

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Filing by Nasdaq GEMX, LLC  
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"/>
			Rule		
Pilot <input type="checkbox"/>	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Expires * <input type="text"/>	<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	Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Section 806(e)(1) * <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 806(e)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>
Section 3C(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>	

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Description**

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

A proposal to increase certain route out fees set forth in Section II.A of the Schedule of Fees.

**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 \* Sun Last Name \* Kim

Title \* Associate General Counsel

E-mail \* Sun.Kim@nasdaq.com

Telephone \* (212) 231-5106 Fax

**Signature**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

(Title \*)

Date 06/01/2018

By Edward S. Knight

Executive Vice President and General Counsel

edward.knight@nasdaq.com

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

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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

**Form 19b-4 Information \***

Add Remove View

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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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 Advance 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, security-based swap submission, or advance notice 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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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

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 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire**

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

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 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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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 GEMX, LLC (“GEMX” or “Exchange”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) a proposal to increase certain route-out fees set forth in Section II.A of the Schedule of Fees, 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 September 19, 2017. 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:

Sun Kim  
Associate General Counsel  
Nasdaq, Inc.  
212-231-5106

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 purpose of the proposed rule change is to increase certain route-out fees set forth in Section II.A of the Schedule of Fees. Today, the Exchange charges Non-Priority Customers (i.e., Market Maker,<sup>3</sup> Non-Nasdaq GEMX Market Maker,<sup>4</sup> Firm Proprietary<sup>5</sup> / Broker-Dealer,<sup>6</sup> and Professional Customer<sup>7</sup>) route-out fees of \$0.95 per contract for orders in Non-Penny Symbols that are routed to away exchanges in connection with the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan (the "Plan"). The Exchange now proposes to increase this fee to \$1.09 per contract for all Non-Priority Customer orders in Non-Penny Symbols that are routed to away exchanges in connection with the Plan. The Exchange believes that the proposed increase will help offset the costs associated with routing orders through the Plan, such as paying the transaction fees for such executions at other exchanges.

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<sup>3</sup> The term "Market Makers" refers to "Competitive Market Makers" and "Primary Market Makers" collectively. See Rule 100(a)(30).

<sup>4</sup> A "Non-Nasdaq GEMX Market Maker" is a market maker as defined in Section 3(a)(38) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, registered in the same options class on another options exchange.

<sup>5</sup> A "Firm Proprietary" order is an order submitted by a member for its own proprietary account.

<sup>6</sup> A "Broker-Dealer" order is an order submitted by a member for a broker-dealer account that is not its own proprietary account.

<sup>7</sup> A "Professional Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer and is not a Priority Customer.

b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>8</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>9</sup> in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes that proposed increase in the Non-Priority Customer route-out fees from \$0.95 to \$1.09 per contract for orders in Non-Penny Symbols is reasonable because it is designed to help recoup costs associated with routing orders to away exchanges in connection with the Plan, such as paying the transaction fees for such executions at other exchanges. Furthermore, the Exchange notes that the proposed fees remain competitive with the fees of other options exchanges which, in addition to a fixed routing fee, assess the actual transaction fees.<sup>10</sup>

The Exchange believes that proposed increase in the Non-Priority Customer route-out fees is an equitable allocation and is not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange will apply the same fee to all similarly situated members. The Exchange believes it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to increase the route-out fees for

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<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

<sup>10</sup> For example, CBOE C2 Exchange, Inc. (“C2”) charges \$1.63 per routed contract for non-public customer, non-C2 market-maker orders in non-penny classes. See C2 Fees Schedule, Section 1.A (Transaction Fees) and Section 2 (Linkage Routing).

all market participants other than Priority Customers<sup>11</sup> because the Exchange seeks to encourage Priority Customer order flow and the liquidity that such order flow brings to the marketplace, which in turn benefits all market participants.

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 particular, the proposed increase to the route-out fees will apply equally to all Non-Priority Customer orders that are routed to away exchanges in connection with the Plan, and will help offset costs associated with routing orders via the Plan. Furthermore as noted above, the Exchange believes that its proposed fees remain competitive with another options exchange.

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 sum, if the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market

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<sup>11</sup> A "Priority Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer in securities, and does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s), as defined in Nasdaq GEMX Rule 100(a)(37A).

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,<sup>12</sup> 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.

