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

File No. * SR 2021 - * 047

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 transaction credits, at Equity 7, Section 118, to establish the Enhanced Market Quality Program

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 * Brett Last Name * Kitt

Title * AVP, Principal Associate General Counsel

E-mail * brett.kitt@nasdaq.com

Telephone * (301) 978-8132 Fax

Signature

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

Date 10/12/2021

(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.

 DN:
email=john.zecca@nasdaq.com
Date: 2021.10.12 14:41:07
-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 *

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SR-BX-2021-047 19b-4.doc

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 *

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SR-BX-2021-047 Exhibit 1.doc

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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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 2- Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications

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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

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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

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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

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SR-BX-2021-047 Exhibit 5.doc

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

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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 transaction credits, at Equity 7, Section 118, to establish the Enhanced Market Quality Program (the “Program”), as described further below.

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 November 5, 2020. 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:

Brett M. Kitt
AVP, Principal Associate General Counsel
Nasdaq, Inc.
(301) 978-8132

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 establish an Enhanced Market Quality Program that is similar to a program that exists (with proposed amendments) on its sister exchange, Nasdaq PHLX, LLC.³ The Enhanced Market Quality Program is intended to provide supplemental incentives to members that meet certain quality standards in acting as market makers for securities on the Exchange. It rewards members that make a significant contribution to market quality by providing liquidity at the national best bid and offer ("NBBO") in a large number of securities for a significant portion of the day.

Specifically, the Exchange proposes to make a lump sum payment at the end of each month (a "Fixed Payment") to a member to the extent that the member, through one or more of its MPIDs, quotes at the NBBO for at least a threshold percentage of the time during Market Hours in an average number of securities per day during the month (satisfying the "NBBO requirement"), as specified below.⁴ On a daily basis, the

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-92754 (August 25, 2021), 86 FR 48789 (August 31, 2021) (SR-Phlx-2021-47). The proposal reflects changes to this program that Nasdaq PHLX, LLC is proposing concurrently with this rule filing.

⁴ For purposes of the Enhanced Market Quality Program, a member will be deemed to quote at the NBBO in a security if it quotes a displayed order of at least 100 shares in the security and prices the order at either the national best bid or the national best offer or both the national best bid and offer for the security. Additionally, for a particular Tape A security to count towards the threshold for qualifying for the Fixed Payment on a particular day, and receiving the Fixed Payment, a member has to quote such security at the NBBO for at least 30% of the time during Market Hours on that day. For a particular Tape B security to count towards the threshold for qualifying for the Fixed Payment on a particular day, and receiving the Fixed Payment, a member has to quote such security at the NBBO for at least 50% of the time during Market Hours on that day.

Exchange will determine the number of securities in which each of a member's MPIDs satisfied the NBBO requirement. The Exchange will aggregate all of a member's MPIDs to determine the number of securities for purposes of the NBBO requirement.

The Exchange proposes to limit the applicability of the Program to the top 1,500 securities in each of Tapes A and B, as determined by their total value traded during the second month prior to the current month (e.g., for October 2021, the measurement period for determining the list will be August 2021).⁵ In doing so, the Exchange seeks to target the Program at securities in Tapes A and B that are most in demand among market participants and which trade extensively, so that an improvement in quoting in those securities would, in turn, stand improve the attractiveness of the Exchange to participants. The Exchange would divide the 1,500 securities into three equal groups (or “Classes”) for each Tape, with the top 500 ranked securities placed in Class 3, the middle 500 ranked securities placed in Class 2, and the lowest ranked 500 securities placed in Class 1. The Exchange would assign Fixed Payment amounts to each of the three Classes in each Tape and in each of the five Tiers, with these amounts generally increasing from Class 1 to Class 3, and from Tiers 1-5. Generally speaking (with exceptions set forth in the schedules below), this proposed structure would provide the largest Fixed Payments to those members that meet the NBBO requirement in the greatest number of qualifying securities and those that trade most extensively, and the lowest incentives to those members that meet the NBBO requirement in the fewest number of qualifying securities and those that trade least extensively.

⁵ The Exchange notes that a symbol that did not trade during the measurement month will not be eligible for inclusion in the list.

