

*C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others*

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

**III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action**

The foregoing rule change is effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)<sup>24</sup> of the Act and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4<sup>25</sup> thereunder, because it establishes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings under Section 19(b)(2)(B)<sup>26</sup> of the Act to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

**IV. Solicitation of Comments**

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

*Electronic Comments*

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-NYSEARCA-2021-70 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-NYSEARCA-2021-70. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's

internet website (<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. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEARCA-2021-70, and should be submitted on or before September 8, 2021.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>27</sup>

**J. Matthew DeLesDernier,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34-92655; File No. SR-Phlx-2021-43]

**Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq PHLX LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change To Permit Monday and Wednesday Expirations for Options Listed Pursuant to the Short Term Option Series Program on the iShares Russell 2000 ETF ("IWM")**

August 12, 2021.

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 August 6, 2021, Nasdaq PHLX LLC ("Phlx" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("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 permit Monday and Wednesday expirations for options listed pursuant to the Short Term Option Series Program on the iShares Russell 2000 ETF.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at <https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/phlx/rules>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

**II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change**

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend Phlx Options 4, Section 5 at Supplementary Material .03 to permit Monday and Wednesday expirations for options listed pursuant to the Short Term Option Series Program ("Program") on the iShares Russell 2000 ETF ("IWM").

A Short Term Option Series means a series in an option class that is approved for listing and trading on the Exchange in which the series is opened for trading on any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday that is a business day and that expires on the Monday, Wednesday or Friday of the next business week, or, in the case of a series that is listed on a Friday and expires on a Monday, is listed one business week and one business day prior to that expiration.<sup>3</sup> The Exchange

<sup>24</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>25</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

<sup>26</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

<sup>27</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Options 1, Section 1(b)(53) provides the term "Short Term Option Series" a series in an option class that is approved for listing and trading on the Exchange in which the series is opened for trading

proposes to amend Phlx Options 4, Section 5 at Supplementary Material .03 to permit the listing of options series that expire on Mondays and Wednesdays in IWM.

#### Monday Expirations

As proposed, with respect to Monday IWM Expirations within Supplementary Material .03 to Options 4, Section 5, the Exchange may open for trading on any Friday or Monday that is a business day series of options on IWM to expire on any Monday of the month that is a business day and is not a Monday in which Quarterly Options Series on the same class expire ("Monday IWM Expirations"), provided that Monday IWM Expirations that are listed on a Friday must be listed at least one business week and one business day prior to the expiration. The Exchange may list up to five consecutive Monday IWM Expirations at one time; the Exchange may have no more than a total of five Monday IWM Expirations.

#### Wednesday Expirations

As proposed, with respect to Wednesday IWM Expirations within Supplementary Material .03 to Options 4, Section 5, the Exchange may open for trading on any Tuesday or Wednesday that is a business day series of options on IWM to expire on any Wednesday of the month that is a business day and is not a Wednesday in which Quarterly Options Series on the same class expire ("Wednesday IWM Expirations"). The Exchange may list up to five consecutive Wednesday IWM Expirations at one time; the Exchange may have no more than a total of five Wednesday IWM Expirations and a total of five Wednesday IWM Expirations will be subject to the provisions of this Rule.

#### Monday and Wednesday Expirations

The interval between strike prices for the proposed Monday and Wednesday IWM Expirations will be the same as those for the current Short Term Option Series for Wednesday and Friday

on any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday that is a business day and that expires on the Monday, Wednesday or Friday of the next business week, or, in the case of a series that is listed on a Friday and expires on a Monday, is listed one business week and one business day prior to that expiration. If a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday is not a business day, the series may be opened (or shall expire) on the first business day immediately prior to that Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, respectively. For a series listed pursuant to this section for Monday expiration, if a Monday is not a business day, the series shall expire on the first business day immediately following that Monday.

expirations applicable to the Program.<sup>4</sup> Specifically, the Monday and Wednesday IWM Expirations will have a \$0.50 strike interval minimum.<sup>5</sup> As is the case with other equity options series listed pursuant to the Program, the Monday and Wednesday IWM Expiration series will be P.M.-settled.