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<sup>12</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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-GEMX-2018-20)

June \_\_, 2018

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq GEMX, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to increase certain route-out fees set forth in Section II.A of the Schedule of Fees.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)<sup>1</sup>, and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on June 1, 2018, Nasdaq GEMX, LLC (“GEMX” 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 increase certain route-out fees set forth in Section II.A of the Schedule of Fees.

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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 purpose of the proposed rule change is to increase certain route-out fees set forth in Section II.A of the Schedule of Fees. Today, the Exchange charges Non-Priority Customers (i.e., Market Maker,<sup>3</sup> Non-Nasdaq GEMX Market Maker,<sup>4</sup> Firm Proprietary<sup>5</sup> / Broker-Dealer,<sup>6</sup> and Professional Customer<sup>7</sup>) route-out fees of \$0.95 per contract for orders in Non-Penny Symbols that are routed to away exchanges in connection with the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan (the "Plan"). The Exchange now proposes to increase this fee to \$1.09 per contract for all Non-Priority Customer orders in Non-Penny Symbols that are routed to away exchanges in connection with the Plan. The Exchange believes that the proposed increase will help offset the costs

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<sup>3</sup> The term "Market Makers" refers to "Competitive Market Makers" and "Primary Market Makers" collectively. See Rule 100(a)(30).

<sup>4</sup> A "Non-Nasdaq GEMX Market Maker" is a market maker as defined in Section 3(a)(38) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, registered in the same options class on another options exchange.

<sup>5</sup> A "Firm Proprietary" order is an order submitted by a member for its own proprietary account.

<sup>6</sup> A "Broker-Dealer" order is an order submitted by a member for a broker-dealer account that is not its own proprietary account.

<sup>7</sup> A "Professional Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer and is not a Priority Customer.

associated with routing orders through the Plan, such as paying the transaction fees for such executions at other exchanges.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>8</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>9</sup> in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes that proposed increase in the Non-Priority Customer route-out fees from \$0.95 to \$1.09 per contract for orders in Non-Penny Symbols is reasonable because it is designed to help recoup costs associated with routing orders to away exchanges in connection with the Plan, such as paying the transaction fees for such executions at other exchanges. Furthermore, the Exchange notes that the proposed fees remain competitive with the fees of other options exchanges which, in addition to a fixed routing fee, assess the actual transaction fees.<sup>10</sup>

The Exchange believes that proposed increase in the Non-Priority Customer route-out fees is an equitable allocation and is not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange will apply the same fee to all similarly situated members. The Exchange believes it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to increase the route-out fees for

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<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

<sup>10</sup> For example, CBOE C2 Exchange, Inc. (“C2”) charges \$1.63 per routed contract for non-public customer, non-C2 market-maker orders in non-penny classes. See C2 Fees Schedule, Section 1.A (Transaction Fees) and Section 2 (Linkage Routing).

all market participants other than Priority Customers<sup>11</sup> because the Exchange seeks to encourage Priority Customer order flow and the liquidity that such order flow brings to the marketplace, which in turn benefits all market participants.

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 particular, the proposed increase to the route-out fees will apply equally to all Non-Priority Customer orders that are routed to away exchanges in connection with the Plan, and will help offset costs associated with routing orders via the Plan. Furthermore as noted above, the Exchange believes that its proposed fees remain competitive with another options exchange.

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 sum, if the changes proposed herein are unattractive to market

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<sup>11</sup> A "Priority Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer in securities, and does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s), as defined in Nasdaq GEMX Rule 100(a)(37A).

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.<sup>12</sup> At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

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

Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form

(<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or

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<sup>12</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

- Send an e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-GEMX-2018-20 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-GEMX-2018-20. 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-GEMX-2018-20 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.<sup>13</sup>

Eduardo A. Aleman  
Assistant Secretary

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<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

**EXHIBIT 5**

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

**Nasdaq GEMX Rules**

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**II. Other Options Fees and Rebates****A. Route-Out Fees<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Market Participant</b>	<b>Penny &amp; SPY</b>	<b>Non-Penny</b>
Market Maker	\$0.55	[\$0.95] <u>1.09</u>
Non-Nasdaq GEMX Market Maker (FarMM)	\$0.55	[\$0.95] <u>1.09</u>
Firm Proprietary / Broker-Dealer	\$0.55	[\$0.95] <u>1.09</u>
Professional Customer	\$0.55	[\$0.95] <u>1.09</u>
Priority Customer	\$0.50	\$0.90

<sup>1</sup> Fee applies to executions of orders that are routed to one or more exchanges in connection with the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan.

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