Page 1 of * 28	SE		CHANGE COMMIS DN, D.C. 20549 ı 19b-4		File No. * SR 2025 - * 080  No. (req. for Amendments *)		
Filing by Cboe	EDGX Exchange, Inc.						
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934							
Initial *  ✓	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b	Section 19(b)(	3)(A) * Section 19(b)(3)(B) *		
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *	Date Expires *		Rule  19b-4(f)(1)  √ 19b-4(f)(2)  19b-4(f)(3)	19b-4(f)(4) 19b-4(f)(5) 19b-4(f)(6)		
Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010  Section 806(e)(1) *  Section 806(e)(2) *  Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  Section 3C(b)(2) *							
Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document  Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document							
Description  Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *).  The Exchange proposes to amend its Fee 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 *	Courtney	Last Name *	Smith				
Title *	Senior Counsel						
E-mail *	csmith@cboe.com						
Telephone *	(913) 815-7046	Fax					
Signature							
Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange of 1934, Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.							
Date	09/30/2025		(	Title *)			
Ву	Matthew Iwamaye		VP, Associate Genera	al Counsel			
form. A digital s	(Name *)  the signature block at right will initiate digitally signi ignature is as legally binding as a physical signature is form cannot be changed.	ng the e, and	Matthew Iwamaye	Date: 2025.09.30 11:03:06 -05'00'			

### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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

Form 19b-4 Information *						
Add	Remove	View				
EDGX-25-080 19b-4 (October Fees).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 \*

Add Remove View

EDGX-25-080 Exhibit 1 (October Fees

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  $\mathsf{F}$ , they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction  $\mathsf{G}$ .

### Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

**Exhibit Sent As Paper Document** 

### Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire

Add Remove View

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

EDGX-25-080 Exhibit 5 (October Fees

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**

Add Remove View

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 EDGX Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "EDGX") proposes to amend its Fee Schedule by: (i) eliminating the fee cap for orders yielding fee code O; and (ii) introducing a new Routing Tier. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.
  - (b) Not applicable.
  - (c) Not applicable.

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

- (a) The Exchange's President (or designee) pursuant to delegated authority approved the proposed rule change on September 30, 2025.
- (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 Courtney Smith, Senior Counsel, (913) 222-4652, Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc., 433 West Van Buren Street, Chicago, Illinois 60607.

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

#### (a) Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fee Schedule by: (i) eliminating the fee cap for orders yielding fee code O; and (ii) introducing a new Routing Tier. The Exchange proposes to implement these changes effective October 1, 2025.

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 16 registered 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 Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"), to which market participants may direct their order flow. Based on publicly available information, no single registered equities exchange has more than 14% 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 in particular operates a "Maker-Taker" model whereby it pays rebates to members that add liquidity and assesses fees to those that remove liquidity. The Exchange's Fee Schedule sets forth the standard rebates and rates applied per share for orders that provide and remove liquidity, respectively. Currently, for orders in securities priced at or above \$1.00, the Exchange provides a standard rebate of \$0.00160 per share for orders that add liquidity and assesses a fee of \$0.0030 per share for orders that remove liquidity.<sup>2</sup> For orders in securities priced below \$1.00, the Exchange provides a rebate of \$0.00003 per share for orders that add liquidity and assesses a fee of 0.30% of the total dollar value for orders that remove liquidity.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, in response to the competitive environment, the Exchange also offers tiered pricing which provides Members opportunities to qualify for higher rebates or reduced fees where certain volume criteria and thresholds are met. Tiered pricing provides an incremental incentive for Members to strive for higher tier levels, which provides increasingly higher benefits or discounts for satisfying increasingly more stringent criteria.

<sup>&</sup>lt;u>See</u> Cboe Global Markets, U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary, Month-to-Date (September 19, 2025), available at <a href="https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/market\_statistics/">https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/market\_statistics/</a>.

See EDGX Equities Fee Schedule, Standard Rates.

