

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Filing by Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc.
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

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|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Initial * | Amendment * | Withdrawal | Section 19(b)(2) * | Section 19(b)(3)(A) * | Section 19(b)(3)(B) * |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | Rule | | |
| Pilot | Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * | Date Expires * | <input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1) | <input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> | <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) | |

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| 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) * | Section 806(e)(2) * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Section 3C(b)(2) * |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

Description

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

he Exchange proposes to amend its fees schedule.

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 * Sarah Last Name * Tadtman

Title * Counsel

E-mail * stadtman@cboe.com

Telephone * (913) 815-7203 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 04/01/2020 Vice President, Associate General Counsel

By Kyle Murray

(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 EFFF website.

Form 19b-4 Information *

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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 *

Add Remove View

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

Add Remove View

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

Add Remove View

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.

Item 1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “EDGX” or “EDGX Equities”) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) a proposed rule change to amend its fee schedule. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit 5.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

Item 2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

(a) The Exchange’s President (or designee) pursuant to delegated authority approved the proposed rule change on March 31, 2020.

(b) Please refer questions and comments on the proposed rule change to Pat Sexton, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary, (312) 786-7467, or Sarah Tadtman, Counsel, (913) 815-7203.

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

(a) Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its fee schedule to add an additional Retail Volume Tier. Additionally, the Exchange proposes to eliminate fee code “PR”³ from the Standard Rates table as all other references to fee code PR were removed from the

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ Prior to February 3, 2020, fee code PR represented orders that removed liquidity from EDGX using the ROUQ routing strategy.

Exchange's fee schedule on February 3, 2020.⁴ The Exchange proposes to implement the proposed changes to its fee schedule on April 1, 2020.

The Exchange first notes that it operates in a highly-competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive or incentives to be insufficient. More specifically, the Exchange is only one of 13 registered and operational equities exchanges, as well as a number of alternative trading systems and other off-exchange venues that do not have similar self-regulatory responsibilities under the Exchange Act, to which market participants may direct their order flow. Based on publicly available information,⁵ no single registered equities exchange has more than 20% of the market share. Thus, in such a low-concentrated and highly competitive market, no single equities exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of order flow.

The Exchange operates a "Maker-Taker" model whereby it pays credits to Members that add liquidity and assesses fees to those that remove liquidity. The Exchange's fee schedule sets forth the standard rebates and fees applied per share for orders that provide and remove liquidity, respectively. Particularly, for securities at or above \$1.00, the Exchange provides a standard rebate of \$0.00170 per share for orders that add liquidity and assesses a fee of \$0.00270 per share for orders that remove liquidity. The Exchange believes that the ever-shifting market share among the exchanges from month to month demonstrates that market participants can shift order flow, or

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 88154 (February 7, 2020) 85 FR 8327 (February 13, 2020) (SR-CboeEDGX-2020-006).

⁵ See Cboe Global Markets, U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary (March 26, 2020), available at https://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/market_statistics/. This market share percentage is based on a Month-to-Date volume summary.

discontinue or reduce use of certain categories of products, in response to fee changes. Accordingly, competitive forces constrain the Exchange's transaction fees, and market participants can readily trade on competing venues if they deem pricing levels at those other venues to be more favorable.

In response to the competitive environment, the Exchange offers tiered pricing that provides Members opportunities to qualify for higher rebates or reduced fees where certain volume criteria and thresholds are met. Tiered pricing provides incremental incentives for Members to strive for higher or different tier levels by offering increasingly higher discounts or enhanced benefits for satisfying increasingly more stringent criteria or different criteria. For example, pursuant to footnote 3 of the fee schedule, the Exchange currently offers a Retail Volume Tier that provides Members with an enhanced rebate of \$0.0037 for liquidity adding orders that yield fee code "ZA",⁶ which generally has a rebate of \$0.00320. To qualify for the Retail Volume Tier, a Member must add retail order ADV⁷ (i.e., yielding fee code ZA) of greater than or equal to 0.50% of the TCV.⁸ Therefore, the Retail Volume Tier is designed to encourage Members that provide liquidity adding retail orders on the Exchange to increase their order flow, thereby contributing to a deeper and more liquid market to the benefit of all market participants.

