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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
Form 19b-4

File No. \* SR 2026 - \* 001

Amendment No. (req. for Amendments \*)

Filing by Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.

Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

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

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 amend its Fee Schedule by eliminating LEP Tier 1.

### 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 BZX Exchange, Inc.  
has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date

01/02/2026

(Title \*)

By

Matthew Iwamaye

VP, Associate General Counsel

(Name \*)

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.

Matthew Iwamaye Date: 2026.01.02  
10:20:36 -06'00'

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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

**Form 19b-4 Information \***

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BZX-26-001 (January fees) 19b-4.doc

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

BZX-26-001 (January fees) Exhibit 1.c

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.

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 Sent As Paper Document

**Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies**

Add Remove View

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

BZX-26-001 (January fees) Exhibit 5.d

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 BZX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “BZX”) proposes to amend its Fee Schedule by eliminating LEP Tier 1. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

**Item 2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization**

(a) The Exchange’s President (or designee) pursuant to delegated authority approved the proposed rule change on December 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 BZX 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 Fee Schedule applicable to its equities trading platform (“BZX Equities”) by eliminating LEP Tier 1. The Exchange proposes to implement these changes effective January 2, 2026.

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 17 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,<sup>1</sup> no single registered equities exchange has more than 15% 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 does not provide a rebate 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.

### **LEP Tier**

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<sup>1</sup> See Cboe Global Markets, U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary, Month-to-Date (December 23, 2025), available at [https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/market\\_statistics/](https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/market_statistics/).

<sup>2</sup> See BZX Equities Fee Schedule, Standard Rates.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

Under footnote 13 of the Fee Schedule, the Exchange details pricing for volume and quoting in BZX-listed securities on Tape B. In particular, the Exchange offers LEP Tier 1, which provides an enhanced rebate of \$0.0025 to Members enrolled in at least BZX-listed LEP Securities<sup>4</sup> who meet the applicable criteria for at least 75% of the trading days in the applicable month. The Exchange now proposes to remove LEP Tier 1 as the Exchange no longer wishes to, nor is required to, maintain such rebate. More specifically, the proposed change removes this rebate as the Exchange would rather redirect future resources and funding into other programs and tiers intended to incentivize increased order flow. In addition, the Exchange proposes to remove the terms “LEP Securities” and “Notional Depth”<sup>5</sup> from the Definitions section of the Fee Schedule as these terms will no longer apply.

(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.<sup>6</sup> Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>7</sup> requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to

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<sup>4</sup> “LEP Security” means a list of Single-Stock ETFs included in the Liquidity Enhancement Program, the universe of which will be determined by the Exchange and published in a circular distributed to Members and on the Exchange’s website. Such LEP Securities will include all Cboe-listed Single-Stock ETFs, including options-based ETFs in a single underlying equity security, for which the Exchange wants to incentivize Members to provide enhanced market quality. The Exchange will not remove a security from the list of LEP Securities without 30 days prior notice.

<sup>5</sup> “Notional Depth” means the notional value of bids of at least 100 shares that are within \$0.05 of the NBB or offers of at least 100 shares that are within \$0.05 of the NBO.

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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>8</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>9</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.

The Exchange believes that its proposal to eliminate LEP Tier 1 is reasonable because the Exchange is not required to maintain this rebate nor provide Members an opportunity to receive enhanced rebates. The Exchange believes its proposal to eliminate this rebate is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it applies to all Members (i.e., the rebate will no longer be available to any Member). The proposed rule change merely results in Members not receiving an enhanced rebate, which, as noted above, the Exchange is not required to offer or maintain. Further, Members remain eligible to receive other rebates listed on the Exchange's Fee Schedule should they satisfy the applicable criteria. In addition, the proposed rule change to eliminate LEP Tier 1 enables the Exchange to redirect resources and funding into other programs and tiers intended to incentivize increased order flow.

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<sup>8</sup> Id.

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4)

**Item 4. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition**

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Rather, as discussed above, the Exchange believes that the proposed 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 proposed change to eliminate LEP Tier 1 will not impose any burden on intramarket competition because the change applies to all Members uniformly in that the rebate will no longer be available to any Member.

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, off-exchange venues, and alternative trading systems. Additionally, the Exchange represents a small percentage of the overall market. Based on publicly available information, no single equities exchange has more than 15% of the market share.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, no exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of order flow. Indeed,

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<sup>10</sup> Supra note 1.

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>11</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 otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’....”<sup>12</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.

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<sup>11</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005).

<sup>12</sup> *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)).

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

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

**Item 6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action**

Not applicable.

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

(a) The proposed rule change is filed for immediate effectiveness pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>13</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)<sup>14</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 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.

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<sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>14</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

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

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

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

**Item 11. Exhibits**

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

Exhibits 2-4. Not applicable.

Exhibit 5. Proposed rule text.

**EXHIBIT 1****SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-CboeBZX-2026-001]

[Insert date]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to amend its Fee Schedule by eliminating LEP Tier 1

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 BZX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “BZX”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

**I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change**

Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “BZX”) proposes to amend its Fee Schedule by eliminating LEP Tier 1. 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 (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>), the Exchange’s website ([https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule\\_filings/bzx/](https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule_filings/bzx/)), and at the principal office of the Exchange.

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

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

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

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

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

#### **1. Purpose**

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fee Schedule applicable to its equities trading platform (“BZX Equities”) by eliminating LEP Tier 1. The Exchange proposes to implement these changes effective January 2, 2026.

