

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

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| Page 1 of * 37 | | SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4 | | File No. * SR 2025 - * 086 Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *) | |
| Filing by Cboe Exchange, Inc. Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 | | | | | |
| Initial * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | Amendment * <input type="checkbox"/> | | Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Section 19(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/> | | Section 19(b)(3)(A) * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | Section 19(b)(3)(B) * <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Pilot <input type="checkbox"/> | | Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * <input type="checkbox"/> | | Date Expires * <input type="text"/> | |
| | | Rule | | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1) | | <input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4) | |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2) | | <input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3) | | <input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6) | |
| Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010 Section 806(e)(1) * <input type="checkbox"/> | | | Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Section 3C(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/> | | | Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Description Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *). <div>The Exchange proposes to amend its Fees Schedule.</div> | | | | | |
| 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 * Laura Last Name * Dickman Title * VP, Associate General Counsel E-mail * ldickman@cboe.com Telephone * (312) 786-7572 Fax | | | | | |
| Signature Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange of 1934, Cboe Exchange, Inc. has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized. Date 12/02/2025 (Title *) By Laura G. Dickman (Name *) VP, Associate General Counsel NOTE: Clicking the signature block at right will initiate digitally signing the form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed. <div>Laura Dickman Date: 2025.12.02 15:10:38 -06'00'</div> | | | | | |

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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Form 19b-4 Information *

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25-086 19b-4 (Cboe - On-Exchange C

The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change *

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25-086 Exhibit 1 (Cboe - New ORF M

The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advanced Notice by Clearing Agencies *

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

Exhibit 2- Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications

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Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire

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Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies

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The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.

Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text

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25-086 Exhibit 5 (Cboe ORF - 010120

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) Cboe Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “Cboe Options”) proposes to amend its Fees Schedule relating to the Options Regulatory Fee (“ORF”) to adopt a new methodology for assessment and collection of ORF for transactions that occur on the Exchange (“On-Exchange ORF”). The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

While the changes proposed herein are effective upon filing, the Exchange intends to collect ORF under its current methodology for assessment and collection of ORF until at least June 30, 2026. The Exchange is prepared to implement On-Exchange ORF effective July 1, 2026 if by April 1, 2026 all U.S. options exchanges charging an ORF have filed to modify their current methodologies of assessment of ORF to limit the fee to transactions occurring on their respective Exchange.¹ However, if all other options exchanges have not filed to adopt a similar methodology by April 1, the Exchange will delay implementation commensurate with the additional time required for other options exchanges to adopt a similar method for collection and assessment of ORF. The Exchange will file a separate rule filing with the On-Exchange ORF fee in advance of assessing and collecting it under the proposed method.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

Item 2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

(a) The Exchange’s Chief Regulatory Officer pursuant to delegated authority approved the proposed rule change on December 1, 2025.

¹ The Exchange estimates it will take approximately three months to implement the system changes associated with On-Exchange ORF.

(b) Please refer questions and comments on the proposed rule change to Patrick Sexton Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary, (312) 786-7467, or Laura Dickman, (312) 786-7572, Cboe Exchange, Inc., 433 West Van Buren Street, Chicago, Illinois 60607.

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 current methodology for assessment and collection of a regulatory fee to assess On-Exchange ORF only for options transactions that occur on the Exchange that would clear in the customer² range at The Options Clearing Corporation (“OCC”). The Exchange would no longer assess a regulatory fee for options transactions that occur on other exchanges. This proposal only proposes to amend the method of assessment and collection of the fee. A future rule filing would be filed to set the applicable On-Exchange ORF rate. If the On-Exchange ORF model were to go into effect today, the current ORF rate would increase from \$0.0023 per contract to an estimated On-Exchange ORF rate of \$0.01331 per contract based on 2026 estimates of regulatory revenue, regulatory costs, and customer volume. The following provides more

² Currently, the ORF is assessed by Cboe Options and collected via OCC on executions for the account of Public Customers, including Professionals, and Broker-Dealers including Foreign Broker-Dealers. These market participants clear in the “C” range at OCC. ORF will continue to be assessed to executions for the account of these market participants under the proposed methodology. On the Exchange, a “Public Customer” means a person that is not a broker or dealer in securities and includes both Priority Customers and Professionals. A “Priority Customer” means a person or entity that is a Public Customer and is not a Professional. A “Professional” is any person or entity that (a) is not a broker or dealer in securities, and (b) places more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s). Executions for the account of an OCC clearing member firm proprietary account, joint back office account clearing in the Firm range, or account of a market maker clearing in the Market Maker range are not charged an ORF, nor would they be charged an ORF under the current proposal.

detail regarding the proposal.³

Background

Today, ORF is assessed by Cboe Options to each Clearing Trading Permit Holder (“CTPH”) for options transactions that are cleared by the CTPH at OCC in the Customer range, regardless of the exchange on which the transaction occurs.⁴ In other words, the Exchange imposes the ORF on all Customer-range transactions cleared by a CTPH, even if the transactions do not take place on the Exchange. The ORF is collected by OCC on behalf of the Exchange from the CTPH or non-Trading Permit Holder (“TPH”) OCC Clearing Member that ultimately clears the transaction as further described below. With respect to linkage transactions, Cboe Options reimburses its routing broker providing Routing Services pursuant to Cboe Options Rule 5.36 for options regulatory fees it incurs in connection with the Routing Services it provides. The current Cboe Options ORF is \$0.0023 per contract side.

The following scenarios reflect how the ORF is currently assessed and collected (these apply regardless of whether the transaction is executed on the Exchange or on an away exchange):

1. If a TPH is the executing clearing firm on a transaction (“Executing Clearing Firm”), the ORF is assessed to and collected from that TPH by OCC on behalf of the Exchange.
2. If a TPH is the Executing Clearing Firm and the transaction is “given up” to a different TPH that clears the transaction (“Clearing Give-Up”), the ORF is assessed

³ Pursuant to a separately filed rule change, the current ORF rate of \$0.0023 will sunset the earlier of June 30, 2026 and revert to \$0.0017 as of July 1, 2026.