⁶ Fee code "ZA" is associated with retail orders that remove liquidity.

⁷ "Average Daily Volume" or "ADV" means average daily volume calculated as the number of shares added to, removed from, or routed by, the Exchange, or any combination or subset thereof, per day. ADV is calculated on a monthly basis.

⁸ "Total Consolidated Volume" or "TCV" means consolidated volume calculated as the volume reported by all exchanges and trade reporting facilities to a consolidated transaction reporting plan for the month for which the fees apply.

The Exchange now proposes to add an additional Retail Volume Tier, Tier 1, and to rename the existing Retail Volume Tier to Tier 2. Proposed Tier 1 would provide an enhanced rebate of \$0.0034 for liquidity adding orders that yield fee code “ZA”. To qualify for proposed Tier 1, a Member must 1) have retail Step-Up Add TCV⁹ from February 2020 of equal to or greater than 0.05%, and 2) add retail order ADV (i.e., yielding fee code ZA) of equal to or greater than 0.20% of the TCV. In contrast to the existing Retail Volume Tier, under the proposed Tier 1 Members must satisfy a lower retail order ADV as a percentage of TCV and must also satisfy the Step-Up Add TCV threshold, which is designed to encourage growth (i.e., Members must increase their relative liquidity each month over a predetermined baseline (in this case the month being February 2020)). Overall, the proposed criteria are designed to encourage Members to increase their order flow, thereby contributing to a deeper and more liquid market, which benefits all market participants and provides greater execution opportunities on the Exchange. The Exchange believes that this benefits all Members by enhancing overall market quality and contributing towards a robust and well-balanced market ecosystem. The Exchange notes that the proposed tier is available to all Retail Member Organizations (“RMOs”) and is competitively achievable for all RMOs that submit liquidity adding retail order flow, in that, all firms that submit the requisite liquidity adding retail order flow could compete to meet the tier.

Additionally, the Exchange proposes to eliminate fee code “PR” from the Standard Rates table of the Exchange’s fee schedule. The PR fee code was eliminated in

⁹ “Step-Up Add TCV” means Average Daily Add Volume (“ADAV”) as a percentage of TCB in the relevant baseline month subtracted from current ADAV as a percentage of TCV.

all other places from the Exchange's fee schedule effective February 2, 2020;¹⁰ however, fee code PR was inadvertently not removed from the Standard Rates table. As such, the Exchange is now seeking to eliminate fee code PR from the Standard Rates table.

(b) Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6 of the Act,¹¹ in general, and furthers the requirements of Section 6(b)(4),¹² in particular, as it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its facilities and does not unfairly discriminate between customers, issuers, brokers or dealers. The Exchange operates in a highly-competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive or incentives to be insufficient.

In particular, The Exchange believes the proposed amendment to add an additional Retail Volume Tier is reasonable because it provides an additional opportunity for Members to receive an enhanced rebate by means of liquidity-adding retail orders. The Exchange notes that relative volume-based incentives and discounts have been widely adopted by other exchanges,¹³ and are reasonable, equitable and non-discriminatory because they are open to all Members on an equal basis and provide additional benefits or discounts that are reasonably related to (i) the value of an exchange's market quality, and (ii) associated higher levels of market activity, such as higher levels of liquidity provision and/or growth patterns.

¹⁰ See supra note 3.

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

¹³ See Nasdaq, Price List, Rebate to Add Displayed Designated Retail Liquidity.

