Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

OMB Number: 3235-0045
Estimated average burden hours per response......38

Page 1 o	of * 22			EXCHANGE ( GTON, D.C. 20 orm 19b-4			File No.*	SR - 2019 - * 006 Amendments *)
Filing by The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC								
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934								
Initial '	*	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(t	)(2) *	Section	on 19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
Pilot		ension of Time Period Commission Action *	Date Expires *	☐ 19b-4(f)(1) ☐ 19b-4(f)(4) ☐ 19b-4(f)(2) ☐ 19b-4(f)(5) ☐ 19b-4(f)(3) ☐ 19b-4(f)(6)				
Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payme  Section 806(e)(1) * Section 80				to the Se			Security-Based Swap to the Securities Exch Section 3C(b)(2	-
Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document  Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document  Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document								
Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *).  Proposal to revise The Nasdaq Options Market LLC Rules at Options 7, Section 5 to amend the Nasdaq Options Regulatory Fee								
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 N	lame '	Angela		Last Name *	Dunn			
Title *		Principal Associate G	eneral Counsel					
E-mail	l *	Angela.Dunn@nasdaq.com						
Teleph	none *	The second secon						
Signature  Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  has duly caused this filling to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.								
(Title *)								
Date		02/01/2019 Edward S. Knight		Global Chief Legal and Policy Officer				
Ву	⊏awa	(Name *)						
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 EFFS website. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a Form 19b-4 Information \* clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal Remove is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act. The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change \* 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 Add Remove View 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) The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication **Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule** in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies \* 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, Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such Transcripts, Other Communications documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Remove View Add Exhibit Sent As Paper Document П Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire 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 Add Remove View referred to by the proposed rule change. Exhibit Sent As Paper Document The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies** deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit Add Remove View 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** 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 Add Remove View of the proposed rule change. If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy **Partial Amendment** 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) The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Exchange" or "Nasdaq"), 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 ("Commission") a proposal to revise The Nasdaq Options Market LLC's Rules ("NOM") at Options 7, Section 5 to amend the Nasdaq Options Regulatory Fee or "ORF."

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u> is at <u>Exhibit 1</u>. The text of the proposed rule change is at <u>Exhibit 5</u>.

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.

# 2. <u>Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

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 26, 2018. Exchange staff will advise the Board of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

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

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

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

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

# 3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

### a. <u>Purpose</u>

Currently, Nasdaq assesses an ORF of \$0.0008 per contract side. The Exchange proposes to increase this ORF to \$0.0020 per contract side as of February 1, 2019. In light of recent market volumes, the Exchange is proposing to increase the amount of ORF that will be collected by the Exchange. The proposal would allow the Exchange to increase the per contract amount of ORF in order to offset the Exchange anticipated regulatory costs. The Exchange's proposed change to the ORF should balance the Exchange's regulatory revenue against the anticipated regulatory costs. The Exchange also proposes to delete obsolete language in the rule text as described herein.

## Collection of ORF

Currently, NOM assesses its ORF for each customer option transaction that is either: (1) executed by a Participant on NOM; or (2) cleared by a NOM Participant at The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") in the customer range,<sup>3</sup> even if the transaction was executed by a non-member of NOM, regardless of the exchange on which the transaction occurs.<sup>4</sup> If the OCC clearing member is a NOM Participant, ORF is assessed and collected on all cleared customer contracts (after adjustment for CMTA<sup>5</sup>); and (2) if the OCC clearing member is not a NOM Participant, ORF is collected only on the cleared

Participants must record the appropriate account origin code on all orders at the time of entry in order. The Exchange represents that it has surveillances in place to verify that members mark orders with the correct account origin code.

The Exchange uses reports from OCC when assessing and collecting the ORF.

<sup>5</sup> CMTA or Clearing Member Trade Assignment is a form of "give-up" whereby the position will be assigned to a specific clearing firm at OCC.

customer contracts executed at NOM, taking into account any CMTA instructions which may result in collecting the ORF from a non-member.

