Proposed rule change to extend PRISM pilot program through January 18, 2017.
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 BX rules at Chapter VI, Section 9, concerning a price-improvement mechanism, “PRISM” to extend, through January 18, 2017, a pilot program (the “pilot”) concerning:
   - (i) the early conclusion of the PRISM Auction (as described below);
   - (ii) an unrelated market or marketable limit order (against the BX BBO) on the opposite side of the market from the PRISM Order received during the Auction will not cause the Auction to end early and will execute against interest outside of the Auction; and
   - (iii) no minimum size requirement of orders. The current pilot is scheduled to expire July 18, 2016.\(^3\)

   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”) on July 1, 2015. 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.

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

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

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

a. Purpose

The purpose of this proposed rule change is to extend certain pilots within Chapter VI, Section 9, entitled “Price Improvement Auction (“PRISM”), through January 18, 2017.

Background

The Exchange adopted PRISM in November 2015 as a price-improvement mechanism on the Exchange. This mechanism permits a Participant (an “Initiating Participant”) to electronically submit for execution an order it represents as agent on behalf of a Public Customer, Professional customer, broker dealer, or any other entity (“PRISM Order”) against principal interest or against any other order it represents as agent (an “Initiating Order”), provided it submits the PRISM Order for electronic

4 Id.

5 A Public Customer order does not include a Professional order, and therefore a Professional would not be entitled to Public Customer priority as described herein. A Public Customer means a person that is not a broker or dealer in securities. See BX Options Rules at Chapter I, Section 1(a)(50). A Public Customer order does not include a Professional order for purposes of BX Rule at Chapter VI, Section 10(a)(C)(1)(a), which governs allocation priority. A “Professional” means any person or entity that (i) is not a broker or dealer in securities, and (ii) places more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s). A Participant or a Public Customer may, without limitation, be a Professional. All Professional orders shall be appropriately marked by Participants. See BX Rules at Chapter I, Section 1(a)(49).
execution into the PRISM Auction (“Auction”) pursuant to the Chapter VI, Section 9.6

All options traded on the Exchange are eligible for PRISM.

**Pilot Program**

Three components of PRISM were approved by the Commission on a pilot basis::

1. the early conclusion of the PRISM Auction;7
2. an unrelated market or marketable limit order (against the BX BBO) on the opposite side of the market from the PRISM Order received during the Auction will not cause the Auction to end early and will execute against interest outside of the Auction;8 and
3. no minimum size requirement of orders. The Exchange has been providing the following additional information on a monthly basis.9 The pilots were approved for a pilot period expiring on January 18, 2016.10

The Exchange notes that during the pilot period it has been required to submit, and has been submitting, certain data periodically as required by the Commission, to provide supporting evidence that, among other things, there is meaningful competition for all size orders and that there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange outside of the Auction mechanism. Specifically, the Exchange has submitted the following data as specified in its approval order:11

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6 BX will only conduct an auction for Simple Orders.

7 See Chapter VI, Section 9(ii)(B)(4).

8 See Chapter VI, Section 9(ii)(D).

9 See Chapter VI, Section 9(vii).

10 See note 3 above.

11 Id.
(1) The number of contracts (of orders of 50 contracts or greater) entered into the PRISM;

(2) The number of contracts (of orders of fewer than 50 contracts) entered into the PRISM;

(3) The number of orders of 50 contracts or greater entered into the PRISM; and

(4) The number of orders of fewer than 50 contracts entered into the PRISM.

The Exchange will continue to provide such data. The Exchange believes that, because the pilot has been operating for a relatively short amount of time, the proposed extension should afford the Commission additional time to evaluate the pilot. The Exchange proposes to extend the pilot through January 18, 2017.

b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,\textsuperscript{12} in general and with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,\textsuperscript{13} in that it is designed 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 facilitating 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; and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers, or to regulate by virtue of any authority conferred by the Act matters not related to the purposes of the Act or the administration of the Exchange.


\textsuperscript{13} 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).
The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is also consistent with Section 6(b)(8) of the Act\textsuperscript{14} in that it does not impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Specifically, the Exchange believes that PRISM, including the rules to which the pilot applies, results in increased liquidity available at improved prices, with competitive final pricing out of the Initiating Participant’s complete control. The Exchange believes that PRISM promotes and fosters competition and affords the opportunity for price improvement to more options contracts. The extension proposal allows additional time for the Commission to evaluate the pilot.

