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

File No. * SR 2026 - * 084

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) * ☐
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Pilot

☐Extension of Time Period for
Commission Action *☐

Date Expires *

Rule

☐

19b-4(f)(1)

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19b-4(f)(4)

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19b-4(f)(2)

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19b-4(f)(5)

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19b-4(f)(3)

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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 * Sarah Last Name * Tadtman

Title * Assistant General Counsel

E-mail * stadtman@cboe.com

Telephone * (913) 815-7203

Fax

SignaturePursuant 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 10/01/2026

(Title *)

By Matthew Iwamaye

(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.

Matthew Iwamaye

Date: 2026.10.01
09:19:23 -05'00'

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and astericks.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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

Form 19b-4 Information *

Add Remove View

BZX-26-084 19b-4 (October Fees) 100

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-26-084 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

Add Remove View

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

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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.

☐ 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-26-084 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

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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 introducing Step-Up Tier 1 under footnote 2 of its Fee Schedule. 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 October 1, 2026.

(b) Please refer questions and comments on the proposed rule change to Pat Sexton, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary, (312) 786-7467, or Sarah Tadtman, (913) 424-2970, 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 introducing Step-Up Tier 1 under footnote 2 of its Fee Schedule. The Exchange proposes to implement these changes effective on October 1, 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,¹ 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.² 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.³ 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.

¹ See Cboe Global Markets, U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary, Month-to-Date (September 24, 2026), available at [Cboe U.S. Equities Market Statistics | Cboe](#).

² See BZX Equities Fee Schedule, Standard Rates.

³ Id.

Step-Up Tiers

Footnote 2 of the Fee Schedule is currently designated as “Reserved.” The Exchange now proposes to designate footnote 2 of the Fee Schedule as “Step-Up Tiers,” where the Exchange would offer various Step-Up Tiers that provide enhanced rebates for orders yielding fee codes B,⁴ V,⁵ and Y⁶ where a Member reaches certain add volume-based criteria, including “growing” its volume over a certain baseline month. The Exchange also proposes to introduce Step-Up Tier 1. The proposed criteria of proposed Step-Up Tier 1 is as follows:

- Proposed Step-Up Tier 1 will provide a rebate of \$0.0028 per share to qualifying orders where: (1) Member has a Step-Up Add TCV⁷ from September 2026 $\geq$ 0.08% or Member has an Ex-Subdollar Step-Up Add Ex-Subdollar TCV⁸ from September 2026 $\geq$ 0.08%; and (2) Member has a CMC ADV of 300,000 that yield fee code MC.⁹

For purposes of the proposed Step-Up Tier 1, “CMC ADV” means ADV in Cboe Market Close (“CMC”) orders.¹⁰ In addition, the Exchange proposes to add the definition

⁴ Fee code B is appended to displayed orders that add liquidity to BZX in Tape B securities.

⁵ Fee code V is appended to displayed orders that add liquidity to BZX in Tape A securities.

⁶ Fee code Y is appended to displayed orders that add liquidity to BZX in Tape C securities.

⁷ As proposed, “Step-Up Add TCV” means ADAV as a percentage of TCV in the relevant baseline month subtracted from the prior month’s ADAV as a percentage of TCV.

⁸ As proposed, “Ex-Subdollar Step-Up Add Ex-Subdollar TCV” means Ex-Subdollar ADAV as a percentage of Ex-Subdollar TCV in the relevant baseline month subtracted from the prior month’s Ex-Subdollar ADAV as a percentage of Ex-Subdollar TCV.

⁹ Fee code MC is appended to Cboe Market Close orders.

¹⁰ Cboe Market Close is a closing match process for non-BZX-listed securities that allows a Member to submit Market-on-Close (“MOC”) orders to BZX ahead of certain CMC matching sessions where these orders will be matched with other MOC orders participating in CMC and eligible to execute at the official closing price as published by the primary listing market. See Rule 11.28.

of “Step-Up Add TCV”¹¹ and “Ex-Subdollar Step-Up Add Ex-Subdollar TCV”¹² to the Definitions section of the Fee Schedule. The Exchange also proposes to revise the Fee Codes and Associated Fees table on the Fee Schedule to include footnote 2 on fee codes B, V, and Y. The Exchange also notes that proposed Step-Up Tier 1 will expire no later than February 28, 2027, which the Exchange will indicate on the Exchange’s Fee Schedule.

The proposed Step-Up Tier 1, like other Add Volume Tiers,¹³ is intended to provide an additional opportunity to incentivize Members to earn an enhanced rebate by increasing their order flow to the Exchange, which further contributes to a deeper, more liquid market and provides even more execution opportunities for active market participants. Incentivizing an increase in liquidity adding volume through enhanced rebate opportunities encourages liquidity-adding Members on the Exchange to increase transactions and take execution opportunities provided by such increased liquidity, together providing for overall enhanced price discovery and price improvement opportunities on the Exchange. As such, increased overall order flow benefits all Members by contributing towards a robust and well-balanced market ecosystem.

(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.⁵ Specifically, the Exchange believes the

¹¹ Supra note 7.

¹² Supra note 8.