By way of example, if Broker A, a NOM Participant, routes a customer order to CBOE and the transaction executes on CBOE and clears in Broker A's OCC Clearing account, ORF will be collected by NOM from Broker A's clearing account at OCC via direct debit. While this transaction was executed on a market other than NOM, it was cleared by a NOM Participant in the member's OCC clearing account in the customer range, therefore there is a regulatory nexus between NOM and the transaction. If Broker A was not a NOM Participant, then no ORF should be assessed and collected because there is no nexus; the transaction did not execute on NOM nor was it cleared by a NOM Participant.

In the case where a Participant both executes a transaction and clears the transaction, the ORF is assessed to and collected from that Participant. In the case where a Participant executes a transaction and a different member clears the transaction, the ORF is assessed to and collected from the Participant who clears the transaction and not the Participant who executes the transaction. In the case where a non-member executes a transaction at an away market and a Participant clears the transaction, the ORF is assessed to and collected from the Participant who clears the transaction. In the case where a Participant executes a transaction on NOM and a non-member clears the transaction, the ORF is assessed to the Participant that executed the transaction on NOM and collected from the non-member who cleared the transaction. In the case where a Participant executes a transaction at an away market and a non-member clears the transaction, the ORF is not assessed to the Participant who executed the transaction or

collected from the non-member who cleared the transaction because the Exchange does not have access to the data to make absolutely certain that ORF should apply. Further, the data does not allow the Exchange to identify the Participant executing the trade at an away market.

### ORF Revenue and Monitoring of ORF

The Exchange monitors the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs. In determining whether an expense is considered a regulatory cost, the Exchange reviews all costs and makes determinations if there is a nexus between the expense and a regulatory function. The Exchange notes that fines collected by the Exchange in connection with a disciplinary matter offset ORF.

The ORF is designed to recover a material portion of the costs to the Exchange of the supervision and regulation of its members, including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, and policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities.

The Exchange believes that revenue generated from the ORF, when combined with all of the Exchange's other regulatory fees, will cover a material portion, but not all, of the Exchange's regulatory costs. The Exchange will continue to monitor the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs. If the Exchange determines regulatory revenues exceed regulatory costs, the Exchange will adjust the ORF by submitting a fee change filing to the Commission.

### **Proposal**

The Exchange proposes to increase the ORF from \$0.0008 to \$0.0020 per contract side as of February 1, 2019. In light of recent market volumes, the Exchange is proposing to increase the amount of ORF that will be collected by the Exchange. The proposal would allow the Exchange to increase the per contract amount of ORF in order to offset the Exchange anticipated regulatory costs. The Exchange proposes to add the following rule text to Options 7, Section 5, "NOM Participants will be assessed an Options Regulatory Fee of \$0.0020 per contract side as of February 1, 2019."

The Exchange regularly reviews its ORF to ensure that the ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs. The Exchange believes this adjustment will permit the Exchange to cover a material portion of its regulatory costs, while not exceeding regulatory costs.

The Exchange notified Participants via an Options Trader Alert of the proposed change to the ORF thirty (30) calendar days prior to the proposed operative date,

February 1, 2019.<sup>6</sup> The Exchange believes that the prior notification market participants will ensure market participants are prepared to configure their systems to account properly for the ORF.

Finally, the Exchange proposes to remove the following rule text from Options 7, Section 5, "NOM Participants are assessed an Options Regulatory Fee of \$0.0027 per contract side. NOM Participants will be assessed an Options Regulatory Fee of \$0.0008 per contract side as of August 1, 2018". This text is obsolete as it references prior ORF rates which were effective in the past.

<sup>6 &</sup>lt;u>See</u> Options Trader Alert #2018-46.