The Program will be open to all members. A member may but is not required to be, a registered market maker in any security; thus, the Program will not by itself impose a two-sided quotation obligation or convey any of the benefits associated with being a registered market maker. Accordingly, the Program is designed to attract liquidity both from traditional market makers and from other firms that are willing to commit capital to support liquidity at the NBBO.

For securities in each of the three Classes, the Exchange will determine the amount of the Fixed Payment that it pays to a qualifying member as follows. First, the Exchange will determine the number of securities in each Class for which a member has met the NBBO requirement during the month. The Exchange will then determine whether the number of securities in a particular Class for which a member has satisfied the NBBO requirement during the month is sufficient to qualify it for a Tier, and if so, it will determine the highest Tier applicable to the member with respect to that Class of securities. Next, the Exchange will multiply the average daily number of its qualifying securities in the Class and Tier by the applicable amounts applicable to that Class and Tier, and the specified lump sum, if applicable.

Under the proposal, a member that qualifies for a Fixed Payment for securities in each of Tapes A and B and in multiple Classes within each Tape will receive Fixed Payments covering qualifying securities in both Tapes, and within each Tape, each of the applicable Classes, but within each Tape and Class, a member may only qualify for one Tier during a month.

The Exchange will pay the Fixed Payment in addition to other rebates or fees provided under Equity 7, Sections 118(a) - (f).

As of the outset of every month, the Exchange will reevaluate and, as applicable, update its lists of the securities that it places in each Class, and it will publish its updated lists on its website as of the outset of the month in which they will apply.

The Exchange proposes to set the Tiers, Classes, and the Fixed Payments as follows:

Tape A Securities				
Tiers	Average daily number of securities quoted at the NBBO for at least 30% of the time during Market Hours during the month	Fixed payment for securities in Tape A in Class 1	Fixed payment for securities in Tape A in Class 2	Fixed payment for securities in Tape A in Class 3
1	0-24	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$0 per qualified security per month
2	25-49	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$200 per qualified security over 24 per month
3	50-149	\$50 per qualified security per month	\$200 per qualified security over 49 per month	\$5,000 + (\$450 per qualified security over 49) per month
4	150-249	\$5,000 + (\$100 per qualified security over 149) per month	\$20,000 + (\$300 per qualified security over 149) per month	\$50,000 + (\$600 per qualified security over 149) per month
5	250 or greater	\$15,000 + (\$150 per qualified security over 249) per month	\$50,000 + (\$350 per qualified security over 249) per month	\$50,000 + (\$600 per qualified security over 149) per month

Tape B Securities				
Tiers	Average daily number of securities quoted at the NBBO for	Fixed payment for securities in Tape B in Class 1	Fixed payment for securities in Tape B in Class 2	Fixed payment for securities in Tape B in Class 3

	at least 50% of the time during Market Hours during the month			
1	0-24	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$0 per qualified security per month
2	25-49	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$100 per qualified security over 24 per month
3	50-149	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$25 per qualified security over 49 per month	\$2,500 + (\$150 per qualified security over 49) per month
4	150-249	\$50 per qualified security over 149 per month	\$2,500 + (\$50 per qualified security over 149) per month	\$17,500 + (\$300 per qualified security over 149) per month
5	250 or greater	\$5,000 + (\$75 per qualified security over 249) per month	\$7,500 + (\$150 per qualified security over 249) per month	\$17,500 + (\$300 per qualified security over 149) per month

The following are examples of the operation of the proposed Enhanced Market Quality Program.

Example 1: A member quotes an average of 200 symbols a day in Tape A, Class 2 in excess of the 30% NBBO requirement to qualify for a Tier during the month. Under the proposal, the member would qualify for a Fixed Payment equal to the combination of Tier 4, Class 2. The Fixed Payment due to such member is calculated as follows: 51 (the number of symbols over 149) times \$300, which equals \$15,300, plus \$20,000, for a total of \$35,300 for the month.

Example 2: A member meets the NBBO requirements for an average of 200 symbols a day in Tape A, Class 2, 26 symbols a day in securities in Tape A, Class 3, and

51 securities in Tape B, Class 2. In this scenario, the member would qualify for three Fixed Payments.