<sup>3 &</sup>lt;u>Id.</u>

### Fee Code O and Routing Tier

The Exchange proposes to amend footnote 5 of its Fee Schedule to remove the \$35,000 cap applicable to orders yielding fee code O<sup>4</sup> and introduce a new Routing Tier. Currently, orders appended with fee code O are charged a fee of \$0.00100 per share for orders in securities priced at or above \$1.00 and \$0.30% of the transaction dollar value for securities priced below \$1.00. When the Exchange routes to a listing exchange's opening or re-opening cross, such as the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq"), the Exchange passes through the tier saving that Bats Trading, Inc. ("Bats Trading"), the Exchange's routing broker-dealer, achieves on an away exchange to its Members. This tier savings takes the form of a cap of a Member's fees at \$35,000 per month. The proposed removal of the cap under footnote 5 is for business and competitive reasons as the Exchange will no longer be able to support such a fee cap when its Fee Schedule must comply with the Securities and Exchange Commission's (the "SEC" or "Commission") final rule regarding the transparency of better priced orders, which "prohibits a national securities exchange from imposing...any fee or fees, or providing...any rebate or other remuneration...for the execution of an order in an NMS stock unless such fee, rebate or other remuneration can be determined by the market participant at the time of execution.". The Exchange has previously announced that effective November 3, 2025, it will transition to a billing methodology where tiers are determined based on the prior month's trading activity. 6 The Exchange notes that the purpose of fee code O is to recoup

Fee code O is appended to orders that are routed to a listing market's opening or re-opening cross.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-101070 (September 18, 2024), 89 FR 81620 (October 8, 2024), File No. S7-30-22 ("Fee Transparency Final Rule") at 81663.

See "Cboe Equities Supports SEC Transparency of Fee Requirements" (last accessed September 25, 2025); available at: <a href="https://www.cboe.com/notices/content/?id=55963">https://www.cboe.com/notices/content/?id=55963</a>.

costs incurred by the Exchange when routing orders to other listing markets on behalf of Exchange Members. While footnote 5 (associated with fee code O) is a fee cap and not a tier as described in the Exchange's customer notice, the Exchange cannot impose the fee cap incurred in the current month as the fee cap cannot be determined by the Member at the time of execution. This change is being made solely to comply with the Commission's Fee Transparency Final Rule.

In addition to removing the current \$35,000 cap under footnote 5, the Exchange also proposes to introduce a new Routing Tier that will assess a reduced fee for orders yielding fee code O where a Member achieves a certain routable volume in securities priced at or above \$1.00. The proposed criteria is as follows:

• The Routing Tier assesses a reduced fee of \$0.00085 per share in securities priced at or above \$1.00 to qualifying orders (i.e., orders yielding fee code O) where a Member has an opening routed shares ADV (yielding fee code O) of 1,750,000.

The proposed addition of the Routing Tier is intended to provide an opportunity for Members to receive discounted fees on their routable orders submitted to the Exchange. The Exchange notes that the purpose of the proposed Routing Tier is to recoup costs incurred by the Exchange when routing orders to other listing markets on behalf of Exchange Members, however, should a Member satisfy the proposed criteria they will incur a discounted fee for its routed orders. Routing services offered by the Exchange are

See, e.g., Nasdaq Price List, Nasdaq Crossing Network, Execution Fees for the NASDAQ Opening Cross. Each firm's Opening Cross charges (in securities priced at or above \$1.00) from Market-On-Open (MOO) and Limit-On-Open (LOO) orders will be capped at \$35,000 per month, provided that firm adds one million shares of liquidity, on average, during the month.

completely optional and market participants can readily select between various providers of routing services, including other exchanges and broker-dealers. Further, the Exchange notes that Members may elect to mark their orders as non-routable to avoid incurring any routing fees, including the discounted fee under the proposed Routing Tier.

### (b) 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. 8 Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>9</sup> requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>10</sup> requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers as well as Section 6(b)(4)<sup>11</sup> as it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its Members and other persons using its facilities.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Id.