⁴ The Exchange notes ORF also applies to Customer-range transactions executed during Global Trading Hours.

to the Executing Clearing Firm (the ORF is the obligation of the Executing Clearing Firm). The ORF is collected from the Clearing Give-Up.

3. If the Executing Clearing Firm is a non-TPH and the Clearing Give-up is a TPH, the ORF is assessed to and collected from the Clearing Give-up.

4. If a TPH is the Executing Clearing Firm and a non-TPH is the Clearing Give-up, the ORF is assessed to the Executing Clearing Firm. The ORF is the obligation of the Executing Clearing Firm but is collected from the non-TPH Clearing Give-up (for the reasons described below).

5. No ORF is assessed if a TPH is neither the Executing Clearing Firm nor the Clearing Give-up.

The Exchange uses an OCC cleared trades file to determine the Executing Clearing Firm and the Clearing Give-up.⁵

In each of scenarios 1 through 4 above, if the transaction is transferred pursuant to a Clearing Member Trade Assignment (“CMTA”) agreement to another clearing firm who ultimately clears the transaction, the ORF is collected from the clearing firm that ultimately clears the transaction (which firm may be a non-TPH) by OCC on behalf of the Exchange. Using CMTA transfer information provided by the OCC, the Exchange subtracts the ORF charge from the monthly ORF bill of the clearing firm that transfers the position and adds the charge to the monthly ORF bill of the clearing firm that receives the CMTA transfer (i.e., the ultimate clearing firm).⁶ This process is performed at the end

⁵ The Exchange notes that in the case where a non-self clearing TPH executes a transaction on the Exchange, the TPH’s guaranteeing CTPH is reflected as the Executing Clearing Firm in the OCC cleared trades file and the ORF is assessed to and collected from the Executing Clearing Firm.

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82164 (November 28, 2017), 82 FR 57313 (December 4, 2017) (SR-CBOE-2017-074).

of each month on each transfer in the OCC CMTA transfer file for that month.⁷

ORF is collected by OCC on behalf of the Exchange from the CTPH or non-TPH OCC Clearing Member that ultimately clears the transaction. While the ORF is an obligation of the Executing Clearing Firm, the ORF is collected from the clearing firm that ultimately clears the eligible trade, even if such firm is not a TPH. The Exchange and OCC adopted this collection method in response to industry feedback that it would allow TPHs and non-TPHs to more easily pass-through the ORF to their customers. In its original ORF filing,⁸ the Exchange stated that it expected TPHs to pass-through the ORF to their customers in the same manner that firms pass-through to their customers the fees charged by self-regulatory organizations (“SROs”) to help the SROs meet their obligations under Section 31 of the Exchange Act (and the Exchange understands this to be the case currently). Accordingly, in scenario 4 above, the ORF is collected from the non-TPH OCC Clearing Member that clears the transaction in order to facilitate the pass-through of the ORF to the end-customer. Likewise, collection of the ORF from the ultimate (CMTA) clearing firm facilitates the passing the fee through to the end-customer. In those cases where the ORF is collected from a non-TPH OCC Clearing Member, the Exchange (through OCC) collects the ORF as a convenience for the CTPH whose obligation it is to pay the fee to the Exchange.

ORF Revenue and Monitoring of ORF

⁷ The Exchange notes that OCC provides the Exchange and other exchanges with information to assist in excluding CMTA transfers done to correct bona fide errors from the ORF calculation. Specifically, if a clearing firm gives up or CMTA transfers a position to the wrong clearing firm, the firm that caused the error will send an offsetting CMTA transfer to that firm and send a new CMTA transfer to the correct firm. The offsetting CMTA transfer is marked with a CMTA Transfer ORF Indicator which results in the original erroneous transfer being excluded from the ORF calculation.

⁸ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 58817 (October 20, 2008), 73 FR 63744 (October 27, 2008) (SR-CBOE-2008-105).

Today, revenue generated from ORF, when combined with all of the Exchange's other regulatory fees and fines, is designed to recover a material portion of the regulatory costs to the Exchange of the supervision and regulation of TPH customer options business including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, and policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities. Regulatory costs include direct regulatory expenses and certain indirect expenses for work allocated in support of the regulatory function. The direct expenses include in-house and third-party service provider costs to support the day-to-day regulatory work such as surveillances, investigations and examinations. The indirect expenses include support to the regulatory function from such areas as human resources, legal, compliance, information technology, facilities and accounting. Today, these indirect expenses are estimated to be approximately 42% of the Exchange's total regulatory costs for 2026. Thus, direct expenses are estimated to be approximately 58% of total regulatory costs for 2026. In addition, based on the Exchange's analysis of its regulatory work associated with options regulation, and considering other regulatory revenue, it is the Exchange's practice that revenue generated from ORF not exceed more than 75% of total annual regulatory costs.⁹

Proposal for On-Exchange ORF

Cboe Options appreciates the evolving changes in the market and regulatory environment and has been evaluating its current methodologies and practices for the assessment and collection of ORF while considering industry and Commission feedback.

As a result of this review, the Exchange is proposing the On-Exchange ORF, which

⁹ These expectations are estimated and may be subject to change. Currently, under the current rate temporarily increased rate, Cboe Options forecasts for 2026 to collect closer approximately 70% of total regulatory costs from ORF.

assesses a regulatory fee to only Exchange transactions that would clear in the Customer range at OCC (as is the case today).¹⁰ The following scenarios reflect how the On-Exchange ORF will be assessed and collected:

1. If a TPH is the Executing Clearing Firm on a transaction that occurred on the Exchange, the fee would be assessed to and collected from that CTPH by OCC on behalf of the Exchange.

2. If a TPH is the Executing Clearing Firm and the transaction is “given up” to a Clearing Give-Up, the On-Exchange ORF is assessed to the Executing Clearing Firm (the On-Exchange ORF remains the obligation of the Executing Clearing Firm under the proposal), but the On-Exchange ORF will be collected from the Clearing Give-Up.