- First, for the 200 Tape A, Class 2 securities for which the member meets the NBBO requirement during the month, the member would receive a Fixed Payment equal to the combination of Tier 4, Class 2. The Fixed Payment due to such member is calculated as follows: 51 (the number of symbols over 149) times \$300, which equals \$15,300, plus \$20,000, for a total of \$35,300 for the month.
- Second, for the 26 Tape A, Class 3 securities for which the member meets the NBBO requirement during the month, the member would receive a Fixed Payment equal to the combination of Tier 2, Class 3. The Fixed Payment due to such member is calculated as follows: 2 (the number of symbols over 24) times \$200, which equals \$400 for the month.
- Third, for the 51 Tape B, Class 2 securities for which the member meets the NBBO requirement during the month, the member would receive a Fixed Payment equal to the combination of Tier 3, Class 2. The Fixed Payment due to such member is calculated as follows: 2 (the number of symbols over 49) times \$25, which equals \$50 for the month.
- The total of all Fixed Payments due to the member for the month will be \$35,750 ($\$35,300 + \$400 + \50).

Through the use of this incentive Program, the Exchange hopes to provide improved trading conditions for all market participants through narrower bid-ask spreads and increased depth of liquidity available at the inside market. In addition, the Program

reflects an effort to use financial incentives to encourage a wider variety of members to make positive commitments to promote market quality. The Exchange believes that different members may respond to different incentives, and therefore the Enhanced Market Quality Program is designed to promote market quality through quoting activity. The Exchange recognizes that while generally market participants will provide quotes with the intention of trading, market makers and liquidity providers cannot control when counter parties choose to interact with those quotes and therefore the Exchange believes it is beneficial to the market to offer this incentive based on quoting activity directly.

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.

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

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”⁸

Likewise, in NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission⁹ (“NetCoalition”) 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’”¹⁰

The Exchange believes that the proposed Enhanced Market Quality Program is reasonable because it is similar to other incentive programs offered by the Exchange for displayed orders that provide liquidity, like the Qualified Market Maker Program set forth in Equity 7, Sections 118(f). The proposed Fixed Payment will provide an opportunity to members to receive an additional credit in return for certain levels of participation on the Exchange as measured by quoting at the NBBO for a significant portion of the day each month. The proposed Fixed Payment is set at a level that reflects the beneficial contributions of market participants that quote significantly at the NBBO in certain qualifying securities. The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to limit the universe of qualifying securities to a list of 1,500 symbols that traded most extensively on

⁸ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) (“Regulation NMS Adopting Release”).

⁹ NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

¹⁰ Id. at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

the Exchange in Tapes A and B during second month prior to the current month, and to vary the amount of Fixed Payments in relation to the relative extent to which symbols on that list trade, because improving the quality of quotes for more popular symbols will do more to enhance the attractiveness of the Exchange than will improving quote quality for thinly-traded symbols. Given that the Exchange has finite resources to allocate to incentive programs, it is reasonable to allocate those resources in a manner that is most likely to achieve its intended objectives. The Exchange notes that a competing exchange which operates a similar incentive program also targets its incentives to a select list of symbols.¹¹

The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to limit applicability of the proposed Fixed Payments to securities in Tapes A and B, and to set the credits higher for the Tape A securities, insofar as the Exchange seeks to incentivize members to quote at the NBBO on the Exchange in such securities and improve the market therefor.

The Exchange believes that the proposed Fixed Payments set forth by the Enhanced Market Quality Program are an equitable allocation and are not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange will offer the same Fixed Payment rates to all similarly situated members. Moreover, the proposed qualification criteria requires a

¹¹ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-92150 (June 10, 2021), 86 FR 32090, 32091 n.9 (June 16, 2021) (“SR-MEMX-2021-07”) (“As proposed, the term ‘DLI Target Securities’ means a list of securities designated as such, the universe of which will be determined by the Exchange and published on the Exchange’s website. The Exchange anticipates that the initial DLI Target Securities list will include between 275 and 300 securities. The DLI Target Securities list will always include at least 75 securities and may be periodically updated by the Exchange, provided that the Exchange will not remove a security from the DLI Target Securities list without at least 30 days’ prior notice to Members as published on the Exchange’s website (unless the security is no longer eligible for trading on the Exchange).”

member to quote significantly at the NBBO in securities that trade extensively, therefore contributing to market quality in a meaningful way on the Exchange. Any member may quote at the NBBO at the level required by the qualification criteria of the Enhanced Market Quality Program. The Exchange notes that it has a similar Qualified Market Maker Program in which members are required to quote at the NBBO more than a certain amount of time during regular market hours.¹² For these reasons, the Exchange believes that the proposed Enhanced Market Quality Program Fixed Payments and qualification criteria are an equitable allocation and are not unfairly discriminatory.