Pursuant to Options 1, Section 1(b)(53), with respect to the Program, if Monday is not a business day the series shall expire on the first business day immediately following that Monday. This procedure differs from the expiration date of Wednesday expiration series that are scheduled to expire on a holiday. Pursuant to Options 1, Section 1(b)(53) a Wednesday expiration series shall expire on the first business day immediately prior to that Wednesday, e.g., Tuesday of that week, if the Wednesday is not a business day. For purposes of IWM, however, the Exchange believes that it is preferable to require Monday expiration series in this scenario to expire on the Tuesday of that week rather than the previous business day, e.g., the previous Friday, since the Tuesday is closer in time to the scheduled expiration date of the series than the previous Friday, and therefore may be more representative of anticipated market conditions. Monday SPY and QQQ expirations<sup>6</sup> are treated in this manner today. Cboe Exchange, Inc. ("Cboe") uses the same procedure for options on the S&P 500 index ("SPX"), Mini-SPX Index Options ("XSP"), Russell 2000 Index ("RUT") and Mini-Russell 200 Index Options ("MRUT") and with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program and that are scheduled to expire on a holiday.<sup>7</sup> Also, Phlx<sup>8</sup> and Nasdaq ISE, LLC ("ISE")<sup>9</sup> use the same procedure for options on the Nasdaq-100® ("NDX") with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Programs, respectively.

Currently, for each option class eligible for participation in the Program, the Exchange is limited to opening thirty (30) series for each expiration date

<sup>4</sup> See Supplementary Material .03(e) to Options 4, Section 5.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> See Supplementary Material .03(e) at Options 4, Section 5.

<sup>7</sup> See Cboe Rule 4.13(e)(1) ". . . If the Exchange is not open for business on a respective Monday, the normally Monday expiring Weekly Expirations will expire on the following business day. If the Exchange is not open for business on a respective Wednesday or Friday, the normally Wednesday or Friday expiring Weekly Expirations will expire on the previous business day."

<sup>8</sup> See Phlx Options 4A, Section 12(b)(5).

<sup>9</sup> See ISE Supplementary Material .07 to Options 4A, Section 12.

for the specific class.<sup>10</sup> The thirty (30) series restriction does not include series that are open by other securities exchanges under their respective short term option rules; the Exchange may list these additional series that are listed by other exchanges.<sup>11</sup> This thirty (30) series restriction would apply to Monday and Wednesday IWM Expiration series as well. In addition, the Exchange will be able to list series that are listed by other exchanges, assuming they file similar rules with the Commission to list IWM options expiring on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Finally, the Exchange is amending Supplementary Material .03(b) to Options 4, Section 5, which addresses the listing of Short Term Options Series that expire in the same week as monthly or quarterly options series. Currently, that rule states that no Short Term Option Series may expire in the same week in which monthly option series on the same class expire (with the exception of Monday and Wednesday SPY and QQQ Expirations) or, in the case of Quarterly Options Series, on an expiration that coincides with an expiration of Quarterly Option Series on the same class.<sup>12</sup> As with Monday and Wednesday SPY and QQQ Expirations, the Exchange proposes to permit Monday and Wednesday IWM Expirations to expire in the same week as monthly options series on the same class. The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to extend this exemption to Monday and Wednesday IWM Expirations because Monday and Wednesday IWM Expirations and standard monthly options will not expire on the same trading day, as standard monthly options expire on Fridays. Additionally, the Exchange believes that not listing Monday and Wednesday IWM Expirations for one week every month because there was a monthly IWM expiration on the Friday of that week would create investor confusion.

The Exchange does not believe that any market disruptions will be encountered with the introduction of P.M.-settled Monday and Wednesday IWM expirations. The Exchange has the necessary capacity and surveillance programs in place to support and properly monitor trading in the proposed Monday and Wednesday IWM Expirations. The Exchange currently trades P.M.-settled Short Term Option Series that expire Monday and

<sup>10</sup> See Supplementary Material .03(a) to Options 4, Section 5.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> See current Supplementary Material .03(b) to Options 4, Section 5.