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

As described above, 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. The Exchange believes its proposal to introduce a new Routing Tier reflects a competitive pricing structure designed to incentivize market participants to direct their routable order flow in securities priced at or above \$1.00 to the Exchange, which the Exchange believes would enhance market quality to the benefit of all Members. Specifically, the Exchange's proposal to introduce a Routing Tier is not a significant departure from existing criteria, is reasonably correlated to discounted fees offered by the Exchange and other competing exchanges, <sup>12</sup> and will continue to incentivize Members to submit order flow to the Exchange. Additionally, the Exchange notes that similar incentives and discounts have been adopted by exchanges, 13 including the Exchange, 14 because they 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 to 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, including schedules or rebates and fees that apply based upon members achieving certain volume and/or growth thresholds, as well assess similar fees or rebates for similar types of orders, to that of the Exchange.

See e.g., EDGX Equities Fee Schedule, Footnote 1, Add/Remove Volume Tiers. EDGX provides discounted fees under its Remove Volume Tiers for Members that achieve certain volume-based criteria.

See, e.g., Nasdaq Price List, Route Rates, RFTY Strategies. Nasdaq's RFTY Strategies range from free to \$0.0025.

See e.g., EDGX Equities Fee Schedule, Footnote 1, Add/Remove Volume Tiers.

In particular, the Exchange believes its proposal to introduce the Routing Tier is reasonable because the proposed tier will be available to all Members and provide all Members with an opportunity to receive a discounted fee on their routable orders in securities priced at or above \$1.00. The Exchange further believes its proposal to introduce the Routing Tier will provide a reasonable means to encourage Members to submit routable order flow in securities priced at or above \$1.00 to the Exchange by offering them an opportunity to receive a discounted fee on qualifying orders. An overall increase in activity would deepen the Exchange's liquidity pool, offer additional cost savings, support the quality of price discovery, promote market transparency and improve market quality, for all investors.

The Exchange believes that its proposal to introduce the Routing Tier is reasonable as the proposed criteria does not represent a significant departure from the criteria currently offered in the Fee Schedule. The Exchange also believes that the proposal represents an equitable allocation of fees and rebates and is not unfairly discriminatory because all Members will be eligible for the proposed Routing Tier and have the opportunity to meet the tier's criteria and receive the corresponding discounted fee if such criteria is met. Without having a view of activity on other markets and offexchange venues, the Exchange has no way of knowing whether this proposed rule change would definitely result in any Members qualifying for the proposed Routing Tier. While the Exchange has no way of predicting with certainty how the proposed changes will impact Member activity, based on the prior month's volume the Exchange anticipates that at least one Member will be able to satisfy the proposed Routing Tier. The Exchange also notes that the proposed changes will not adversely impact any

Member's ability to qualify for enhanced rebates or discounted fees offered under other tiers. Should a Member not meet the proposed new criteria, the member will merely not receive that corresponding discounted fee. The Exchange notes that routing services offered by the Exchange are completely optional and Members can readily select between various providers of routing services, including other exchanges and broker-dealers if the Members disagree with the Exchange's Fee Schedule.

Similarly, the Exchange believes its proposal to remove the \$35,000 fee cap associated with fee code O is reasonable, equitable, and consistent with the Act because such change is required in order to comply with the Commission's Fee Transparency Final Rule where a Member must be able to determine an applicable fee or rebate at the time of execution. The Exchange's proposal to remove the \$35,000 fee cap is also not unfairly discriminatory because it applies to all Members equally, in that no Member will be subject to the fee cap.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Rather, as discussed above, the Exchange believes that the proposed change would encourage the submission of additional 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 changes further 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."

The Exchange believes the proposed rule changes do not impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Particularly, the proposed change to introduce a new Routing Tier does not impose an unnecessary burden as all Members are eligible to receive the discounted fee under the proposed Routing Tier. The Exchange does not believe the proposed changes burden competition, but rather, enhances competition as it is intended to increase the competitiveness of EDGX by amending existing pricing incentives in order to attract order flow and incentivize participants to increase their participation on the Exchange, providing for additional execution opportunities for market participants and improved price transparency. Greater overall order flow, trading opportunities, and pricing transparency benefits all market participants on the Exchange by enhancing market quality and continuing to encourage Members to send orders, thereby contributing towards a robust and well-balanced market ecosystem.

The Exchange believes the proposed change to eliminate the fee cap associated with fee code O under footnote 5 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 elimination of the fee cap associated with fee code O is not being made for competitive reasons, but rather to comply with the Commission's Fee Transparency Final Rule.