The Exchange expects to provide CTPHs sufficient information in connection with their invoice in order to reconcile charges associated with ORF. In addition, the proposed method for collecting On-Exchange ORF will only consider CMTAs reported to the Exchange and not those reported directly to OCC. As described above, today’s ORF is the responsibility of the Executing Clearing Firm and collected from the CMTA (which may be a non-TPH) as an administrative convenience. The Exchange understands that a CMTA may be added at order entry, via post-trade edit on the Exchange, or post-trade at OCC. CMTA transfers that occur at OCC do not necessarily contain reliable information regarding the Exchange on which the original transaction occurred.¹¹ Without specific information as to where the original transaction occurred, the Exchange would not be able to accurately account for CMTA transfers that occur at OCC.

¹⁰ See supra note 1.

¹¹ Under the current methodology for assessing ORF, the Exchange on which the transaction occurred is irrelevant.

Therefore, the Exchange will only account for CMTAs that occur on the Exchange (which may be a non-TPH) and exclude CMTAs occurring at OCC.¹²

With this proposal, the Exchange intends to collect ORF under its current methodology for assessment and collection of ORF until at least June 30, 2026. The Exchange is prepared to implement On-Exchange ORF effective July 1, 2026 if by April 1, 2026 all U.S. options exchanges charging an ORF have filed to modify their current methodologies of assessment of the fee to limit the fee to transactions occurring on their respective exchange.¹³ However, if all other options exchanges have not filed to adopt a similar methodology by April 1, the Exchange will delay implementation commensurate with the additional time required for other options exchanges to adopt a similar method for collection and assessment of ORF. The Exchange will at that time file a separate rule filing with the amount of the On-Exchange ORF in advance of assessing and collecting the fee under the proposed method. The Exchange will provide at least 30 days' notice of the applicable On-Exchange ORF rate. The Exchange believes a fee to recover costs for regulatory programs associated with TPH customer business is reasonable; however, the

¹² The Exchange originally planned to exclude all CMTAs whether reported to the Exchange or directly to the OCC. If CMTAs are excluded, the Exchange would only collect ORF from its TPHs and ORF would no longer be collected from non-TPHs. The Exchange continues to believe that a new ORF model should be assessed to TPHs only, but also understands the desire for a uniform approach to the assessment and collection of ORF across all options exchanges. As of filing 6 exchanges have also filed to assess and collect ORF to transactions occurring on their respective exchanges (see Securities Exchange Act Releases No. 103103 (May 22, 2025), 90 FR 22797 (May 29, 2025) (SR-MRX-2025-11) as amended by No. 103618 (August 1, 2025), 90 FR 37910 (August 6, 2025) (SR-MRX-2025-15); No. 103558 (July 28, 2025), 90 FR 36080 (July 31, 2025) (SR-ISE-2025-20); No. 103559 (July 28, 2025), 90 FR 36074 (July 31, 2025) (SR-BX-2025-012); No. 103617 (August 1, 2025), 90 FR 37912 (August 6, 2025) (SR-GEMX-2025-17); No. 103619 (August 1, 2025), 90 FR 37931 (August 6, 2025) (SR-NASDAQ-2025-054); No. 103620 (August 1, 2025), 90 FR 37918 (August 8, 2025) (SR-Phlx-2025-30)). As proposed, these filings also will consider CMTAs reported to the respective exchange and not CMTAs reported directly to OCC.

¹³ The Exchange estimates it will take approximately three months to implement the system changes associated with On-Exchange ORF.

Exchange would consider alternative approaches for assessment and collection of the fee in order to achieve consistency across the industry.

To demonstrate the impact of the proposed change, the Exchange estimates that, if the On-Exchange ORF went into effect today, the current ORF of \$0.0023 per contract side would increase to \$0.01331 per contract side using 2026 estimates for regulatory revenue, regulatory costs and customer volume.¹⁴ As is the case today, revenue generated from On-Exchange ORF, when combined with all of the Exchange's other regulatory fees and fines, is designed to recover a material portion of the regulatory costs to the Exchange of the supervision and regulation of TPH customer options business, including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, and policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities. As discussed above, regulatory costs include direct regulatory expenses¹⁵ and certain indirect expenses in support of the regulatory function.¹⁶ Indirect expenses are estimated to be approximately 42% of the Exchange's total regulatory costs for 2026. Thus, direct expenses are estimated to be approximately 58% of total regulatory costs for 2026.

The Exchange will continue to monitor the amount of revenue collected from On-Exchange ORF to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed the Exchange's total regulatory costs. Further, Cboe Options expects to continue its current practice that revenue generated from On-Exchange ORF not exceed

¹⁴ Depending on the operative date for the filing, the Exchange will submit an additional filing to specify the ORF rate based on the then-current estimates for regulatory revenues, regulatory costs and Customer volume.

¹⁵ Direct expenses include in-house and third-party service provider costs to support the day-to-day regulatory work such as surveillances, investigations, and examinations.

¹⁶ Indirect expenses include support from areas such as human resources, legal, compliance, information technology, facilities and accounting.

more than 75% of total annual regulatory costs. And as is the Exchange's practice today, revenue generated by On-Exchange ORF will not be used for non-regulatory purposes.

The Exchange will continue to monitor its regulatory costs and revenues at a minimum on a semi-annual basis. If the Exchange determines regulatory revenues exceed or are insufficient to cover a material portion of its regulatory costs in a given year, the Exchange will adjust the On-Exchange ORF by submitting a fee change filing to the Commission. The Exchange will notify TPHs of adjustments to the On-Exchange ORF via an Exchange Notice in advance of any change.¹⁷

(b) Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.¹⁸ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act¹⁹, which provides that Exchange rules may provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its TPHs and other persons using its facilities. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)²⁰ requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes the proposed change to assess and collect an On-Exchange ORF is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory for various

¹⁷ See Exchange Notice, C2025022804 "Cboe C1 Options Exchanges Regulatory Fee Update Effective April 1, 2025."