Wednesday for SPY and QQQ and has not experienced any market disruptions nor issues with capacity. Today, the Exchange has surveillance programs in place to support and properly monitor trading in Short Term Option Series that expire Monday and Wednesday for SPY and QQQ.

Similar to SPY and QQQ, the introduction of IWM Monday and Wednesday expirations will, among other things, expand hedging tools available to market participants and continue the reduction of the premium cost of buying protection. The Exchange believes that Monday and Wednesday IWM expirations will allow market participants to purchase IWM based on their timing as needed and allow them to tailor their investment and hedging needs more effectively.

Finally, the Exchange proposes to amend the “:” to a “.” after the title “Short Term Options Series Program” within Supplementary Material .03 to Options 3, Section 5.

#### Implementation

The Exchange intends to begin implementation of the proposed rule change prior to November 1, 2021. The Exchange will issue an Options Trader Alert to Participants with the date of implementation.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>13</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>14</sup> in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general to protect investors and the public interest by providing the investing public and other market participants more flexibility to closely tailor their investment and hedging decisions in IWM options, thus allowing them to better manage their risk exposure.

In particular, the Exchange believes the Program has been successful to date and that Monday and Wednesday IWM Expirations should simply expand the ability of investors to hedge risk against market movements stemming from economic releases or market events that occur throughout the month in the same way that the Program has expanded the landscape of hedging. Similarly, the Exchange believes Monday and Wednesday IWM Expirations should

create greater trading and hedging opportunities, as well as flexibility that will provide customers with the ability to tailor their investment objectives more effectively.

Phlx currently lists Monday and Wednesday SPY and QQQ Expirations.<sup>15</sup> Also, Cboe<sup>16</sup> currently permits Monday and Wednesday expirations for other options with a weekly expiration, such as options on the SPX, XSP, RUT and MRUT pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program. Phlx<sup>17</sup> and ISE<sup>18</sup> currently permit Monday and Wednesday expirations for other options with a weekly expiration on NDX pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Programs, respectively.

With the exception of Monday expiration series that are scheduled to expire on a holiday, there are no material differences in the treatment of Monday and Wednesday IWM expirations for Short Term Option Series. The Exchange believes that it is consistent with the Act to treat Monday expiration series that expire on a holiday differently than Wednesday or Friday expiration series, since the proposed treatment for Monday expiration series will result in an expiration date that is closer in time to the scheduled expiration date of the series, and therefore may be more representative of anticipated market conditions. Monday SPY and QQQ expirations are treated in this manner today.<sup>19</sup> Cboe<sup>20</sup> uses the same procedure for SPX, XSP, RUT and MRUT options with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program and that are scheduled to expire on a holiday, as do Phlx<sup>21</sup> and ISE<sup>22</sup> for NDX options with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to their Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Programs, respectively.

Given the similarities between Monday and Wednesday SPY and QQQ Expirations and the proposed Monday and Wednesday IWM Expirations, the Exchange believes that applying the provisions in Supplementary Material .03 to Options 4, Section 5, which currently apply to Monday and Wednesday SPY and QQQ Expirations, to Monday and Wednesday IWM

<sup>15</sup> See Supplementary Material .03 at Options 4, Section 5.

<sup>16</sup> See note 7 above.

<sup>17</sup> See note 8 above.

<sup>18</sup> See note 9 above.

<sup>19</sup> See Supplementary Material .03 at Options 4, Section 5.

<sup>20</sup> See note 7 above.

<sup>21</sup> See note 8 above.

<sup>22</sup> See note 9 above.

Expirations is justified. For example, the Exchange believes that allowing Monday and Wednesday IWM Expirations and monthly IWM expirations in the same week will benefit investors and minimize investor confusion by providing Monday and Wednesday IWM Expirations in a continuous and uniform manner. The Exchange also believes that is appropriate to amend Supplementary Material .03(b) to Options 4, Section 5 to clarify that no Short Term Option Series may expire on the same day as an expiration of Quarterly Option Series on the same class, same as SPY and QQQ.