The Exchange also believes that it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to apply the Enhanced Market Quality Program only to Tape A and Tape B securities, and then only to the top 1,500 symbols in each Tape by total value traded during the second month prior to the current month, and to set the Fixed Payment rates higher for the Tape A securities than Tape B securities, because the Exchange has limited resources available to it for incentive programs and the Exchange believes that the most effective application of such limited resources is to improve the market quality for the most actively traded Tape A and Tape B securities, as proposed.

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 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

¹² See Qualified Market Maker Program, Equity 7, Section 118(f).

available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to 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 this instance, the proposed Program will not impose a burden on competition because the Exchange's execution services are completely voluntary and subject to extensive competition both from other exchanges and from off-exchange venues. The proposed Program will provide members with the opportunity to receive incentive payments if they improve the market by providing significant quoting at the NBBO in a large number of securities, while limiting the universe of such securities to those which the Exchange believes will do most to improve market quality.

In terms of intra-market 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 because the Program is open to all members on the same terms.

In sum, the proposed Program is designed to improve the quality of the Exchange for securities that are likely to attract the greatest trading interest; however, 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,¹³ 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

The proposal is similar to the Nasdaq PHLX, LLC Enhanced Market Quality Program. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-92754 (August 25, 2021), 86 FR 48789 (August 31, 2021) (SR-Phlx-2021-47). The proposal reflects

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

changes to that program that Nasdaq PHLX, LLC is proposing concurrently with this rule filing.

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.

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. _____ ; File No. SR-BX-2021-047)

October __, 2021

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend Equity 7, Section 118 to Establish an Enhanced Market Quality Program

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 October 12, 2021, 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 Equity 7, Section 118 to establish an Enhanced Market Quality Program, as described further below.

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.

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 establish an Enhanced Market Quality Program that is similar to a program that exists (with proposed amendments) on its sister exchange, Nasdaq PHLX, LLC.³ The Enhanced Market Quality Program is intended to provide supplemental incentives to members that meet certain quality standards in acting as market makers for securities on the Exchange. It rewards members that make a significant contribution to market quality by providing liquidity at the national best bid and offer ("NBBO") in a large number of securities for a significant portion of the day.

Specifically, the Exchange proposes to make a lump sum payment at the end of each month (a "Fixed Payment") to a member to the extent that the member, through one or more of its MPIDs, quotes at the NBBO for at least a threshold percentage of the time during Market Hours in an average number of securities per day during the month

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-92754 (August 25, 2021), 86 FR 48789 (August 31, 2021) (SR-Phlx-2021-47). The proposal reflects changes to this program that Nasdaq PHLX, LLC is proposing concurrently with this rule filing.

(satisfying the “NBBO requirement”), as specified below.⁴ On a daily basis, the Exchange will determine the number of securities in which each of a member's MPIDs satisfied the NBBO requirement. The Exchange will aggregate all of a member's MPIDs to determine the number of securities for purposes of the NBBO requirement.

The Exchange proposes to limit the applicability of the Program to the top 1,500 securities in each of Tapes A and B, as determined by their total value traded during the second month prior to the current month (e.g., for October 2021, the measurement period for determining the list will be August 2021).⁵ In doing so, the Exchange seeks to target the Program at securities in Tapes A and B that are most in demand among market participants and which trade extensively, so that an improvement in quoting in those securities would, in turn, stand improve the attractiveness of the Exchange to participants. The Exchange would divide the 1,500 securities into three equal groups (or “Classes”) for each Tape, with the top 500 ranked securities placed in Class 3, the middle 500 ranked securities placed in Class 2, and the lowest ranked 500 securities placed in Class 1. The Exchange would assign Fixed Payment amounts to each of the three Classes in each Tape