Competing equity exchanges offer similar tiered pricing structures to that of the Exchange, including schedules of rebates and fees that apply based upon Members achieving certain volume and/or growth thresholds. These competing pricing schedules, moreover, are presently comparable to those that the Exchange provides, including the pricing of comparable tiers.¹⁴

Moreover, the Exchange believes the proposed Retail Volume Tier is a reasonable means to encourage Members to grow their overall liquidity adding retail order flow to the Exchange based on increasing their daily total added retail order ADV above a percentage of the TCV. Particularly, the Exchange believes that adopting an additional Retail Volume Tier based on a Member's liquidity adding retail orders will encourage retail order liquidity providing Members to provide for a deeper, more liquid market, and, as a result, increased execution opportunities at improved price levels and, thus, overall order flow. The Exchange believes that these increases will benefit all Members by contributing towards a robust and well-balanced market ecosystem. Increased overall order flow benefits all investors by deepening the Exchange's liquidity pool, providing greater execution incentives and opportunities, offering additional flexibility for all investors to enjoy cost savings, supporting the quality of price discovery, promoting market transparency and improving investor protection. The proposed enhanced rebate per share amount also does not represent a significant departure from the rebates currently offered, or required criteria, under the Exchange's existing Retail Volume Tier. For example, the rebate provided under the existing Retail Volume Tier, for which, as stated, a Member must have a daily volume add retail order ADV of 0.50% or greater

¹⁴ See Id. Nasdaq offer rebates ranging from \$0.00325 up to \$0.0033 for Add Displayed Designated Retail Liquidity.

than the TCV, is \$0.0037 per share. In other words, under this tier, Members receive an enhanced rebate from the standard \$0.0032 rebate for orders yielding fee code “ZA”. Therefore, the proposed enhanced rebate under Tier 1 (\$0.0034) is comparable to the enhanced rebate currently offered under the Retail Volume Tier.

The Exchange believes that the proposal represents an equitable allocation of fees and is not unfairly discriminatory because all RMOs are eligible for the proposed Retail Volume Tier, and would have the opportunity to meet the proposed Tier 1 criteria and receive the proposed enhanced rebate if such criteria is met. The proposed tier is designed as an incentive to any and all RMOs interested in meeting the tier criteria to submit additional liquidity adding retail order flow to achieve the proposed discount. Without having a view of activity on other markets and off-exchange venues, the Exchange has no way of knowing whether this proposed rule change would definitely result in any RMOs qualifying for this tier. While the proposed tier is only applicable to RMOs, the Exchange does not believe it is discriminatory as the Exchange offers similar rebates to non-RMO order flow.¹⁵ While the Exchange has no way of predicting with certainty how the proposed tier will impact RMO activity, the Exchange anticipates that at up to three RMOs will be able to compete for and reach the proposed tier. The Exchange also notes that the proposed tier will not adversely impact any RMO’s pricing or their ability to qualify for other rebate tiers. Rather, should a RMO not meet the proposed criteria, the Member will merely not receive an enhanced rebate. Furthermore, the proposed fee would uniformly apply to all RMOs that meet the required criteria under the proposed Retail Volume Tier.

¹⁵ See e.g., the Add Volume Tiers in the Exchange’s Fee Schedule which provides an enhanced rebate to all Members that add liquidity meeting certain criteria.

Item 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 that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Rather, as discussed above, the Exchange believes that the proposed addition of another Retail Volume Tier would encourage the submission of additional liquidity adding retail order flow to a public exchange, thereby promoting market depth, execution incentives and enhanced execution opportunities, as well as price discovery and transparency for all Members. As a result, the Exchange believes that the proposed change furthers the Commission's goal in adopting Regulation NMS of fostering competition among orders, which promotes "more efficient pricing of individual stocks for all types of orders, large and small."¹⁶

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change does not impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Particularly, the proposed Retail Volume Tier change applies to all RMOs equally in that all RMOs are eligible for the proposed tier, have a reasonable opportunity to meet the tier's criteria and will all receive the enhanced rebate if such criteria is met. Additionally the proposed change is designed to attract additional order flow to the Exchange. The Exchange believes that the modified tier criteria would incentivize market participants to direct liquidity adding retail orders and, as a result, executable order flow and improved price transparency, to the Exchange. Greater overall order flow and pricing transparency benefits all market participants on the Exchange by providing more trading opportunities, enhancing market quality, and continuing to

¹⁶ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808, 70 FR 37495, 37498-99 (June 29, 2005) (S7-10-04) (Final Rule).

encourage Members to send orders, thereby contributing towards a robust and well-balanced market ecosystem, which benefits all market participants.

