.40 to \$0.33 per contract for trades which remove liquidity in AAPL in note 1 of Options 7, Section 2 is reasonable because it will attract additional Customer Penny

⁸ NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525, 539 (D.C. Cir. 2010) (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

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

Symbol AAPL transactions that remove liquidity to BX. The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to pay lower fees in AAPL, similar to SPY, QQQ, and IWM, as compared to other options symbols because the Exchange is seeking to incentivize greater order flow in these highly liquid Penny Symbols which are subject to greater competition among options exchanges.

The Exchange's proposal to reduce the Penny Symbol Customer Taker Fee from \$0.40 to \$0.33 per contract for trades which remove liquidity in AAPL in note 1 of Options 7, Section 2 is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because Customer liquidity enhances market quality on the Exchange by providing more trading opportunities, which benefits all market participants. Additionally, the Exchange will assess the lower Taker Fee in AAPL uniformly to all Customer Penny Symbol Taker Fee transactions similar to SPY, QQQ and IWM.

The Exchange's proposal to exclude AAPL Penny transactions that remove liquidity from note 4 of Options 7, Section 2 is reasonable because with the proposed change to note 1 of Options 7, Section 2, Participants would be entitled to a lower Penny Customer Taker Fee of \$0.33 per contract in AAPL.

The Exchange's proposal to exclude AAPL Penny transactions that remove liquidity from note 4 of Options 7, Section 2 is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange would not permit any transaction to remove liquidity in AAPL in Penny Symbols to receive the discount in note 4 of Options 7, Section 2.

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.

In terms of intra-market competition, the Exchange does not believe that its proposal will place any category of market participant at a competitive disadvantage. The Exchange's proposal to reduce the Penny Symbol Customer Taker Fee from \$0.40 to \$0.33 per contract for trades which remove liquidity in AAPL in note 1 of Options 7, Section 2 does not impose an undue burden on competition because Customer liquidity enhances market quality on the Exchange by providing more trading opportunities, which benefits all market participants. Additionally, the Exchange will assess the lower Taker Fee in AAPL uniformly to all Customer Penny Symbol Taker Fee transactions similar to SPY, QQQ and IWM. Also, the Exchange's proposal to exclude AAPL Penny transactions that remove liquidity from note 4 of Options 7, Section 2 does not impose an undue burden on competition because the Exchange would not permit any transaction to remove liquidity in AAPL in Penny Symbols to receive the discount in note 4 of Options 7, Section 2.

In terms of inter-market competition, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other options exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and

because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited. In sum, if the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market participants, it is likely that the Exchange will lose market share as a result. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of members or competing order execution venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

C. 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.¹⁰

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.

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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 (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR-BX-2024-015 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-2024-015. 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 (<https://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 a.m. and 3

p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-BX-2024-015 and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹¹

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

EXHIBIT 5

Deleted text is [bracketed]. New text is underlined.

Nasdaq BX, Inc. Rules

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Options Rules

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Options 7 Pricing Schedule

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Section 2 BX Options Market-Fees and Rebates

The following pricing shall apply to the use of the order execution and routing services of the BX Options market for all securities.

(1) Fees and rebates for Execution of Contracts on the BX Options Market:*

Penny Symbols

Market Participant	Maker Rebate	Taker Fee
Lead Market Maker	(\$0.24) ⁽²⁾	\$0.50
Market Maker	(\$0.20) ⁽²⁾	\$0.50
Non-Customer	(\$0.12)	\$0.50
Firm	(\$0.12)	\$0.50
Customer	(\$0.30)	\$0.40 ⁽¹⁾⁽⁴⁾

Non-Penny Symbols

Market Participant	Maker Rebate / Fee	Taker Fee
Lead Market Maker	(\$0.45) ⁽²⁾	\$1.25
Market Maker	(\$0.40) ⁽²⁾	\$1.25
Non-Customer	\$0.45	\$1.25
Firm	\$0.45	\$1.25
Customer	(\$1.10) ⁽³⁾	\$0.79

* * * * *

1. Customer Taker Fee will be \$0.33 per contract for trades which remove liquidity in AAPL, SPY, QQQ, and IWM.

* * * * *

4. [Members]Participants that increase their executed Customer volume which removes liquidity in a given month by at least 70% above their March 2024 volume as measured by a percentage of TCV will receive a Taker Fee discount of \$0.05 per contract in Penny Symbols excluding AAPL, SPY, QQQ, and IWM.

[Members]Participants with no Customer volume in the remove liquidity segment for the month of March 2024 may qualify for the Taker Fee discount by having any new volume considered as added volume. This note 4 incentive will be available through September 30, 2024.

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