⁴ For purposes of the Enhanced Market Quality Program, a member will be deemed to quote at the NBBO in a security if it quotes a displayed order of at least 100 shares in the security and prices the order at either the national best bid or the national best offer or both the national best bid and offer for the security. Additionally, for a particular Tape A security to count towards the threshold for qualifying for the Fixed Payment on a particular day, and receiving the Fixed Payment, a member has to quote such security at the NBBO for at least 30% of the time during Market Hours on that day. For a particular Tape B security to count towards the threshold for qualifying for the Fixed Payment on a particular day, and receiving the Fixed Payment, a member has to quote such security at the NBBO for at least 50% of the time during Market Hours on that day.

⁵ The Exchange notes that a symbol that did not trade during the measurement month will not be eligible for inclusion in the list.

and in each of the five Tiers, with these amounts generally increasing from Class 1 to Class 3, and from Tiers 1-5. Generally speaking (with exceptions set forth in the schedules below), this proposed structure would provide the largest Fixed Payments to those members that meet the NBBO requirement in the greatest number of qualifying securities and those that trade most extensively, and the lowest incentives to those members that meet the NBBO requirement in the fewest number of qualifying securities and those that trade least extensively.

The Program will be open to all members. A member may but is not required to be, a registered market maker in any security; thus, the Program will not by itself impose a two-sided quotation obligation or convey any of the benefits associated with being a registered market maker. Accordingly, the Program is designed to attract liquidity both from traditional market makers and from other firms that are willing to commit capital to support liquidity at the NBBO.

For securities in each of the three Classes, the Exchange will determine the amount of the Fixed Payment that it pays to a qualifying member as follows. First, the Exchange will determine the number of securities in each Class for which a member has met the NBBO requirement during the month. The Exchange will then determine whether the number of securities in a particular Class for which a member has satisfied the NBBO requirement during the month is sufficient to qualify it for a Tier, and if so, it will determine the highest Tier applicable to the member with respect to that Class of securities. Next, the Exchange will multiply the average daily number of its qualifying securities in the Class and Tier by the applicable amounts applicable to that Class and Tier, and the specified lump sum, if applicable.

Under the proposal, a member that qualifies for a Fixed Payment for securities in each of Tapes A and B and in multiple Classes within each Tape will receive Fixed Payments covering qualifying securities in both Tapes, and within each Tape, each of the applicable Classes, but within each Tape and Class, a member may only qualify for one Tier during a month.

The Exchange will pay the Fixed Payment in addition to other rebates or fees provided under Equity 7, Sections 118(a) - (f).

As of the outset of every month, the Exchange will reevaluate and, as applicable, update its lists of the securities that it places in each Class, and it will publish its updated lists on its website as of the outset of the month in which they will apply.

The Exchange proposes to set the Tiers, Classes, and the Fixed Payments as follows:

Tape A Securities				
Tiers	Average daily number of securities quoted at the NBBO for at least 30% of the time during Market Hours during the month	Fixed payment for securities in Tape A in Class 1	Fixed payment for securities in Tape A in Class 2	Fixed payment for securities in Tape A in Class 3
1	0-24	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$0 per qualified security per month
2	25-49	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$200 per qualified security over 24 per month
3	50-149	\$50 per qualified security per month	\$200 per qualified security over 49 per month	\$5,000 + (\$450 per qualified security over 49) per month
4	150-249	\$5,000 + (\$100 per qualified security over 149) per month	\$20,000 + (\$300 per qualified security	\$50,000 + (\$600 per qualified security

			over 149) per month	over 149) per month
5	250 or greater	\$15,000 + (\$150 per qualified security over 249) per month	\$50,000 + (\$350 per qualified security over 249) per month	\$50,000 + (\$600 per qualified security over 149) per month

Tape B Securities				
Tiers	Average daily number of securities quoted at the NBBO for at least 50% of the time during Market Hours during the month	Fixed payment for securities in Tape B in Class 1	Fixed payment for securities in Tape B in Class 2	Fixed payment for securities in Tape B in Class 3
1	0-24	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$0 per qualified security per month
2	25-49	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$100 per qualified security over 24 per month
3	50-149	\$0 per qualified security per month	\$25 per qualified security over 49 per month	\$2,500 + (\$150 per qualified security over 49) per month
4	150-249	\$50 per qualified security over 149 per month	\$2,500 + (\$50 per qualified security over 149) per month	\$17,500 + (\$300 per qualified security over 149) per month
5	250 or greater	\$5,000 + (\$75 per qualified security over 249) per month	\$7,500 + (\$150 per qualified security over 249) per month	\$17,500 + (\$300 per qualified security over 149) per month

The following are examples of the operation of the proposed Enhanced Market Quality Program.