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change does not impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purpose of the Act. As previously discussed, the Exchange operates in a highly competitive market. Members have numerous alternative venues that they may participate on and direct their order flow, including 12 other equities exchanges, and off-exchange venues and alternative trading systems. Additionally, the Exchange represents a small percentage of the overall market. Based on publicly available information, no single equities exchange has more than 20% of the market share.¹⁷ Therefore, no exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of order flow. Indeed, participants can readily choose to send their orders to other exchange and off-exchange venues if they deem fee levels at those other venues to be more favorable. Moreover, the Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. Specifically, in Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system “has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”¹⁸ The fact that this market is competitive has also long been recognized by the courts. In *NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission*, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: “[n]o one

¹⁷ See *supra* note 4.

¹⁸ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005).

disputes that competition for order flow is ‘fierce.’ ... As the SEC explained, ‘[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution’; [and] ‘no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted’ because ‘no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’¹⁹ Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe its proposed fee change imposes any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Item 5. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

Item 6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

Not applicable.

Item 7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) or Section 19(b)(7)(D)

(a) The proposed rule change is filed for immediate effectiveness pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act²⁰ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)²¹ thereunder.

(b) The Exchange designates that the proposed rule change establishes or changes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the

¹⁹ NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525, 539 (D.C. Cir. 2010) (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

²⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

²¹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

“Commission”). At any time within 60 days of the filing of this 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 will institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Not applicable.

Item 8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission

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

Item 9. Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act

Not applicable.

Item 10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

Item 11. Exhibits

Exhibit 1. Completed Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the Federal Register.

Exhibit 5. Proposed rule text.

EXHIBIT 1**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-CboeEDGX-2020-015]

[Insert date]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Amend its Fee Schedule

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on [insert date], Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “EDGX”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “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

Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “EDGX” or “EDGX Equities”) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) a proposed rule change to amend its fee schedule. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange’s website (http://markets.cboe.com/us/options/regulation/rule_filings/edgx/), at the Exchange’s Office of the Secretary, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

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

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its fee schedule to add an additional Retail Volume Tier. Additionally, the Exchange proposes to eliminate fee code "PR"³ from the Standard Rates table as all other references to fee code PR were removed from the Exchange's fee schedule on February 3, 2020.⁴ The Exchange proposes to implement the proposed changes to its fee schedule on April 1, 2020.

The Exchange first notes that it operates in a highly-competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive or incentives to be insufficient. More specifically, the Exchange is only one of 13 registered and operational equities exchanges, as well as a number of alternative trading systems and other off-exchange venues that do not have similar self-regulatory responsibilities under the Exchange Act, to which market participants may direct their order flow. Based on publicly available

³ Prior to February 3, 2020, fee code PR represented orders that removed liquidity from EDGX using the ROUQ routing strategy.

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 88154 (February 7, 2020) 85 FR 8327 (February 13, 2020) (SR-CboeEDGX-2020-006).

information,⁵ no single registered equities exchange has more than 20% of the market share. Thus, in such a low-concentrated and highly competitive market, no single equities exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of order flow.

The Exchange operates a “Maker-Taker” model whereby it pays credits to Members that add liquidity and assesses fees to those that remove liquidity. The Exchange’s fee schedule sets forth the standard rebates and fees applied per share for orders that provide and remove liquidity, respectively. Particularly, for securities at or above \$1.00, the Exchange provides a standard rebate of \$0.00170 per share for orders that add liquidity and assesses a fee of \$0.00270 per share for orders that remove liquidity. The Exchange believes that the ever-shifting market share among the exchanges from month to month demonstrates that market participants can shift order flow, or discontinue or reduce use of certain categories of products, in response to fee changes. Accordingly, competitive forces constrain the Exchange’s transaction fees, and market participants can readily trade on competing venues if they deem pricing levels at those other venues to be more favorable.