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

²⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

reasons. First, On-Exchange ORF is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory in that it is charged to all Exchange transactions that clear in the Customer range at the OCC. Similar to ORF today, the Exchange believes On-Exchange ORF ensures fairness by assessing a specific fee to those TPHs that require more Exchange regulatory services based on the amount of customer options business they conduct. Over recent years, options trading volume has increased with a growing percentage of the volume applicable to customer transactions. Customers trading on the Exchange (through a TPH) benefit from the protections of a robust regulatory program including the maintenance of fair and orderly markets and protections against fraud and other manipulation. The Exchange believes it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to assess a regulatory fee to transactions that clear in the Customer range to cover regulatory costs, but not to transactions clearing in the Firm or Market Maker range because CTPHs and Market Maker TPHs (who clear in the Firm and Market Maker range), as those market participants are generally subject to other Exchange fees, fines and obligations. For example, CTPHs and Market Maker TPHs are required to pay Exchange application fees, permit fees, and connectivity fees, amongst others. In addition, all fines issued by the Exchange for regulatory infractions are assessed only to TPHs and would be applied to regulatory revenues. As with today's ORF, the Exchange expects that CTPHs from whom On-Exchange ORF is collected will pass through the fee to their customers (as the Exchange understands occurs today). In addition, Market Makers in particular are subject to various quoting and other obligations to ensure that they provide stable and liquid markets, which benefit all market participants including customers. Excluding Market Maker transactions from On-Exchange ORF will allow Market Makers to better manage

their costs more effectively thus enabling them to better allocate resources toward technology, risk management, and capacity to ensure continued liquidity provision.

In addition to the overall increase in Customer-range volume generally, regulating customer trading activity is 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. For example, there are costs associated with main office and branch office examinations (e.g., staff and travel expenses), as well as investigations into customer complaints and terminations of Registered Persons. 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., CTPH proprietary transactions) of its regulatory program.²¹ While the Exchange notes that it has broad regulatory responsibilities with respect to its TPHs' activities, irrespective of where their transactions take place, the Exchange believes it is reasonable to assess the proposed fee to only those transactions occurring on the Exchange. The proposed change more narrowly tailors the fee to products and transactions with a direct connection to the Exchange. Today, a customer transaction may be assessed an ORF from every options exchange totaling as much as \$0.0187 per transaction per side.²² While the Exchange's proposed ORF rate under the proposed model of \$0.01331 is higher than its current ORF rate of \$0.0023 under the current model, if all exchanges adopted a similar on-exchange model, ORF rates may decrease for individual transactions overall because the proposed

²¹ If the Exchange changes its method of funding regulation or if circumstances otherwise change in the future, the Exchange may decide to modify On-Exchange ORF or assess a separate regulatory fee on TPH proprietary transactions if the Exchange deems it advisable.

²² As of October 1, 2025.

On-Exchange ORF will avoid overlapping ORFs that would otherwise be assessed by Cboe Options and other options exchanges that also assess an ORF. With this proposal, transactions that would clear in the Customer range occurring on other exchanges would no longer be subject to an ORF assessed by Cboe Options.

The Exchange believes it is equitable and not unduly discriminatory to modify the method of collecting the fee such that On-Exchange ORF will not consider CMTAs reported directly to OCC as is done in today's method of ORF. CMTA transfers are considered today under the current collection methodology for ORF as a convenience to industry members in administering a pass through of the fee to their customers. Limiting the On-Exchange ORF to transactions on the Exchange poses a limitation in the use of CMTA for this purpose. The Exchange understands that a CMTA may be added at order entry, via post-trade edit on the Exchange, or post-trade at OCC. CMTA transfers that occur at OCC do not necessarily contain reliable information regarding the Exchange on which the original transaction occurred.²³ Without specific information as to where the original transaction occurred, the Exchange would not be able to accurately account for CMTA transfers that occur at OCC.

The Exchange also believes that the fact that a Consolidated Audit Trail ("CAT") fee is in place should not preclude the Exchange from assessing On-Exchange ORF. The CAT is a repository of order, trade and customer information that is used as the basis for an audit trail of such activities. Like industry members, the exchanges, including Cboe Options, also pays a CAT fee to support the operation and maintenance of CAT (in other words, it does not support regulatory work undertaken by exchanges). Cboe Options does

²³ Under the current methodology for assessing ORF, the Exchange on which the transaction occurred is irrelevant.

not include fees it pays for CAT in the regulatory expenses it looks to offset under ORF. Yes, the Exchange uses CAT data as part of its regulatory work, but only from an audit trail perspective. On-Exchange ORF, on the other hand, offsets the regulatory work the Exchange performs (using CAT data among other sources) such as surveillances, investigations, examinations, etc. The Exchange believes its fair and reasonable to assess an On-Exchange ORF in addition to fees associated with CAT.

The Exchange further believes that the proposed change to the method for assessment and collection of the fee is reasonable because it would help ensure that revenue collected from the On-Exchange ORF, in combination with other regulatory fees and fines, would help offset, but not exceed, the Exchange's total regulatory costs. As discussed, On-Exchange ORF is similarly designed to the current ORF, in that revenues generated from the fee would be less than or equal to 75% of the Exchange's regulatory costs, which is consistent with the practice across the options industry today and the view of the Commission that regulatory fees be used for regulatory purposes and not to support the Exchange's business side.

As noted above, the Exchange will also continue to monitor on at least a semi-annual basis the amount of revenue collected from the On-Exchange ORF, even as amended, to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed the Exchange's total regulatory costs. If the Exchange determines regulatory revenues would exceed its regulatory costs in a given year, the Exchange will reduce the On-Exchange ORF by submitting a fee change filing to the Commission.²⁴

²⁴ Consistent with Rule 2.2 (Regulatory Revenue), the Exchange notes that should excess ORF revenue be collected prior to any reduction in an ORF rate, such excess revenue will not be used for nonregulatory purposes.

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 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 On-Exchange ORF applies to all customer activity on the Exchange, thereby raising regulatory revenue to offset regulatory expenses. It also supplements the regulatory revenue derived from non-customer activity. The Exchange notes, however, the proposed change is not designed to address any competitive issues. Indeed, 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 On-Exchange ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs. In addition, the Exchange will not implement the On-Exchange ORF until all other options exchanges are prepared to adopt a similar model to avoid overlapping ORFs.