Next, the Exchange believes the proposed rule changes do not impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes 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 other equities exchanges, offexchange 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 14% of the market share. 15 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." <sup>16</sup> 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

Supra note 1.

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

otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'....". <sup>17</sup> 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. <u>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)</u>

- (a) The proposed rule change is filed for immediate effectiveness pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>18</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)<sup>19</sup> 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

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)).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

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. <u>Exhibits</u>

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

Exhibits 2-4. Not applicable.

Exhibit 5. Proposed rule text.

### EXHIBIT 1

[Insert date]

#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-CboeEDGX-2025-080]

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

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> 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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

Choe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "EDGX") proposes to amend its Fee Schedule by: (i) eliminating the fee cap for orders yielding fee code O; and (ii) introducing a new Routing Tier. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Commission's website (<a href="https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>), the Exchange's website (<a href="https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule\_filings/bzx/">https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule\_filings/bzx/</a>), and at the principal office of the Exchange.

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

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

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

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

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

### 1. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fee Schedule by: (i) eliminating the fee cap for orders yielding fee code O; and (ii) introducing a new Routing Tier. The Exchange proposes to implement these changes effective October 1, 2025.

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 16 registered 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 Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"), to which market participants may direct their order flow. Based on publicly available information, 3 no single registered equities exchange has more than 14% 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

See Cboe Global Markets, U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary, Month-to-Date (September 19, 2025), available at <a href="https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/market\_statistics/">https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/market\_statistics/</a>.

Exchange in particular operates a "Maker-Taker" model whereby it pays rebates to members that add liquidity and assesses fees to those that remove liquidity. The Exchange's Fee Schedule sets forth the standard rebates and rates applied per share for orders that provide and remove liquidity, respectively. Currently, for orders in securities priced at or above \$1.00, the Exchange provides a standard rebate of \$0.00160 per share for orders that add liquidity and assesses a fee of \$0.0030 per share for orders that remove liquidity. For orders in securities priced below \$1.00, the Exchange provides a rebate of \$0.00003 per share for orders that add liquidity and assesses a fee of 0.30% of the total dollar value for orders that remove liquidity. Additionally, in response to the competitive environment, the Exchange also offers tiered pricing which provides Members opportunities to qualify for higher rebates or reduced fees where certain volume criteria and thresholds are met. Tiered pricing provides an incremental incentive for Members to strive for higher tier levels, which provides increasingly higher benefits or discounts for satisfying increasingly more stringent criteria.

### **Fee Code O and Routing Tier**

The Exchange proposes to amend footnote 5 of its Fee Schedule to remove the \$35,000 cap applicable to orders yielding fee code O<sup>6</sup> and introduce a new Routing Tier. Currently, orders appended with fee code O are charged a fee of \$0.00100 per share for orders in securities priced at or above \$1.00 and \$0.30% of the transaction dollar value for securities priced below \$1.00. When the Exchange routes to a listing exchange's opening or re-opening cross, such as the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq"), the

See EDGX Equities Fee Schedule, Standard Rates.

<sup>5</sup> Id

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Fee code O is appended to orders that are routed to a listing market's opening or re-opening cross.

Exchange passes through the tier saving that Bats Trading, Inc. ("Bats Trading"), the Exchange's routing broker-dealer, achieves on an away exchange to its Members. This tier savings takes the form of a cap of a Member's fees at \$35,000 per month. The proposed removal of the cap under footnote 5 is for business and competitive reasons as the Exchange will no longer be able to support such a fee cap when its Fee Schedule must comply with the Securities and Exchange Commission's (the "SEC" or "Commission") final rule regarding the transparency of better priced orders, which "prohibits a national securities exchange from imposing...any fee or fees, or providing...any rebate or other remuneration...for the execution of an order in an NMS stock unless such fee, rebate or other remuneration can be determined by the market participant at the time of execution.". The Exchange has previously announced that effective November 3, 2025, it will transition to a billing methodology where tiers are determined based on the prior month's trading activity. 8 The Exchange notes that the purpose of fee code O is to recoup costs incurred by the Exchange when routing orders to other listing markets on behalf of Exchange Members. While footnote 5 (associated with fee code O) is a fee cap and not a tier as described in the Exchange's customer notice, the Exchange cannot impose the fee cap incurred in the current month as the fee cap cannot be determined by the Member at the time of execution. This change is being made solely to comply with the Commission's Fee Transparency Final Rule.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-101070 (September 18, 2024), 89 FR 81620

<sup>(</sup>October 8, 2024), File No. S7-30-22 ("Fee Transparency Final Rule") at 81663.