In response to the competitive environment, the Exchange offers tiered pricing that provides Members opportunities to qualify for higher rebates or reduced fees where certain volume criteria and thresholds are met. Tiered pricing provides incremental incentives for Members to strive for higher or different tier levels by offering increasingly higher discounts or enhanced benefits for satisfying increasingly more stringent criteria or different criteria. For example, pursuant to footnote 3 of the fee

⁵ See Cboe Global Markets, U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary (March 26, 2020), available at https://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/market_statistics/. This market share percentage is based on a Month-to-Date volume summary.

schedule, the Exchange currently offers a Retail Volume Tier that provides Members with an enhanced rebate of \$0.0037 for liquidity adding orders that yield fee code “ZA”,⁶ which generally has a rebate of \$0.00320. To qualify for the Retail Volume Tier, a Member must add retail order ADV⁷ (i.e., yielding fee code ZA) of greater than or equal to 0.50% of the TCV.⁸ Therefore, the Retail Volume Tier is designed to encourage Members that provide liquidity adding retail orders on the Exchange to increase their order flow, thereby contributing to a deeper and more liquid market to the benefit of all market participants.

The Exchange now proposes to add an additional Retail Volume Tier, Tier 1, and to rename the existing Retail Volume Tier to Tier 2. Proposed Tier 1 would provide an enhanced rebate of \$0.0034 for liquidity adding orders that yield fee code “ZA”. To qualify for proposed Tier 1, a Member must 1) have retail Step-Up Add TCV⁹ from February 2020 of equal to or greater than 0.05%, and 2) add retail order ADV (i.e., yielding fee code ZA) of equal to or greater than 0.20% of the TCV. In contrast to the existing Retail Volume Tier, under the proposed Tier 1 Members must satisfy a lower retail order ADV as a percentage of TCV and must also satisfy the Step-Up Add TCV threshold, which is designed to encourage growth (i.e., Members must increase their

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⁷ “Average Daily Volume” or “ADV” means average daily volume calculated as the number of shares added to, removed from, or routed by, the Exchange, or any combination or subset thereof, per day. ADV is calculated on a monthly basis.

⁸ “Total Consolidated Volume” or “TCV” means consolidated volume calculated as the volume reported by all exchanges and trade reporting facilities to a consolidated transaction reporting plan for the month for which the fees apply.

⁹ “Step-Up Add TCV” means Average Daily Add Volume (“ADAV”) as a percentage of TCB in the relevant baseline month subtracted from current ADAV as a percentage of TCV.

relative liquidity each month over a predetermined baseline (in this case the month being February 2020)). Overall, the proposed criteria are designed to encourage Members to increase their order flow, thereby contributing to a deeper and more liquid market, which benefits all market participants and provides greater execution opportunities on the Exchange. The Exchange believes that this benefits all Members by enhancing overall market quality and contributing towards a robust and well-balanced market ecosystem. The Exchange notes that the proposed tier is available to all Retail Member Organizations (“RMOs”) and is competitively achievable for all RMOs that submit liquidity adding retail order flow, in that, all firms that submit the requisite liquidity adding retail order flow could compete to meet the tier.

Additionally, the Exchange proposes to eliminate fee code “PR” from the Standard Rates table of the Exchange’s fee schedule. The PR fee code was eliminated in all other places from the Exchange’s fee schedule effective February 2, 2020;¹⁰ however, fee code PR was inadvertently not removed from the Standard Rates table. As such, the Exchange is now seeking to eliminate fee code PR from the Standard Rates table.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6 of the Act,¹¹ in general, and furthers the requirements of Section 6(b)(4),¹² in particular, as it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its facilities and does not unfairly discriminate between customers, issuers, brokers or dealers. The Exchange operates in a highly-competitive market in

¹⁰ See supra note 3.

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive or incentives to be insufficient.