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 written 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 Act²⁵ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)²⁶ 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 “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.

²⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

²⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

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-CBOE-2025-086]

[Insert date]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Amend Its Fees 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 Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “Cboe Options”) 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

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fees Schedule relating to the Options Regulatory Fee (“ORF”) to adopt a new methodology for assessment and collection of ORF for transactions that occur on the Exchange (“On-Exchange ORF”), effective as of July 1, 2026. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Commission’s website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>), the Exchange’s website (https://www.cboe.com/us/options/regulation/rule_filings/bzx/), and at the principal office of the Exchange.

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 current methodology for assessment and collection of a regulatory fee to assess On-Exchange ORF only for options transactions that occur on the Exchange that would clear in the customer³ range at The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC"). The Exchange would no longer assess a regulatory fee for options transactions that occur on other exchanges. This proposal only proposes to amend the method of assessment and collection of the fee. A future rule filing would be filed to set the applicable On-Exchange ORF rate. If the On-Exchange ORF model were to go into effect today, the current ORF rate would increase from \$0.0023 per contract to an estimated

³ Currently, the ORF is assessed by Cboe Options and collected via OCC on executions for the account of Public Customers, including Professionals, and Broker-Dealers including Foreign Broker-Dealers. These market participants clear in the "C" range at OCC. ORF will continue to be assessed to executions for the account of these market participants under the proposed methodology. On the Exchange, a "Public Customer" means a person that is not a broker or dealer in securities and includes both Priority Customers and Professionals. A "Priority Customer" means a person or entity that is a Public Customer and is not a Professional. A "Professional" is any person or entity that (a) is not a broker or dealer in securities, and (b) places more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s). Executions for the account of an OCC clearing member firm proprietary account, joint back office account clearing in the Firm range, or account of a market maker clearing in the Market Maker range are not charged an ORF, nor would they be charged an ORF under the current proposal.

On-Exchange ORF rate of \$0.01331 per contract based on 2026 estimates of regulatory revenue, regulatory costs, and customer volume. The following provides more detail regarding the proposal.⁴

Background

Today, ORF is assessed by Cboe Options to each Clearing Trading Permit Holder (“CTPH”) for options transactions that are cleared by the CTPH at OCC in the Customer range, regardless of the exchange on which the transaction occurs.⁵ In other words, the Exchange imposes the ORF on all Customer-range transactions cleared by a CTPH, even if the transactions do not take place on the Exchange. The ORF is collected by OCC on behalf of the Exchange from the CTPH or non-Trading Permit Holder (“TPH”) OCC Clearing Member that ultimately clears the transaction as further described below. With respect to linkage transactions, Cboe Options reimburses its routing broker providing Routing Services pursuant to Cboe Options Rule 5.36 for options regulatory fees it incurs in connection with the Routing Services it provides. The current Cboe Options ORF is \$0.0023 per contract side.

The following scenarios reflect how the ORF is currently assessed and collected (these apply regardless of whether the transaction is executed on the Exchange or on an away exchange):

1. If a TPH is the executing clearing firm on a transaction (“Executing Clearing Firm”), the ORF is assessed to and collected from that TPH by OCC on behalf of the Exchange.

⁴ Pursuant to a separately filed rule change, the current ORF rate of \$0.0023 will sunset the earlier of June 30, 2026 and revert to \$0.0017 as of July 1, 2026.

⁵ The Exchange notes ORF also applies to Customer-range transactions executed during Global Trading Hours.

2. If a TPH is the Executing Clearing Firm and the transaction is “given up” to a different TPH that clears the transaction (“Clearing Give-Up”), the ORF is assessed to the Executing Clearing Firm (the ORF is the obligation of the Executing Clearing Firm). The ORF is collected from the Clearing Give-Up.

3. If the Executing Clearing Firm is a non-TPH and the Clearing Give-up is a TPH, the ORF is assessed to and collected from the Clearing Give-up.

4. If a TPH is the Executing Clearing Firm and a non-TPH is the Clearing Give-up, the ORF is assessed to the Executing Clearing Firm. The ORF is the obligation of the Executing Clearing Firm but is collected from the non-TPH Clearing Give-up (for the reasons described below).

5. No ORF is assessed if a TPH is neither the Executing Clearing Firm nor the Clearing Give-up.

The Exchange uses an OCC cleared trades file to determine the Executing Clearing Firm and the Clearing Give-up.⁶

In each of scenarios 1 through 4 above, if the transaction is transferred pursuant to a Clearing Member Trade Assignment (“CMTA”) agreement to another clearing firm who ultimately clears the transaction, the ORF is collected from the clearing firm that ultimately clears the transaction (which firm may be a non-TPH) by OCC on behalf of the Exchange. Using CMTA transfer information provided by the OCC, the Exchange subtracts the ORF charge from the monthly ORF bill of the clearing firm that transfers the position and adds the charge to the monthly ORF bill of the clearing firm that receives the CMTA transfer (i.e., the ultimate clearing firm).⁷ This process is performed at the end of each month on

⁶ The Exchange notes that in the case where a non-self clearing TPH executes a transaction on the Exchange, the TPH’s guaranteeing CTPH is reflected as the Executing Clearing Firm in the OCC cleared trades file and the ORF is assessed to and collected from the Executing Clearing Firm.

⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82164 (November 28, 2017), 82 FR 57313 (December 4,

each transfer in the OCC CMTA transfer file for that month.⁸

ORF is collected by OCC on behalf of the Exchange from the CTPH or non-TPH OCC Clearing Member that ultimately clears the transaction. While the ORF is an obligation of the Executing Clearing Firm, the ORF is collected from the clearing firm that ultimately clears the eligible trade, even if such firm is not a TPH. The Exchange and OCC adopted this collection method in response to industry feedback that it would allow TPHs and non-TPHs to more easily pass-through the ORF to their customers. In its original ORF filing,⁹ the Exchange stated that it expected TPHs to pass-through the ORF to their customers in the same manner that firms pass-through to their customers the fees charged by self-regulatory organizations (“SROs”) to help the SROs meet their obligations under Section 31 of the Exchange Act (and the Exchange understands this to be the case currently). Accordingly, in scenario 4 above, the ORF is collected from the non-TPH OCC Clearing Member that clears the transaction in order to facilitate the pass-through of the ORF to the end-customer. Likewise, collection of the ORF from the ultimate (CMTA) clearing firm facilitates the passing the fee through to the end-customer. In those cases where the ORF is collected from a non-TPH OCC Clearing Member, the Exchange (through OCC) collects the ORF as a convenience for the CTPH whose obligation it is to pay the fee to the Exchange.

ORF Revenue and Monitoring of ORF

Today, revenue generated from ORF, when combined with all of the Exchange's

2017) (SR-CBOE-2017-074).

⁸ The Exchange notes that OCC provides the Exchange and other exchanges with information to assist in excluding CMTA transfers done to correct bona fide errors from the ORF calculation. Specifically, if a clearing firm gives up or CMTA transfers a position to the wrong clearing firm, the firm that caused the error will send an offsetting CMTA transfer to that firm and send a new CMTA transfer to the correct firm. The offsetting CMTA transfer is marked with a CMTA Transfer ORF Indicator which results in the original erroneous transfer being excluded from the ORF calculation.

⁹ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 58817 (October 20, 2008), 73 FR 63744 (October 27, 2008) (SR-CBOE-2008-105).

other regulatory fees and fines, is designed to recover a material portion of the regulatory costs to the Exchange of the supervision and regulation of TPH customer options business including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, and policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities. Regulatory costs include direct regulatory expenses and certain indirect expenses for work allocated in support of the regulatory function. The direct expenses include in-house and third-party service provider costs to support the day-to-day regulatory work such as surveillances, investigations and examinations. The indirect expenses include support to the regulatory function from such areas as human resources, legal, compliance, information technology, facilities and accounting. Today, these indirect expenses are estimated to be approximately 42% of the Exchange's total regulatory costs for 2026. Thus, direct expenses are estimated to be approximately 58% of total regulatory costs for 2026. In addition, based on the Exchange's analysis of its regulatory work associated with options regulation, and considering other regulatory revenue, it is the Exchange's practice that revenue generated from ORF not exceed more than 75% of total annual regulatory costs.¹⁰

Proposal for On-Exchange ORF

Cboe Options appreciates the evolving changes in the market and regulatory environment and has been evaluating its current methodologies and practices for the assessment and collection of ORF while considering industry and Commission feedback. As a result of this review, the Exchange is proposing the On-Exchange ORF, which assesses a regulatory fee to only Exchange transactions that would clear in the Customer range at OCC (as is the case today).¹¹ The following scenarios reflect how the On-

¹⁰ These expectations are estimated and may be subject to change. Currently, under the current rate temporarily increased rate, Cboe Options forecasts for 2026 to collect closer approximately 70% of total regulatory costs from ORF.

¹¹ See supra note 2.

Exchange ORF will be assessed and collected:

1. If a TPH is the Executing Clearing Firm on a transaction that occurred on the Exchange, the fee would be assessed to and collected from that CTPH by OCC on behalf of the Exchange.

2. If a TPH is the Executing Clearing Firm and the transaction is “given up” to a Clearing Give-Up, the On-Exchange ORF is assessed to the Executing Clearing Firm (the On-Exchange ORF remains the obligation of the Executing Clearing Firm under the proposal), but the On-Exchange ORF will be collected from the Clearing Give-Up.

The Exchange expects to provide CTPHs sufficient information in connection with their invoice in order to reconcile charges associated with ORF. In addition, the proposed method for collecting On-Exchange ORF will only consider CMTAs reported to the Exchange and not those reported directly to OCC. As described above, today’s ORF is the responsibility of the Executing Clearing Firm and collected from the CMTA (which may be a non-TPH) as an administrative convenience. The Exchange understands that a CMTA may be added at order entry, via post-trade edit on the Exchange, or post-trade at OCC. CMTA transfers that occur at OCC do not necessarily contain reliable information regarding the Exchange on which the original transaction occurred.¹² Without specific information as to where the original transaction occurred, the Exchange would not be able to accurately account for CMTA transfers that occur at OCC. Therefore, the Exchange will only account for CMTAs that occur on the Exchange (which may be a non-TPH) and exclude CMTAs occurring at OCC.¹³

¹² Under the current methodology for assessing ORF, the Exchange on which the transaction occurred is irrelevant.

¹³ The Exchange originally planned to exclude all CMTAs whether reported to the Exchange or directly to the OCC. If CMTAs are excluded, the Exchange would only collect ORF from its TPHs

With this proposal, the Exchange intends to collect ORF under its current methodology for assessment and collection of ORF until at least June 30, 2026. The Exchange is prepared to implement On-Exchange ORF effective July 1, 2026 if by April 1, 2026 all U.S. options exchanges charging an ORF have filed to modify their current methodologies of assessment of the fee to limit the fee to transactions occurring on their respective exchange.¹⁴ However, if all other options exchanges have not filed to adopt a similar methodology by April 1, the Exchange will delay implementation commensurate with the additional time required for other options exchanges to adopt a similar method for collection and assessment of ORF. The Exchange will at that time file a separate rule filing with the amount of the On-Exchange ORF in advance of assessing and collecting the fee under the proposed method. The Exchange will provide at least 30 days' notice of the applicable On-Exchange ORF rate. The Exchange believes a fee to recover costs for regulatory programs associated with TPH customer business is reasonable; however, the Exchange would consider alternative approaches for assessment and collection of the fee in order to achieve consistency across the industry.