### b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>7</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>8</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 its facility and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes that increasing the ORF from \$0.0008 to \$0.0020 per contract side as of February 1, 2019 is reasonable because with this increase, the Exchange would recoup additional regulatory revenue to offset anticipated regulatory costs. The Exchange believes that the proposed adjustments noted herein will serve to balance the Exchange's regulatory revenue against the anticipated regulatory costs.

The Exchange believes that increasing the ORF from \$0.0008 to \$0.0020 per contract side as of February 1, 2019 is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because assessing the ORF to each Participant for options transactions cleared by OCC in the customer range where the execution occurs on another exchange and is cleared by a NOM Participant is an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members and issuers and other persons using its facilities. OCC collects the ORF on behalf of NOM from Exchange clearing members for all customer transactions they clear or from non-members for all customer transactions they clear that were executed on NOM. The Exchange believes the ORF ensures fairness by assessing fees to Participants based on the amount of customer options business they conduct. Regulating

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

customer trading activity is much more labor intensive and requires greater expenditure of human and technical resources than regulating non-customer trading activity, which tends to be more automated and less labor-intensive. As a result, the costs associated with administering the customer component of the Exchange's overall regulatory program are materially higher than the costs associated with administering the non-customer component (*e.g.*, Participant proprietary transactions) of its regulatory program.

The ORF is designed to recover a material portion of the costs of supervising and regulating Participants' customer options business including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, and policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities. The Exchange will monitor the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed the Exchange's total regulatory costs. The Exchange has designed the ORF to generate revenues that, when combined with all of the Exchange's other regulatory fees, will be less than or equal to the Exchange's regulatory costs, which is consistent with the Commission's view that regulatory fees be used for regulatory purposes and not to support the Exchange's business side.

# 4. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

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. This proposal does not create an unnecessary or inappropriate intra-market burden on competition because the ORF applies to all customer activity, thereby raising regulatory revenue to offset regulatory expenses. It also supplements the regulatory revenue derived from non-customer activity. This proposal does not create an

unnecessary or inappropriate inter-market burden on competition because it is a regulatory fee that supports regulation in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange is obligated to ensure that the amount of regulatory revenue collected from the ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs.

- 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.
- Extension of Time Period for Commission Action
   Not applicable.
- 7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,<sup>9</sup> NOM 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

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

The proposed rule change is not based on the rules of another self-regulatory organization or of the Commission.

- Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act Not applicable.
- 10. <u>Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act</u>

Not applicable.

### 11. Exhibits

- 1. Notice of proposed rule for publication in the Federal Register.
- 5. Text of the proposed rule change.

**EXHIBIT 1** 

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. ; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2019-006)

February \_\_\_, 2019

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend the Nasdaq Options Regulatory Fee

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 February 1, 2019, The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" 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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

The Exchange proposes to revise The Nasdaq Options Market LLC's Rules ("NOM") at Options 7, Section 5 to amend the Nasdaq Options Regulatory Fee or "ORF."

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Website at <a href="http://nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com/">http://nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com/</a>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

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

# II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> 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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u> <u>Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

# 1. <u>Purpose</u>

Currently, Nasdaq assesses an ORF of \$0.0008 per contract side. The Exchange proposes to increase this ORF to \$0.0020 per contract side as of February 1, 2019. In light of recent market volumes, the Exchange is proposing to increase the amount of ORF that will be collected by the Exchange. The proposal would allow the Exchange to increase the per contract amount of ORF in order to offset the Exchange anticipated regulatory costs. The Exchange's proposed change to the ORF should balance the Exchange's regulatory revenue against the anticipated regulatory costs. The Exchange also proposes to delete obsolete language in the rule text as described herein.

### Collection of ORF

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Participants must record the appropriate account origin code on all orders at the time of entry in order. The Exchange represents that it has surveillances in place to verify that members mark orders with the correct account origin code.

was executed by a non-member of NOM, regardless of the exchange on which the transaction occurs.<sup>4</sup> If the OCC clearing member is a NOM Participant, ORF is assessed and collected on all cleared customer contracts (after adjustment for CMTA<sup>5</sup>); and (2) if the OCC clearing member is not a NOM Participant, ORF is collected only on the cleared customer contracts executed at NOM, taking into account any CMTA instructions which may result in collecting the ORF from a non-member.