In particular, The Exchange believes the proposed amendment to add an additional Retail Volume Tier is reasonable because it provides an additional opportunity for Members to receive an enhanced rebate by means of liquidity-adding retail orders. The Exchange notes that relative volume-based incentives and discounts have been widely adopted by other exchanges,¹³ and are reasonable, equitable and non-discriminatory because they are open to all Members on an equal basis and provide additional benefits or discounts that are reasonably related to (i) the value of an exchange's market quality, and (ii) associated higher levels of market activity, such as higher levels of liquidity provision and/or growth patterns.

Competing equity exchanges offer similar tiered pricing structures to that of the Exchange, including schedules of rebates and fees that apply based upon Members achieving certain volume and/or growth thresholds. These competing pricing schedules, moreover, are presently comparable to those that the Exchange provides, including the pricing of comparable tiers.¹⁴

Moreover, the Exchange believes the proposed Retail Volume Tier is a reasonable means to encourage Members to grow their overall liquidity adding retail order flow to the Exchange based on increasing their daily total added retail order ADV above a percentage of the TCV. Particularly, the Exchange believes that adopting an additional Retail Volume Tier based on a Member's liquidity adding retail orders will encourage

¹³ See Nasdaq, Price List, Rebate to Add Displayed Designated Retail Liquidity.

¹⁴ See Id. Nasdaq offer rebates ranging from \$0.00325 up to \$0.0033 for Add Displayed Designated Retail Liquidity.

retail order liquidity providing Members to provide for a deeper, more liquid market, and, as a result, increased execution opportunities at improved price levels and, thus, overall order flow. The Exchange believes that these increases will benefit all Members by contributing towards a robust and well-balanced market ecosystem. Increased overall order flow benefits all investors by deepening the Exchange's liquidity pool, providing greater execution incentives and opportunities, offering additional flexibility for all investors to enjoy cost savings, supporting the quality of price discovery, promoting market transparency and improving investor protection. The proposed enhanced rebate per share amount also does not represent a significant departure from the rebates currently offered, or required criteria, under the Exchange's existing Retail Volume Tier. For example, the rebate provided under the existing Retail Volume Tier, for which, as stated, a Member must have a daily volume add retail order ADV of 0.50% or greater than the TCV, is \$0.0037 per share. In other words, under this tier, Members receive an enhanced rebate from the standard \$0.0032 rebate for orders yielding fee code "ZA". Therefore, the proposed enhanced rebate under Tier 1 (\$0.0034) is comparable to the enhanced rebate currently offered under the Retail Volume Tier.

The Exchange believes that the proposal represents an equitable allocation of fees and is not unfairly discriminatory because all RMOs are eligible for the proposed Retail Volume Tier, and would have the opportunity to meet the proposed Tier 1 criteria and receive the proposed enhanced rebate if such criteria is met. The proposed tier is designed as an incentive to any and all RMOs interested in meeting the tier criteria to submit additional liquidity adding retail order flow to achieve the proposed discount. Without having a view of activity on other markets and off-exchange venues, the Exchange has no

way of knowing whether this proposed rule change would definitely result in any RMOs qualifying for this tier. While the proposed tier is only applicable to RMOs, the Exchange does not believe it is discriminatory as the Exchange offers similar rebates to non-RMO order flow.¹⁵ While the Exchange has no way of predicting with certainty how the proposed tier will impact RMO activity, the Exchange anticipates that at up to three RMOs will be able to compete for and reach the proposed tier. The Exchange also notes that the proposed tier will not adversely impact any RMO's pricing or their ability to qualify for other rebate tiers. Rather, should a RMO not meet the proposed criteria, the Member will merely not receive an enhanced rebate. Furthermore, the proposed fee would uniformly apply to all RMOs that meet the required criteria under the proposed Retail Volume Tier.