See "Cboe Equities Supports SEC Transparency of Fee Requirements" (last accessed September 25, 2025); available at: <a href="https://www.cboe.com/notices/content/?id=55963">https://www.cboe.com/notices/content/?id=55963</a>.

See, e.g., Nasdaq Price List, Nasdaq Crossing Network, Execution Fees for the NASDAQ Opening Cross. Each firm's Opening Cross charges (in securities priced at or above \$1.00) from Market-On-Open (MOO) and Limit-On-Open (LOO) orders will be capped at \$35,000 per month,

In addition to removing the current \$35,000 cap under footnote 5, the Exchange also proposes to introduce a new Routing Tier that will assess a reduced fee for orders yielding fee code O where a Member achieves a certain routable volume in securities priced at or above \$1.00. The proposed criteria is as follows:

• The Routing Tier assesses a reduced fee of \$0.00085 per share in securities priced at or above \$1.00 to qualifying orders (i.e., orders yielding fee code O) where a Member has an opening routed shares ADV (yielding fee code O) of 1,750,000.

The proposed addition of the Routing Tier is intended to provide an opportunity for Members to receive discounted fees on their routable orders submitted to the Exchange. The Exchange notes that the purpose of the proposed Routing Tier is to recoup costs incurred by the Exchange when routing orders to other listing markets on behalf of Exchange Members, however, should a Member satisfy the proposed criteria they will incur a discounted fee for its routed orders. Routing services offered by the Exchange are completely optional and market participants can readily select between various providers of routing services, including other exchanges and broker-dealers. Further, the Exchange notes that Members may elect to mark their orders as non-routable to avoid incurring any routing fees, including the discounted fee under the proposed Routing Tier.

### 2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

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

provided that firm adds one million shares of liquidity, on average, during the month.

requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act. <sup>10</sup> Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section  $6(b)(5)^{11}$  requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section  $6(b)(5)^{12}$  requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers as well as Section  $6(b)(4)^{13}$  as it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its Members and other persons using its facilities.

As described above, 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. The Exchange believes its proposal to introduce a new Routing Tier reflects a competitive pricing structure designed to incentivize market participants to direct their routable order flow in securities priced at or above \$1.00 to the Exchange, which the Exchange believes would enhance market quality to the benefit of all Members. Specifically, the Exchange's

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Id.

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

proposal to introduce a Routing Tier is not a significant departure from existing criteria, is reasonably correlated to discounted fees offered by the Exchange and other competing exchanges, <sup>14</sup> and will continue to incentivize Members to submit order flow to the Exchange. Additionally, the Exchange notes that similar incentives and discounts have been adopted by exchanges, <sup>15</sup> including the Exchange, <sup>16</sup> because they 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 to 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, including schedules or rebates and fees that apply based upon members achieving certain volume and/or growth thresholds, as well assess similar fees or rebates for similar types of orders, to that of the Exchange.

In particular, the Exchange believes its proposal to introduce the Routing Tier is reasonable because the proposed tier will be available to all Members and provide all Members with an opportunity to receive a discounted fee on their routable orders in securities priced at or above \$1.00. The Exchange further believes its proposal to introduce the Routing Tier will provide a reasonable means to encourage Members to submit routable order flow in securities priced at or above \$1.00 to the Exchange by offering them an opportunity to receive a discounted fee on qualifying orders. An overall

See e.g., EDGX Equities Fee Schedule, Footnote 1, Add/Remove Volume Tiers. EDGX provides discounted fees under its Remove Volume Tiers for Members that achieve certain volume-based criteria.

See, e.g., Nasdaq Price List, Route Rates, RFTY Strategies. Nasdaq's RFTY Strategies range from free to \$0.0025.