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 17 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,<sup>3</sup> no single registered equities exchange has more than 15% 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

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<sup>3</sup> See Cboe Global Markets, U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary, Month-to-Date (December 23, 2025), available at [https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/market\\_statistics/](https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/market_statistics/).

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>4</sup> For orders in securities priced below \$1.00, the Exchange does not provide a rebate for orders that add liquidity and assesses a fee of 0.30% of the total dollar value for orders that remove liquidity.<sup>5</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.

### **LEP Tier**

Under footnote 13 of the Fee Schedule, the Exchange details pricing for volume and quoting in BZX-listed securities on Tape B. In particular, the Exchange offers LEP Tier 1, which provides an enhanced rebate of \$0.0025 to Members enrolled in at least BZX-listed LEP Securities<sup>6</sup> who meet the applicable criteria for at least 75% of the

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<sup>4</sup> See BZX Equities Fee Schedule, Standard Rates.

<sup>5</sup> Id.

<sup>6</sup> “LEP Security” means a list of Single-Stock ETFs included in the Liquidity Enhancement Program, the universe of which will be determined by the Exchange and published in a circular distributed to Members and on the Exchange’s website. Such LEP Securities will include all Cboe-listed Single-Stock ETFs, including options-based ETFs in a single underlying equity security, for which the Exchange wants to incentivize Members to provide enhanced market quality. The Exchange will not remove a security from the list of LEP Securities without 30 days

trading days in the applicable month. The Exchange now proposes to remove LEP Tier 1 as the Exchange no longer wishes to, nor is required to, maintain such rebate. More specifically, the proposed change removes this rebate as the Exchange would rather redirect future resources and funding into other programs and tiers intended to incentivize increased order flow. In addition, the Exchange proposes to remove the terms “LEP Securities” and “Notional Depth”<sup>7</sup> from the Definitions section of the Fee Schedule as these terms will no longer apply.

## 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.<sup>8</sup> 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

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prior notice.

<sup>7</sup> “Notional Depth” means the notional value of bids of at least 100 shares that are within \$0.05 of the NBB or offers of at least 100 shares that are within \$0.05 of the NBO.

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

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

<sup>10</sup> Id.

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.

The Exchange believes that its proposal to eliminate LEP Tier 1 is reasonable because the Exchange is not required to maintain this rebate nor provide Members an opportunity to receive enhanced rebates. The Exchange believes its proposal to eliminate this rebate is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it applies to all Members (i.e., the rebate will no longer be available to any Member). The proposed rule change merely results in Members not receiving an enhanced rebate, which, as noted above, the Exchange is not required to offer or maintain. Further, Members remain eligible to receive other rebates listed on the Exchange's Fee Schedule should they satisfy the applicable criteria. In addition, the proposed rule change to eliminate LEP Tier 1 enables the Exchange to redirect resources and funding into other programs and tiers intended to incentivize increased order flow.

**B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition**

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

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<sup>11</sup>

15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4)

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 proposed change to eliminate LEP Tier 1 will not impose any burden on intramarket competition because the change applies to all Members uniformly in that the rebate will no longer be available to any Member.

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, off-exchange venues, and alternative trading systems. Additionally, the Exchange represents a small percentage of the overall market. Based on publicly available information, no single equities exchange has more than 15% of the market share.<sup>12</sup> 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

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<sup>12</sup> Supra note 3.

competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”<sup>13</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 otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’ ….”<sup>14</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. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others**

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

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>15</sup> and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4<sup>16</sup> thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily

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<sup>13</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005).

<sup>14</sup> *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>15</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include file number SR-CboeBZX-2026-001 on the subject line.

##### Paper Comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR-CboeBZX-2026-001. 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-CboeBZX-2026-001 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>17</sup>

**Sherry R. Haywood,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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<sup>17</sup>

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

## EXHIBIT 5

(additions are underlined; deletions are [bracketed])

\* \* \* \* \*

**Cboe U.S. Equities Fee Schedules****BZX Equities****Effective [December 22, 2025]January 2, 2026**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Definitions:**

\* \* \* \* \*

- [“LEP Securities” means a list of Single-Stock ETFs included in the Liquidity Enhancement Program, the universe of which will be determined by the Exchange and published in a circular distributed to Members and on the Exchange’s website. Such LEP Securities will include all Cboe-listed Single-Stock ETFs, including options-based ETFs in a single underlying equity security, for which the Exchange wants to incentivize Members to provide enhanced market quality. The Exchange will not remove a security from the list of LEP Securities without 30 days prior notice.]

\* \* \* \* \*

- [“Notional Depth” means the notional value of bids of at least 100 shares that are within \$0.05 of the NBB or offers of at least 100 shares that are within \$0.05 of the NBO.]

\* \* \* \* \*

**Footnotes:****13. Tape B Volume and Quoting Tiers**

\* \* \* \* \*

[Applicable to the following fee code: B.]

[Tier]	[Rebate Per Share to Add]	[Required Criteria]
[LEP Tier 1]	[\$(0.0025)]	<p>[(i) Member is enrolled in at least 5 BZX-listed LEP Securities, for which it meets the following criteria for at least 75% of the trading days in the applicable month:</p> <p>(1) Member has NBBO Time <math>\geq</math> 20%; and</p> <p>(2) Member has bids and offers with a Notional Depth of \$75,000 on each side for at least 90% of the trading day; and</p> <p>(3) The difference in the NBB and NBO spread for each LEP Security is no wider than 0.50% for at least 95% of the trading day.]</p>

\* \* \* \* \*