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. The proposal extends existing pilots that apply to all Exchange members, and enables the Exchange to be competitive in respect of other option exchanges that have similar programs.

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.

\textsuperscript{14} 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).
7. **Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)**

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)\(^{15}\) of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder\(^{16}\) in that it effects a change that: (i) does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) by its terms, does not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange believes that the current pilot is “non-controversial” and therefore appropriate for filing pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6). There are other options exchanges with similar programs.\(^{17}\) This proposal would ensure fair competition with other markets. The Exchange is not proposing any substantive amendments to the Exchange’s rules or systems, and the proposal does not raise any new regulatory issues. The Exchange is only seeking to extend the previously approved pilots. PRISM has been operative for one year and the extension would not change any of the conditions of operation of the system.

Furthermore, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file a proposed rule change under that subsection at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has provided such notice.


\(^{17}\) NASDAQ PHLX LLC has a price improvement auction, “PIXL.” See Phlx Rule 1080(n).
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.

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) normally does not become
operative prior to 30 days after the date of filing. Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), however, permits
the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection
of investors and the public interest. The Exchange requests that the Commission waive
the 30-day operative delay contained in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) because this proposed rule
change does not involve any substantive changes to the Exchange’s Rules and only seeks
to extend the previously approved PRISM pilot. Further, the extension will ensure fair
competition among exchanges by allowing the Exchange to continue with this pilot
similar to other options exchanges that operate auctions. The waiver is consistent with
the protection of investors and the public interest because it will permit the PRISM pilot
to continue without interruption and will allow the Exchange to gather more information
in connection with the pilot.

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. **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.
I.

Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend BX rules at Chapter VI, Section 9, concerning a price-improvement mechanism, “PRISM” to extend, through January 18, 2017, a pilot program (the “pilot”) concerning (i) the early conclusion of the PRISM Auction (as described below); (ii) an unrelated market or marketable limit order (against the BX BBO) on the opposite side of the market from the PRISM Order received during the Auction will not cause the Auction to end early and will execute against interest outside January 18, 2017.
of the Auction; and (iii) no minimum size requirement of orders. The current pilot is scheduled to expire July 18, 2016.³

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Website at http://nasdaqbx.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.

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this proposed rule change is to extend certain pilots within Chapter VI, Section 9, entitled “Price Improvement Auction (“PRISM”), through January 18, 2017.

Background

The Exchange adopted PRISM in November 2015 as a price-improvement mechanism on the Exchange.⁴ This mechanism permits a Participant (an “Initiating Participant”) to electronically submit for execution an order it represents as agent on


⁴ Id.
behalf of a Public Customer,\(^5\) Professional customer, broker dealer, or any other entity ("PRISM Order") against principal interest or against any other order it represents as agent (an "Initiating Order"), provided it submits the PRISM Order for electronic execution into the PRISM Auction ("Auction") pursuant to the Chapter VI, Section 9.\(^6\) All options traded on the Exchange are eligible for PRISM.

**Pilot Program**

Three components of PRISM were approved by the Commission on a pilot basis: (1) the early conclusion of the PRISM Auction;\(^7\) (2) an unrelated market or marketable limit order (against the BX BBO) on the opposite side of the market from the PRISM Order received during the Auction will not cause the Auction to end early and will execute against interest outside of the Auction;\(^8\) and (3) no minimum size requirement of orders. The Exchange has been providing the following additional information

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\(^5\) A Public Customer order does not include a Professional order, and therefore a Professional would not be entitled to Public Customer priority as described herein. A Public Customer means a person that is not a broker or dealer in securities. See BX Options Rules at Chapter I, Section 1(a)(50). A Public Customer order does not include a Professional order for purposes of BX Rule at Chapter VI, Section 10(a)(C)(1)(a), which governs allocation priority. A “Professional” means any person or entity that (i) is not a broker or dealer in securities, and (ii) places more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s). A Participant or a Public Customer may, without limitation, be a Professional. All Professional orders shall be appropriately marked by Participants. See BX Rules at Chapter I, Section 1(a)(49).

\(^6\) BX will only conduct an auction for Simple Orders.

\(^7\) See Chapter VI, Section 9(ii)(B)(4).