Example 1: A member quotes an average of 200 symbols a day in Tape A, Class 2 in excess of the 30% NBBO requirement to qualify for a Tier during the month. Under the proposal, the member would qualify for a Fixed Payment equal to the combination of Tier 4, Class 2. The Fixed Payment due to such member is calculated as follows: 51 (the number of symbols over 149) times \$300, which equals \$15,300, plus \$20,000, for a total of \$35,300 for the month.

Example 2: A member meets the NBBO requirements for an average of 200 symbols a day in Tape A, Class 2, 26 symbols a day in securities in Tape A, Class 3, and 51 securities in Tape B, Class 2. In this scenario, the member would qualify for three Fixed Payments.

- First, for the 200 Tape A, Class 2 securities for which the member meets the NBBO requirement during the month, the member would receive a Fixed Payment equal to the combination of Tier 4, Class 2. The Fixed Payment due to such member is calculated as follows: 51 (the number of symbols over 149) times \$300, which equals \$15,300, plus \$20,000, for a total of \$35,300 for the month.
- Second, for the 26 Tape A, Class 3 securities for which the member meets the NBBO requirement during the month, the member would receive a Fixed Payment equal to the combination of Tier 2, Class 3. The Fixed Payment due to such member is calculated as follows: 2 (the number of symbols over 24) times \$200, which equals \$400 for the month.
- Third, for the 51 Tape B, Class 2 securities for which the member meets the NBBO requirement during the month, the member would receive a

Fixed Payment equal to the combination of Tier 3, Class 2. The Fixed Payment due to such member is calculated as follows: 2 (the number of symbols over 49) times \$25, which equals \$50 for the month.

- The total of all Fixed Payments due to the member for the month will be \$35,750 (\$35,300 + \$400 + \$50).

Through the use of this incentive Program, the Exchange hopes to provide improved trading conditions for all market participants through narrower bid-ask spreads and increased depth of liquidity available at the inside market. In addition, the Program reflects an effort to use financial incentives to encourage a wider variety of members to make positive commitments to promote market quality. The Exchange believes that different members may respond to different incentives, and therefore the Enhanced Market Quality Program is designed to promote market quality through quoting activity. The Exchange recognizes that while generally market participants will provide quotes with the intention of trading, market makers and liquidity providers cannot control when counter parties choose to interact with those quotes and therefore the Exchange believes it is beneficial to the market to offer this incentive based on quoting activity directly.

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

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

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 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.”⁸

Likewise, in NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission⁹ (“NetCoalition”) 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’”¹⁰

The Exchange believes that the proposed Enhanced Market Quality Program is reasonable because it is similar to other incentive programs offered by the Exchange for

⁸ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) (“Regulation NMS Adopting Release”).

⁹ NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

¹⁰ Id. at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

displayed orders that provide liquidity, like the Qualified Market Maker Program set forth in Equity 7, Sections 118(f). The proposed Fixed Payment will provide an opportunity to members to receive an additional credit in return for certain levels of participation on the Exchange as measured by quoting at the NBBO for a significant portion of the day each month. The proposed Fixed Payment is set at a level that reflects the beneficial contributions of market participants that quote significantly at the NBBO in certain qualifying securities. The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to limit the universe of qualifying securities to a list of 1,500 symbols that traded most extensively on the Exchange in Tapes A and B during second month prior to the current month, and to vary the amount of Fixed Payments in relation to the relative extent to which symbols on that list trade, because improving the quality of quotes for more popular symbols will do more to enhance the attractiveness of the Exchange than will improving quote quality for thinly-traded symbols. Given that the Exchange has finite resources to allocate to incentive programs, it is reasonable to allocate those resources in a manner that is most likely to achieve its intended objectives. The Exchange notes that a competing exchange which operates a similar incentive program also targets its incentives to a select list of symbols.¹¹