The Exchange represents that it has an adequate surveillance program in place to detect manipulative trading in Monday and Wednesday expirations, including Monday and Wednesday IWM Expirations, in the same way that it monitors trading in the current Short Term Option Series and trading in Monday and Wednesday SPY and QQQ Expirations. The Exchange also represents that it has the necessary systems capacity to support the new options series. Finally, the Exchange does not believe that any market disruptions will be encountered with the introduction of Monday and Wednesday IWM expirations.

The Exchange's proposal to amend the “:” to a “.” after the title “Short Term Options Series Program” within Supplementary Material .03 to Options 3, Section 5 is a non-substantive technical amendment.

#### 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 that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange notes that having Monday and Wednesday IWM expirations is not a novel proposal, as Monday and Wednesday SPY and QQQ Expirations are currently listed on Phlx.<sup>23</sup> Cboe<sup>24</sup> uses the same procedure for SPX, XSP, RUT and MRUT options with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program and that are scheduled to expire on a holiday, as do Phlx<sup>25</sup> and ISE<sup>26</sup> for NDX options with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to their Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Programs, respectively.

The Exchange does not believe the proposal will impose any burden on

<sup>23</sup> See note 8 above.

<sup>24</sup> See note 7 above.

<sup>25</sup> See note 8 above.

<sup>26</sup> See note 9 above.

<sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

intra-market competition, as all market participants will be treated in the same manner under this proposal.

Additionally, the Exchange does not believe the proposal will impose any burden on inter-market competition, as nothing prevents the other options exchanges from proposing similar rules to list and trade Short-Term Option Series with Monday and Wednesday expirations.

*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**

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the Exchange consents, the Commission shall: (a) By order approve or disapprove such proposed rule change, or (b) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

**IV. Solicitation of Comments**

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

*Electronic Comments*

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-Phlx-2021-43 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-Phlx-2021-43. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<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. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2021-43 and should be submitted on or before September 8, 2021.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>27</sup>

**J. Matthew DeLesDernier,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2021-17672 Filed 8-17-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

**SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**

**[Docket No: SSA-2021-0029]**

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request**

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages requiring clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Public Law 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, effective October 1, 1995. This notice includes revisions to an OMB-approved information collection.

SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility, and clarity; and ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Mail, email, or fax your comments and recommendations on the information

collection(s) to the OMB Desk Officer and SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the following addresses or fax numbers. (OMB) Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA

Comments: <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Submit your comments online referencing Docket ID Number [SSA-2021-0029].

(SSA) Social Security Administration, OLCA, Attn: Reports Clearance Director, 3100 West High Rise, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235, Fax: 410-966-2830, Email address: [OR.Reports.Clearance@ssa.gov](mailto:OR.Reports.Clearance@ssa.gov)

Or you may submit your comments online through <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>, referencing Docket ID Number [SSA-2021-0029].

The information collections below are pending at SSA. SSA will submit them to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. To be sure we consider your comments, we must receive them no later than October 18, 2021. Individuals can obtain copies of the collection instruments by writing to the above email address.

*Continuing Disability Review Report—20 CFR 404.1589 & 416.989-0960-0072.* Sections 221(i), 1614(a)(3)(H)(ii)(I) and 1633(c)(1) of the Social Security Act (Act) require SSA to periodically review the cases of individuals who receive benefits under Title II or Title XVI based on disability to determine if their disability continues. SSA considers adults eligible for disability payments if they continue to be unable to perform substantial gainful activity because of their impairments, and we consider Title XVI children eligible for disability payment if they have marked and severe functional limitations because of their impairments. To assess claimants' ongoing disability payment eligibility, SSA requires disability recipients (or their representatives acting on their behalf) to undergo a continuing disability review (CDR). SSA uses the Continuing Disability Review Report to obtain information on disability recipients' disability; on their sources of medical treatment; on their participation in vocational rehabilitation programs (if any); on attempts to work (if any); and on recipients' assessments when they believe their conditions improved.

Title II or Title XVI disability recipients can complete the Continuing Disability Review Report using one of three modalities: (1) A paper application or fillable PDF (using Form SSA-454-BK), which SSA mails to recipients or their representatives; (2) a field office interview, during which SSA employees enter recipient data directly into SSA's

<sup>27</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).