\(^8\) See Chapter VI, Section 9(ii)(D).
on a monthly basis. The pilots were approved for a pilot period expiring on January 18, 2016.\textsuperscript{10}

The Exchange notes that during the pilot period it has been required to submit, and has been submitting, certain data periodically as required by the Commission, to provide supporting evidence that, among other things, there is meaningful competition for all size orders and that there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange outside of the Auction mechanism. Specifically, the Exchange has submitted the following data as specified in its approval order:\textsuperscript{11}

- (1) The number of contracts (of orders of 50 contracts or greater) entered into the PRISM;
- (2) The number of contracts (of orders of fewer than 50 contracts) entered into the PRISM;
- (3) The number of orders of 50 contracts or greater entered into the PRISM; and
- (4) The number of orders of fewer than 50 contracts entered into the PRISM.

The Exchange will continue to provide such data. The Exchange believes that, because the pilot has been operating for a relatively short amount of time, the proposed extension should afford the Commission additional time to evaluate the pilot. The Exchange proposes to extend the pilot through January 18, 2017.

\textsuperscript{9} See Chapter VI, Section 9(vii).

\textsuperscript{10} See note 3 above.

\textsuperscript{11} Id.
2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,\textsuperscript{12} in general and with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,\textsuperscript{13} in that it is designed 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 facilitating 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; and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers, or to regulate by virtue of any authority conferred by the Act matters not related to the purposes of the Act or the administration of the Exchange.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is also consistent with Section 6(b)(8) of the Act\textsuperscript{14} in that it does not impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Specifically, the Exchange believes that PRISM, including the rules to which the pilot applies, results in increased liquidity available at improved prices, with competitive final pricing out of the Initiating Participant’s complete control. The Exchange believes that PRISM promotes and fosters competition and affords the opportunity for price improvement to more options contracts. The extension proposal allows additional time for the Commission to evaluate the pilot.

\textsuperscript{13} 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).
\textsuperscript{14} 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).
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 proposal extends existing pilots that apply to all Exchange members, and enables the Exchange to be competitive in respect of other option exchanges that have similar programs.

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 Act\(^{15}\) and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.\(^{16}\)

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

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\(^{16}\) 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file 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.
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 e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-BX-
2016-038 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Securities and
Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BX-2016-038. This file number should
be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and
review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission
will post all comments on the Commission’s Internet Web site


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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BX-2016-038 and should be
submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

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

Robert W. Errett
Deputy Secretary

Sec. 9 Price Improvement Auction ("PRISM")

A Participant may electronically submit for execution an order it represents as agent on behalf of a Public Customer, broker dealer, or any other entity ("PRISM Order") against principal interest or against any other order (except as provided in sub-paragraph (i)(F) below) if it represents as agent (an "Initiating Order") provided it submits the PRISM Order for electronic execution into the PRISM Auction ("Auction") pursuant to this Rule. For purposes of this Rule, a Public Customer order does not include a Professional order.

(i) No change.

(ii) Auction Process. Only one Auction may be conducted at a time in any given series. Once commenced, an Auction may not be cancelled and shall proceed as follows:

(A) No change.

(B) Conclusion of Auction. The PRISM Auction shall conclude at the earlier to occur of (1) through (3) below, with the PRISM Order executing pursuant to paragraph (C)(1) or (C)(2) below if it concludes pursuant to (2) or (3) of this paragraph.

(1) –(3) No change.

(4) Sub-paragraphs (B)(2) and (B)(3) above shall be effective for a pilot period scheduled to expire on January 18, 2017.

(C) No change.

(D) An unrelated market or marketable limit order (against the BX BBO) on the opposite side of the market from the PRISM Order received during the Auction will not cause the Auction to end early and will execute against interest outside of the Auction. If contracts remain from such unrelated order at the time the auction ends, they will be considered for participation in the order allocation process described in sub-paragraphs (E) and (F) below. This sub-paragraph shall be effective for a pilot period scheduled to expire on January 18, 2017.
(E) – (L) No change.

(iii) - (vi) No change.

(vii) Subject to a Pilot expiring [July 18, 2016] on January 18, 2017, there will be no minimum size requirement for orders to be eligible for the Auction. During this Pilot Period, the Exchange will submit certain data, periodically as required by the Commission, to provide supporting evidence that, among other things, there is meaningful competition for all size orders and that there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange outside of the Auction mechanism. Any raw data which is submitted to the Commission will be provided on a confidential basis.

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