¹¹ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-92150 (June 10, 2021), 86 FR 32090, 32091 n.9 (June 16, 2021) (“SR-MEMX-2021-07”) (“As proposed, the term ‘DLI Target Securities’ means a list of securities designated as such, the universe of which will be determined by the Exchange and published on the Exchange’s website. The Exchange anticipates that the initial DLI Target Securities list will include between 275 and 300 securities. The DLI Target Securities list will always include at least 75 securities and may be periodically updated by the Exchange, provided that the Exchange will not remove a security from the DLI Target Securities list without at least 30 days’ prior notice to Members as published on the Exchange’s website (unless the security is no longer eligible for trading on the Exchange).”

The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to limit applicability of the proposed Fixed Payments to securities in Tapes A and B, and to set the credits higher for the Tape A securities, insofar as the Exchange seeks to incentivize members to quote at the NBBO on the Exchange in such securities and improve the market therefor.

The Exchange believes that the proposed Fixed Payments set forth by the Enhanced Market Quality Program are an equitable allocation and are not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange will offer the same Fixed Payment rates to all similarly situated members. Moreover, the proposed qualification criteria requires a member to quote significantly at the NBBO in securities that trade extensively, therefore contributing to market quality in a meaningful way on the Exchange. Any member may quote at the NBBO at the level required by the qualification criteria of the Enhanced Market Quality Program. The Exchange notes that it has a similar Qualified Market Maker Program in which members are required to quote at the NBBO more than a certain amount of time during regular market hours.¹² For these reasons, the Exchange believes that the proposed Enhanced Market Quality Program Fixed Payments and qualification criteria are an equitable allocation and are not unfairly discriminatory.

The Exchange also believes that it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to apply the Enhanced Market Quality Program only to Tape A and Tape B securities, and then only to the top 1,500 symbols in each Tape by total value traded during the second month prior to the current month, and to set the Fixed Payment rates higher for the Tape A securities than Tape B securities, because the Exchange has limited resources available to it for incentive programs and the Exchange believes that the most effective application

¹² See Qualified Market Maker Program, Equity 7, Section 118(f).

of such limited resources is to improve the market quality for the most actively traded Tape A and Tape B securities, as proposed.

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 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 exchanges and with alternative trading systems that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to 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 this instance, the proposed Program will not impose a burden on competition because the Exchange's execution services are completely voluntary and subject to extensive competition both from other exchanges and from off-exchange venues. The proposed Program will provide members with the opportunity to receive incentive payments if they improve the market by providing significant quoting at the NBBO in a large number of securities, while limiting the universe of such securities to those which the Exchange believes will do most to improve market quality.

In terms of intra-market 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 because the Program is open to all members on the same terms.

In sum, the proposed Program is designed to improve the quality of the Exchange for securities that are likely to attract the greatest trading interest; however, 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.¹³

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.

¹³ 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 (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-BX-2021-047 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-2021-047](#). 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 (<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; 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-2021-047](#) 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.¹⁴

J. Matthew DeLesDernier
Assistant Secretary

¹⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

EXHIBIT 5

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

Rules of Nasdaq BX

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Equity Rules

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Equity 7 Pricing Schedule

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Section 118. Nasdaq BX Equities System Order Execution and Routing

(a) - (f) No change.