By way of example, if Broker A, a NOM Participant, routes a customer order to CBOE and the transaction executes on CBOE and clears in Broker A's OCC Clearing account, ORF will be collected by NOM from Broker A's clearing account at OCC via direct debit. While this transaction was executed on a market other than NOM, it was cleared by a NOM Participant in the member's OCC clearing account in the customer range, therefore there is a regulatory nexus between NOM and the transaction. If Broker A was not a NOM Participant, then no ORF should be assessed and collected because there is no nexus; the transaction did not execute on NOM nor was it cleared by a NOM Participant.

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The Exchange uses reports from OCC when assessing and collecting the ORF.

<sup>5</sup> CMTA or Clearing Member Trade Assignment is a form of "give-up" whereby the position will be assigned to a specific clearing firm at OCC.

assessed to and collected from the Participant who clears the transaction. In the case where a Participant executes a transaction on NOM and a non-member clears the transaction, the ORF is assessed to the Participant that executed the transaction on NOM and collected from the non-member who cleared the transaction. In the case where a Participant executes a transaction at an away market and a non-member clears the transaction, the ORF is not assessed to the Participant who executed the transaction or collected from the non-member who cleared the transaction because the Exchange does not have access to the data to make absolutely certain that ORF should apply. Further, the data does not allow the Exchange to identify the Participant executing the trade at an away market.

### ORF Revenue and Monitoring of ORF

The Exchange monitors the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs. In determining whether an expense is considered a regulatory cost, the Exchange reviews all costs and makes determinations if there is a nexus between the expense and a regulatory function. The Exchange notes that fines collected by the Exchange in connection with a disciplinary matter offset ORF.

The ORF is designed to recover a material portion of the costs to the Exchange of the supervision and regulation of its members, including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, and policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities.

The Exchange believes that revenue generated from the ORF, when combined with all of the Exchange's other regulatory fees, will cover a material portion, but not all, of the Exchange's regulatory costs. The Exchange will continue to monitor the amount

of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs. If the Exchange determines regulatory revenues exceed regulatory costs, the Exchange will adjust the ORF by submitting a fee change filing to the Commission.

### **Proposal**

The Exchange proposes to increase the ORF from \$0.0008 to \$0.0020 per contract side as of February 1, 2019. In light of recent market volumes, the Exchange is proposing to increase the amount of ORF that will be collected by the Exchange. The proposal would allow the Exchange to increase the per contract amount of ORF in order to offset the Exchange anticipated regulatory costs. The Exchange proposes to add the following rule text to Options 7, Section 5, "NOM Participants will be assessed an Options Regulatory Fee of \$0.0020 per contract side as of February 1, 2019."

The Exchange regularly reviews its ORF to ensure that the ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs. The Exchange believes this adjustment will permit the Exchange to cover a material portion of its regulatory costs, while not exceeding regulatory costs.

The Exchange notified Participants via an Options Trader Alert of the proposed change to the ORF thirty (30) calendar days prior to the proposed operative date,

February 1, 2019.<sup>6</sup> The Exchange believes that the prior notification market participants will ensure market participants are prepared to configure their systems to account properly for the ORF.

See Options Trader Alert #2018-46.

Finally, the Exchange proposes to remove the following rule text from Options 7, Section 5, "NOM Participants are assessed an Options Regulatory Fee of \$0.0027 per contract side. NOM Participants will be assessed an Options Regulatory Fee of \$0.0008 per contract side as of August 1, 2018". This text is obsolete as it references prior ORF rates which were effective in the past.

### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>7</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>8</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 its facility and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes that increasing the ORF from \$0.0008 to \$0.0020 per contract side as of February 1, 2019 is reasonable because with this increase, the Exchange would recoup additional regulatory revenue to offset anticipated regulatory costs. The Exchange believes that the proposed adjustments noted herein will serve to balance the Exchange's regulatory revenue against the anticipated regulatory costs.

The Exchange believes that increasing the ORF from \$0.0008 to \$0.0020 per contract side as of February 1, 2019 is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because assessing the ORF to each Participant for options transactions cleared by OCC in the customer range where the execution occurs on another exchange and is cleared by a NOM Participant is an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

among its members and issuers and other persons using its facilities. OCC collects the ORF on behalf of NOM from Exchange clearing members for all customer transactions they clear or from non-members for all customer transactions they clear that were executed on NOM. The Exchange believes the ORF ensures fairness by assessing fees to Participants based on the amount of customer options business they conduct. Regulating customer trading activity is much more labor intensive and requires greater expenditure of human and technical resources than regulating non-customer trading activity, which tends to be more automated and less labor-intensive. As a result, the costs associated with administering the customer component of the Exchange's overall regulatory program are materially higher than the costs associated with administering the non-customer component (e.g., Participant proprietary transactions) of its regulatory program.

The ORF is designed to recover a material portion of the costs of supervising and regulating Participants' customer options business including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, and policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities. The Exchange will monitor the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed the Exchange's total regulatory costs. The Exchange has designed the ORF to generate revenues that, when combined with all of the Exchange's other regulatory fees, will be less than or equal to the Exchange's regulatory costs, which is consistent with the Commission's view that regulatory fees be used for regulatory purposes and not to support the Exchange's business side.

### 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. This proposal does not create an unnecessary or inappropriate intra-market burden on competition because the ORF applies to all customer activity, thereby raising regulatory revenue to offset regulatory expenses. It also supplements the regulatory revenue derived from non-customer activity. This proposal does not create an unnecessary or inappropriate inter-market burden on competition because it is a regulatory fee that supports regulation in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange is obligated to ensure that the amount of regulatory revenue collected from the ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs.

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

No written comments were either solicited or received.

III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action</u>

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.<sup>9</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.

<sup>9 15</sup> 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 <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2019-006 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-NASDAQ-2019-006. 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 (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>).

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-NASDAQ-2019-006 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.  $^{10}$ 

Eduardo A. Aleman Assistant Secretary

<sup>10</sup> 

**EXHIBIT 5** 

New text is underlined; deleted text is in brackets.

The Nasdaq Stock Market Rules

\* \* \* \* \*

**Options Rules** 

\* \* \* \* \*

**Options 7 Pricing Schedule** 

\* \* \* \* \*

### Section 5 Nasdaq Options Regulatory Fee

[NOM Participants are assessed an Options Regulatory Fee of \$0.0027 per contract side. NOM Participants will be assessed an Options Regulatory Fee of \$0.0008 per contract side as of August 1, 2018]

NOM Participants will be assessed an Options Regulatory Fee of \$0.0020 per contract side as of February 1, 2019.

The Options Regulatory Fee ("ORF") is assessed by NOM to each NOM Participant for options transactions cleared by OCC in the Customer range where: (1) the execution occurs on NOM or (2) the execution occurs on another exchange and is cleared by a NOM Participant. The ORF is collected by OCC on behalf of NOM from (1) NOM clearing members for all Customer transactions they clear or (2) non-members for all Customer transactions they clear that were executed on NOM. NOM uses reports from OCC when assessing and collecting ORF. The Exchange will notify Participants via an Options Trader Alert of any change in the amount of the fee at least 30 calendar days prior to the effective date of the change.

NOM Participants who do not transact an equities business on The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC in a calendar year will receive a refund of the fees specified in Equity 7, Section 30(b) upon written notification to the Exchange along with documentation evidencing that no equities business was conducted on The Nasdaq Stock Market for that calendar year. The Exchange will accept refund requests up until sixty (60) days after the end of the calendar year.

\* \* \* \* \*