See e.g., EDGX Equities Fee Schedule, Footnote 1, Add/Remove Volume Tiers.

increase in activity would deepen the Exchange's liquidity pool, offer additional cost savings, support the quality of price discovery, promote market transparency and improve market quality, for all investors.

The Exchange believes that its proposal to introduce the Routing Tier is reasonable as the proposed criteria does not represent a significant departure from the criteria currently offered in the Fee Schedule. The Exchange also believes that the proposal represents an equitable allocation of fees and rebates and is not unfairly discriminatory because all Members will be eligible for the proposed Routing Tier and have the opportunity to meet the tier's criteria and receive the corresponding discounted fee if such criteria is met. Without having a view of activity on other markets and offexchange venues, the Exchange has no way of knowing whether this proposed rule change would definitely result in any Members qualifying for the proposed Routing Tier. While the Exchange has no way of predicting with certainty how the proposed changes will impact Member activity, based on the prior month's volume the Exchange anticipates that at least one Member will be able to satisfy the proposed Routing Tier. The Exchange also notes that the proposed changes will not adversely impact any Member's ability to qualify for enhanced rebates or discounted fees offered under other tiers. Should a Member not meet the proposed new criteria, the member will merely not receive that corresponding discounted fee. The Exchange notes that routing services offered by the Exchange are completely optional and Members can readily select between various providers of routing services, including other exchanges and broker-dealers if the Members disagree with the Exchange's Fee Schedule.

Similarly, the Exchange believes its proposal to remove the \$35,000 fee cap associated with fee code O is reasonable, equitable, and consistent with the Act because such change is required in order to comply with the Commission's Fee Transparency Final Rule where a Member must be able to determine an applicable fee or rebate at the time of execution. The Exchange's proposal to remove the \$35,000 fee cap is also not unfairly discriminatory because it applies to all Members equally, in that no Member will be subject to the fee cap.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Rather, as discussed above, the Exchange believes that the proposed change would encourage the submission of additional 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 changes further 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."

The Exchange believes the proposed rule changes do not impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Particularly, the proposed change to introduce a new Routing Tier does not impose an unnecessary burden as all Members are eligible to receive the discounted fee under the proposed Routing Tier. The Exchange does not believe the proposed changes burden competition, but rather, enhances competition as it is intended to increase the competitiveness of EDGX by amending existing pricing incentives in

order to attract order flow and incentivize participants to increase their participation on the Exchange, providing for additional execution opportunities for market participants and improved price transparency. Greater overall order flow, trading opportunities, and pricing transparency benefits all market participants on the Exchange by enhancing market quality and continuing to encourage Members to send orders, thereby contributing towards a robust and well-balanced market ecosystem.

The Exchange believes the proposed change to eliminate the fee cap associated with fee code O under footnote 5 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 elimination of the fee cap associated with fee code O is not being made for competitive reasons, but rather to comply with the Commission's Fee Transparency Final Rule.

Next, the Exchange believes the proposed rule changes do not impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes 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 other equities exchanges, offexchange 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 14% of the market share. 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

Supra note 3.

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'....". <sup>19</sup> 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.

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

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

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

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)).

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>20</sup> and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4<sup>21</sup> 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
   (<a href="https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>); or
- Send an email to <a href="mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov">rule-comments@sec.gov</a>. Please include file number SR-CboeEDGX-2025-080 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

All submissions should refer to file number SR-CboeEDGX-2025-080. 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-CboeEDGX-2025-080 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. <sup>22</sup>

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

### **EXHIBIT 5**

(additions are <u>underlined</u>; deletions are [bracketed])

\* \* \* \* \*

**Cboe U.S. Equities Fee Schedules** 

**EDGX Equities** 

Effective [August 29]October 1, 2025

\* \* \* \* \*

**Footnotes:** 

\* \* \* \* \*

### **5.** [Capped at \$35,000 per month per Member]. Routing Tier

The fees to route provided by the below routing tiers are applicable to the following fee codes: O.

<u>Tier</u>	Fee Per Share	Required Criteria	
Routing Tier		Member has an opening routed shares ADV (yielding fee code O) of 1,750,000.	

\* \* \* \* \*