(g) Enhanced Market Quality Program

As set forth below, the Exchange shall provide a lump sum payment at the end of each month (a "BX Fixed Payment") to a member to the extent that the member, through one or more of its MPIDs, quotes at the NBBO for at least a threshold percentage of the time during Market Hours in an average number of securities per day during the month (as specified below). On a daily basis, the Exchange will determine the number of securities in which each of a member's MPIDs satisfied the NBBO requirement. The Exchange will aggregate all of a member's MPIDs to determine the number of securities for purposes of the NBBO requirement. For purposes of this program, a member will be deemed to quote at the NBBO in a security if it quotes a displayed order of at least 100 shares in the security and prices the order at either the national best bid or the national best offer or both the national best bid and offer for the security. The Exchange will determine the amount of the BX Fixed Payment that it pays to a qualifying member by multiplying the average daily number of its qualifying securities during the month (rounded to the nearest whole number) within the range set forth in the Tier and Class (defined below) by the applicable amounts set forth in the following paragraphs and adding the specified lump sum, where applicable. For purposes of determining the applicable BX Fixed Payment, the Exchange will also maintain lists of the top 1,500 securities in each of Tapes A and B, as ranked by total value traded during the second month prior to the current month, and divide the securities into three equal Classes apiece in ascending order (i.e., the lowest 500 securities in Class 1, the middle 500 securities in Class 2, and the top 500 securities in Class 3), with each Class being assigned a corresponding BX Fixed Payment amount. For members that meet the NBBO requirement for a requisite number of qualifying securities during a month to qualify for a particular Tier, the member will receive the BX Fixed Payment that corresponds to the combination of: (i) that Tier; and (ii) the Class in which the Exchange has placed the qualifying securities for that month.

A member that qualifies for a BX Fixed Payment for securities in each of Tapes A and B and in multiple Classes within each Tape will receive BX Fixed Payments covering qualifying securities in both Tapes, and within each Tape, for each of the applicable Classes, but within each Tape and Class, a member may only qualify for one Tier during a month. The Exchange will pay the BX Fixed Payment in addition to other rebates or fees provided under Equity 7, Sections 118(a) - (f).

As of the outset of every month, the Exchange will reevaluate and, as applicable, update its lists of securities in each Class, and it will publish its updated lists on its website as of the outset of the month in which they will apply.

<u>Tape A Securities</u>				
<u>Tiers</u>	<u>Average daily number of securities quoted at the NBBO for at least 30% of the time during Market Hours during the month</u>	<u>Fixed payment for securities in Tape A in Class 1</u>	<u>Fixed payment for securities in Tape A in Class 2</u>	<u>Fixed payment for securities in Tape A in Class 3</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>0-24</u>	<u>\$0 per qualified security per month</u>	<u>\$0 per qualified security per month</u>	<u>\$0 per qualified security per month</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>25-49</u>	<u>\$0 per qualified security per month</u>	<u>\$0 per qualified security per month</u>	<u>\$200 per qualified security over 24 per month</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>50-149</u>	<u>\$50 per qualified security over 49 per month</u>	<u>\$200 per qualified security over 49 per month</u>	<u>\$5,000 + (\$450 per qualified security over 49) per month</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>150-249</u>	<u>\$5,000 + (\$100 per qualified security over 149) per month</u>	<u>\$20,000 + (\$300 per qualified security over 149) per month</u>	<u>\$50,000 + (\$600 per qualified security over 149) per month</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>250 or greater</u>	<u>\$15,000 + (\$150 per qualified security over 249) per month</u>	<u>\$50,000 + (\$350 per qualified security over 249) per month</u>	<u>\$50,000 + (\$600 per qualified security over 149) per month</u>

<u>Tape B Securities</u>

<u>Tiers</u>	<u>Average daily number of securities quoted at the NBBO for at least 50% of the time during Market Hours during the month</u>	<u>Fixed payment for securities in Tape B in Class 1</u>	<u>Fixed payment for securities in Tape B in Class 2</u>	<u>Fixed payment for securities in Tape B in Class 3</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>0-24</u>	<u>\$0 per qualified security per month</u>	<u>\$0 per qualified security per month</u>	<u>\$0 per qualified security per month</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>25-49</u>	<u>\$0 per qualified security per month</u>	<u>\$0 per qualified security per month</u>	<u>\$100 per qualified security over 24 per month</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>50-149</u>	<u>\$0 per qualified security per month</u>	<u>\$25 per qualified security over 49 per month</u>	<u>\$2,500 + (\$150 per qualified security over 49) per month</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>150-249</u>	<u>\$50 per qualified security over 149 per month</u>	<u>\$2,500 + (\$50 per qualified security over 149) per month</u>	<u>\$17,500 + (\$300 per qualified security over 149) per month</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>250 or greater</u>	<u>\$5,000 + (\$75 per qualified security over 249) per month</u>	<u>\$7,500 + (\$150 per qualified security over 249) per month</u>	<u>\$17,500 + (\$300 per qualified security over 149) per month</u>

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