To demonstrate the impact of the proposed change, the Exchange estimates that, if

and ORF would no longer be collected from non-TPHs. The Exchange continues to believe that a new ORF model should be assessed to TPHs only, but also understands the desire for a uniform approach to the assessment and collection of ORF across all options exchanges. As of filing 6 exchanges have also filed to assess and collect ORF to transactions occurring on their respective exchanges (see Securities Exchange Act Releases No. 103103 (May 22, 2025), 90 FR 22797 (May 29, 2025) (SR-MRX-2025-11) as amended by No. 103618 (August 1, 2025), 90 FR 37910 (August 6, 2025) (SR-MRX-2025-15); No. 103558 (July 28, 2025), 90 FR 36080 (July 31, 2025) (SR-ISE-2025-20); No. 103559 (July 28, 2025), 90 FR 36074 (July 31, 2025) (SR-BX-2025-012); No. 103617 (August 1, 2025), 90 FR 37912 (August 6, 2025) (SR-GEMX-2025-17); No. 103619 (August 1, 2025), 90 FR 37931 (August 6, 2025) (SR-NASDAQ-2025-054); No. 103620 (August 1, 2025), 90 FR 37918 (August 8, 2025) (SR-Phlx-2025-30)). As proposed, these filings also will consider CMTAs reported to the respective exchange and not CMTAs reported directly to OCC.

¹⁴ The Exchange estimates it will take approximately three months to implement the system changes associated with On-Exchange ORF.

the On-Exchange ORF went into effect today, the current ORF of \$0.0023 per contract side would increase to \$0.01331 per contract side using 2026 estimates for regulatory revenue, regulatory costs and customer volume.¹⁵ As is the case today, revenue generated from On-Exchange ORF, when combined with all of the Exchange's other regulatory fees and fines, is designed to recover a material portion of the regulatory costs to the Exchange of the supervision and regulation of TPH customer options business, including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, and policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities. As discussed above, regulatory costs include direct regulatory expenses¹⁶ and certain indirect expenses in support of the regulatory function.¹⁷ Indirect expenses are estimated to be approximately 42% of the Exchange's total regulatory costs for 2026. Thus, direct expenses are estimated to be approximately 58% of total regulatory costs for 2026.

The Exchange will continue to monitor the amount of revenue collected from On-Exchange ORF to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed the Exchange's total regulatory costs. Further, Cboe Options expects to continue its current practice that revenue generated from On-Exchange ORF not exceed more than 75% of total annual regulatory costs. And as is the Exchange's practice today, revenue generated by On-Exchange ORF will not be used for non-regulatory purposes.

¹⁵ Depending on the operative date for the filing, the Exchange will submit an additional filing to specify the ORF rate based on the then-current estimates for regulatory revenues, regulatory costs and Customer volume.

¹⁶ Direct expenses include in-house and third-party service provider costs to support the day-to-day regulatory work such as surveillances, investigations, and examinations.

¹⁷ Indirect expenses include support from areas such as human resources, legal, compliance, information technology, facilities and accounting.

The Exchange will continue to monitor its regulatory costs and revenues at a minimum on a semi-annual basis. If the Exchange determines regulatory revenues exceed or are insufficient to cover a material portion of its regulatory costs in a given year, the Exchange will adjust the On-Exchange ORF by submitting a fee change filing to the Commission. The Exchange will notify TPHs of adjustments to the On-Exchange ORF via an Exchange Notice in advance of any change.¹⁸

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.¹⁹ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act²⁰, which provides that Exchange rules may provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its TPHs and other persons using its facilities. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)²¹ requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes the proposed change to assess and collect an On-Exchange ORF is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory for various reasons. First, On-Exchange ORF is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory in that it is charged to all Exchange transactions that clear in the Customer range at the OCC. Similar to ORF

¹⁸ See Exchange Notice, C2025022804 “Cboe C1 Options Exchanges Regulatory Fee Update Effective April 1, 2025.”

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

²⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

²¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

today, the Exchange believes On-Exchange ORF ensures fairness by assessing a specific fee to those TPHs that require more Exchange regulatory services based on the amount of customer options business they conduct. Over recent years, options trading volume has increased with a growing percentage of the volume applicable to customer transactions. Customers trading on the Exchange (through a TPH) benefit from the protections of a robust regulatory program including the maintenance of fair and orderly markets and protections against fraud and other manipulation. The Exchange believes it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to assess a regulatory fee to transactions that clear in the Customer range to cover regulatory costs, but not to transactions clearing in the Firm or Market Maker range because CTPHs and Market Maker TPHs (who clear in the Firm and Market Maker range), as those market participants are generally subject to other Exchange fees, fines and obligations. For example, CTPHs and Market Maker TPHs are required to pay Exchange application fees, permit fees, and connectivity fees, amongst others. In addition, all fines issued by the Exchange for regulatory infractions are assessed only to TPHs and would be applied to regulatory revenues. As with today's ORF, the Exchange expects that CTPHs from whom On-Exchange ORF is collected will pass through the fee to their customers (as the Exchange understands occurs today). In addition, Market Makers in particular are subject to various quoting and other obligations to ensure that they provide stable and liquid markets, which benefit all market participants including customers. Excluding Market Maker transactions from On-Exchange ORF will allow Market Makers to better manage their costs more effectively thus enabling them to better allocate resources toward technology, risk management, and capacity to ensure continued liquidity provision.

In addition to the overall increase in Customer-range volume generally, regulating customer trading activity is 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. For example, there are costs associated with main office and branch office examinations (e.g., staff and travel expenses), as well as investigations into customer complaints and terminations of Registered Persons. 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., CTPH proprietary transactions) of its regulatory program.²² While the Exchange notes that it has broad regulatory responsibilities with respect to its TPHs' activities, irrespective of where their transactions take place, the Exchange believes it is reasonable to assess the proposed fee to only those transactions occurring on the Exchange. The proposed change more narrowly tailors the fee to products and transactions with a direct connection to the Exchange. Today, a customer transaction may be assessed an ORF from every options exchange totaling as much as \$0.0187 per transaction per side.²³ While the Exchange's proposed ORF rate under the proposed model of \$0.01331 is higher than its current ORF rate of \$0.0023 under the current model, if all exchanges adopted a similar on-exchange model, ORF rates may decrease for individual transactions overall because the proposed On-Exchange ORF will avoid overlapping ORFs that would otherwise be assessed by Cboe Options and other

²² If the Exchange changes its method of funding regulation or if circumstances otherwise change in the future, the Exchange may decide to modify On-Exchange ORF or assess a separate regulatory fee on TPH proprietary transactions if the Exchange deems it advisable.