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. Rather, as discussed above, the Exchange believes that the proposed addition of another Retail Volume Tier would encourage the submission of additional liquidity adding retail order flow to a public exchange, thereby promoting market depth, execution incentives and enhanced execution opportunities, as well as price discovery and transparency for all Members. As a result, the Exchange believes that the proposed change furthers the Commission's goal in adopting Regulation NMS of fostering

¹⁵ See e.g., the Add Volume Tiers in the Exchange's Fee Schedule which provides an enhanced rebate to all Members that add liquidity meeting certain criteria.

competition among orders, which promotes “more efficient pricing of individual stocks for all types of orders, large and small.”¹⁶

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change does not impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Particularly, the proposed Retail Volume Tier change applies to all RMOs equally in that all RMOs are eligible for the proposed tier, have a reasonable opportunity to meet the tier’s criteria and will all receive the enhanced rebate if such criteria is met. Additionally the proposed change is designed to attract additional order flow to the Exchange. The Exchange believes that the modified tier criteria would incentivize market participants to direct liquidity adding retail orders and, as a result, executable order flow and improved price transparency, to the Exchange. Greater overall order flow and pricing transparency benefits all market participants on the Exchange by providing more trading opportunities, enhancing market quality, and continuing to encourage Members to send orders, thereby contributing towards a robust and well-balanced market ecosystem, which benefits all market participants.

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change does not impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purpose of the Act. As previously discussed, the Exchange operates in a highly competitive market. Members have numerous alternative venues that they may participate on and direct their order flow, including 12 other equities exchanges, and off-exchange venues and alternative trading systems. Additionally, the Exchange represents a small percentage of the overall market. Based on publicly available information, no single equities

¹⁶ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808, 70 FR 37495, 37498-99 (June 29, 2005) (S7-10-04) (Final Rule).

exchange has more than 20% of the market share.¹⁷ Therefore, no exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of order flow. Indeed, participants can readily choose to send their orders to other exchange and off-exchange venues if they deem fee levels at those other venues to be more favorable. Moreover, the Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. Specifically, in Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system “has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”¹⁸ The fact that this market is competitive has also long been recognized by the courts. In *NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission*, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: “[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is ‘fierce.’ ... As the SEC explained, ‘[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution’; [and] ‘no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted’ because ‘no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’”¹⁹ Accordingly, the Exchange does not

¹⁷ See supra note 4.

¹⁸ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005).

¹⁹ *NetCoalition v. SEC*, 615 F.3d 525, 539 (D.C. Cir. 2010) (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

believe its proposed fee change imposes any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

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

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

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) of the Act²⁰ and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4²¹ thereunder. 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 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 will institute proceedings 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

²⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

²¹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-CboeEDGX-2020-015 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-CboeEDGX-2020-015. 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 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, D.C. 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-CboeEDGX-2020-015 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.²²

Secretary

²² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

EXHIBIT 5

(additions are underlined; deletions are [bracketed])

* * * * *

Rules of Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc.

Fees Schedule

* * * * *

Cboe EDGX U.S. Equities Exchange Fee ScheduleEffective [March 2]April 1, 2020

* * * * *

Standard Rates:

| Category | Adding Liquidity | Removing Liquidity | Routing and Removing Liquidity |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Securities at or above \$1.00 | \$(0.00170) ¹ | \$0.00270 | \$0.0030 |
| Securities below \$1.00 | \$(0.00003) | 0.30% of Dollar Value | 0.30% of Dollar Value |
| Standard Fee Codes | B, V, Y, 3, 4 | N, W, 6, BB, [PR,] ZR | X |

* * * * *

³ Retail Volume Tier:

The rebate to add Retail Orders provided by the below retail volume tier is applicable to the following fee code: ZA.

| Tier | Rebate Per Share to Add | Required Criteria |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| [Retail Volume Tier] | [\$(0.0037)] | [Member adds a Retail Order ADV (i.e., yielding fee code ZA) \geq 0.50% of the TCV.] |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <u>Retail Volume Tier 1</u> | <u>(\$0.0034)</u> | <u>(1) Member has a Retail Step-Up Add TCV (i.e., yielding fee code ZA) from February 2020 \geq 0.05%; and</u> <u>(2) Member adds a Retail Order ADV (i.e., yielding fee code ZA) \geq 0.20% of the TCV</u> |
| <u>Retail Volume Tier 2</u> | <u>(\$0.0037)</u> | <u>Member adds a Retail Order ADV (i.e., yielding fee code ZA) \geq 0.50% of the TCV.</u> |