²³ As of October 1, 2025.

options exchanges that also assess an ORF. With this proposal, transactions that would clear in the Customer range occurring on other exchanges would no longer be subject to an ORF assessed by Cboe Options.

The Exchange believes it is equitable and not unduly discriminatory to modify the method of collecting the fee such that On-Exchange ORF will not consider CMTAs reported directly to OCC as is done in today's method of ORF. CMTA transfers are considered today under the current collection methodology for ORF as a convenience to industry members in administering a pass through of the fee to their customers. Limiting the On-Exchange ORF to transactions on the Exchange poses a limitation in the use of CMTA for this purpose. The Exchange understands that a CMTA may be added at order entry, via post-trade edit on the Exchange, or post-trade at OCC. CMTA transfers that occur at OCC do not necessarily contain reliable information regarding the Exchange on which the original transaction occurred.²⁴ Without specific information as to where the original transaction occurred, the Exchange would not be able to accurately account for CMTA transfers that occur at OCC.

The Exchange also believes that the fact that a Consolidated Audit Trail ("CAT") fee is in place should not preclude the Exchange from assessing On-Exchange ORF. The CAT is a repository of order, trade and customer information that is used as the basis for an audit trail of such activities. Like industry members, the exchanges, including Cboe Options, also pays a CAT fee to support the operation and maintenance of CAT (in other words, it does not support regulatory work undertaken by exchanges). Cboe Options does

²⁴ Under the current methodology for assessing ORF, the Exchange on which the transaction occurred is irrelevant.

not include fees it pays for CAT in the regulatory expenses it looks to offset under ORF. Yes, the Exchange uses CAT data as part of its regulatory work, but only from an audit trail perspective. On-Exchange ORF, on the other hand, offsets the regulatory work the Exchange performs (using CAT data among other sources) such as surveillances, investigations, examinations, etc. The Exchange believes its fair and reasonable to assess an On-Exchange ORF in addition to fees associated with CAT.

The Exchange further believes that the proposed change to the method for assessment and collection of the fee is reasonable because it would help ensure that revenue collected from the On-Exchange ORF, in combination with other regulatory fees and fines, would help offset, but not exceed, the Exchange's total regulatory costs. As discussed, On-Exchange ORF is similarly designed to the current ORF, in that revenues generated from the fee would be less than or equal to 75% of the Exchange's regulatory costs, which is consistent with the practice across the options industry today and the view of the Commission that regulatory fees be used for regulatory purposes and not to support the Exchange's business side.

As noted above, the Exchange will also continue to monitor on at least a semi-annual basis the amount of revenue collected from the On-Exchange ORF, even as amended, to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed the Exchange's total regulatory costs. If the Exchange determines regulatory revenues would exceed its regulatory costs in a given year, the Exchange will reduce the On-Exchange ORF by submitting a fee change filing to the Commission.²⁵

²⁵ Consistent with Rule 2.2 (Regulatory Revenue), the Exchange notes that should excess ORF revenue be collected prior to any reduction in an ORF rate, such excess revenue will not be used for nonregulatory purposes.

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 On-Exchange ORF applies to all customer activity on the Exchange, thereby raising regulatory revenue to offset regulatory expenses. It also supplements the regulatory revenue derived from non-customer activity. The Exchange notes, however, the proposed change is not designed to address any competitive issues. Indeed, 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 On-Exchange ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs. In addition, the Exchange will not implement the On-Exchange ORF until all other options exchanges are prepared to adopt a similar model to avoid overlapping ORFs.

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 written 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 Act²⁶ and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4²⁷ 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 (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR-CBOE-2025-086 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.

²⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

²⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

All submissions should refer to file number SR-CBOE-2025-086. 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 (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the filing will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-CBOE-2025-086 and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁸

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

²⁸

17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).



* * * * *

| Regulatory Fees | | |
|---|--|---|
| Description | Fee | Notes |
| Options Regulatory Fee ("ORF") (37)(42)(46) | \$0.0023 per contract side effective through June 30, 2026 | <u>Effective through June 30, 2026</u> The ORF is assessed by Cboe Options to each Trading Permit Holder on each side of a transaction for options transactions cleared by the Trading Permit Holder that are cleared by The Options Clearing Corporation (OCC) in the customer range, regardless of the exchange on which the transaction occurs. Cboe Options uses reports from OCC when assessing and collecting the ORF. The fee is collected by OCC on behalf of Cboe Options from the Clearing Trading Permit Holder (CTPH) or non-CTPH on each side of the transaction that ultimately clears the transaction. With respect to linkage transactions, Cboe Options reimburses its routing broker providing Routing Services pursuant to Cboe Options Rule 5.36 for options regulatory fees it incurs in connection with the Routing Services it provides. The ORF will sunset on June 30, 2026, after which the ORF rate will revert back to \$0.0017 per contract side. |
| | \$0.0017 per contract side effective July 1, 2026 | <u>Effective as of July 1, 2026</u> <u>The ORF is assessed by Cboe Options to each Trading Permit Holder on each side of a transaction for options transactions cleared by the Trading Permit Holder that are cleared by The Options Clearing Corporation (OCC) in the customer range for executions that occur on Cboe Options. Cboe Options uses reports from OCC when assessing and collecting the ORF. The fee is collected by OCC on behalf of Cboe Options from the Clearing Trading Permit Holder (CTPH) or non-CTPH on each side of the transaction that ultimately clears the transaction. With respect to linkage transactions, Cboe Options reimburses its routing broker providing Routing Services pursuant to Cboe Options Rule 5.36 for options regulatory fees it incurs in connection with the Routing Services it provides. The ORF will sunset on June 30, 2026, after which the ORF rate will revert back to \$0.0017 per contract side.</u> |

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