¹³ See BZX Equities Fee Schedule, Footnote 1, Add/Remove Volume Tiers.

proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)⁶ 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)⁷ 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)⁸ 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 that its proposal to create Step-Up Tier 1 reflects a competitive pricing structure designed to incentivize market participants to direct their order flow to the Exchange, which the Exchange believes would enhance market quality to the benefit of all Members. Specifically, the Exchange's proposal to introduce Step-Up Tier 1 is not a significant departure from existing criteria, is reasonably correlated to the enhanced rebate offered by the Exchange and other competing exchanges,¹⁴ and will continue to

¹⁴ See NYSE Arca Marketplace Fees, Tier Rates – Round Lots and Odd Lots (Per Share Price \$1.00 or Above), Step-Up Tiers, available at https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse-arca/NYSE_Arca_Marketplace_Fees.pdf;

incentivize Members to submit order flow to the Exchange. Additionally, the Exchange notes that relative volume-based incentives and discounts have been widely adopted by exchanges,¹⁵ including the Exchange,¹⁶ and are reasonable, equitable and non-discriminatory because they are open to all Members on an equal basis and provide additional benefits or discounts that are reasonably related to (i) the value 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.

In particular, the Exchange believes its proposed Step-Up Tier 1 is reasonable because the proposed tier will be available to all Members and provides all Members with an opportunity to receive an enhanced rebate. The Exchange further believes its proposed Step-Up Tier 1 will provide a reasonable means to encourage liquidity adding displayed orders in Members' order flow to the Exchange and to incentivize Members to continue to provide liquidity adding volume to the Exchange as well as encourage Members to participate in CMC by offering them an opportunity to receive an enhanced rebate 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 proposed Step-Up Tier 1 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

¹⁵ See e.g., EDGX Equities Fee Schedule, Footnote 1, Add/Remove Volume Tiers.

¹⁶ See e.g., BZX Equities Fee Schedule, Footnote 1, Add/Remove Volume Tiers.

Members will be eligible for the proposed Step-Up Tier 1 and have the opportunity to meet the tier's criteria and receive the corresponding enhanced rebate if such criteria is met. 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 does not anticipate that any Member will be able to satisfy the proposed Step-Up Tier 1. The Exchange also notes that proposed changes will not adversely impact any Member's ability to qualify for enhanced rebates offered under other tiers. Should a Member not meet the proposed new criteria, the Member will merely not receive that corresponding enhanced rebate.

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 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 creation of Step-Up Tier 1 does not impose an unnecessary burden as all Members are eligible to receive the enhanced rebate

under the proposed tier. The Exchange does not believe the proposed changes burden competition, but rather, enhances competition as it is intended to increase the competitiveness of BZX by introducing a new pricing incentive 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.

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. 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 14% of the market share.¹⁷ Therefore, no exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of order flow. Indeed, participants can readily choose to send their orders to other exchange and off-exchange venues if they deem fee levels at those other venues to be more favorable. Moreover, the Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. Specifically, in Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted

¹⁷ Supra note 1.

the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system “has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”¹⁸ The fact that this market is competitive has also long been recognized by the courts. In *NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission*, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: “[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is ‘fierce.’ ... As the SEC explained, ‘[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution’; [and] ‘no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted’ because ‘no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers’”¹⁹ Accordingly, the Exchange does not 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.

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

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

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

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

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

²⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

²¹ 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.

Exhibits 2-4. Not applicable.

Exhibit 5. Proposed rule text.

EXHIBIT 1**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-CboeBZX-2026-084]

[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

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 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 introducing Step-Up Tier 1 under footnote 2 of its Fee Schedule. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Commission’s website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>), the Exchange’s website (https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/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 Fee Schedule applicable to its equities trading platform ("BZX Equities") by introducing Step-Up Tier 1 under footnote 2 of its Fee Schedule. The Exchange proposes to implement these changes effective on October 1, 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,³ no single registered equities exchange has more than 15% of the

³ See Cboe Global Markets, U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary, Month-to-Date (September 24, 2026), available at [Cboe U.S. Equities Market Statistics | Cboe](#).

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.⁴ 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.⁵ 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.

Step-Up Tiers

Footnote 2 of the Fee Schedule is currently designated as “Reserved.” The Exchange now proposes to designate footnote 2 of the Fee Schedule as “Step-Up Tiers,” where the Exchange would offer various Step-Up Tiers that provide enhanced rebates for

⁴ See BZX Equities Fee Schedule, Standard Rates.

⁵ Id.

orders yielding fee codes B,⁶ V,⁷ and Y⁸ where a Member reaches certain add volume-based criteria, including “growing” its volume over a certain baseline month. The Exchange also proposes to introduce Step-Up Tier 1. The proposed criteria of proposed Step-Up Tier 1 is as follows:

- Proposed Step-Up Tier 1 will provide a rebate of \$0.0028 per share to qualifying orders where: (1) Member has a Step-Up Add TCV⁹ from September 2026 $\geq 0.08\%$ or Member has an Ex-Subdollar Step-Up Add Ex-Subdollar TCV¹⁰ from September 2026 $\geq 0.08\%$; and (2) Member has a CMC ADV of 300,000 that yield fee code MC.¹¹

For purposes of the proposed Step-Up Tier 1, “CMC ADV” means ADV in Cboe Market Close (“CMC”) orders.¹² In addition, the Exchange proposes to add the definition of “Step-Up Add TCV”¹³ and “Ex-Subdollar Step-Up Add Ex-Subdollar TCV”¹⁴ to the Definitions section of the Fee Schedule. The Exchange also proposes to revise the Fee Codes and Associated Fees table on the Fee Schedule to include footnote 2 on fee codes

⁶ Fee code B is appended to displayed orders that add liquidity to BZX in Tape B securities.

⁷ Fee code V is appended to displayed orders that add liquidity to BZX in Tape A securities.

⁸ Fee code Y is appended to displayed orders that add liquidity to BZX in Tape C securities.

⁹ As proposed, “Step-Up Add TCV” means ADAV as a percentage of TCV in the relevant baseline month subtracted from the prior month’s ADAV as a percentage of TCV.

¹⁰ As proposed, “Ex-Subdollar Step-Up Add Ex-Subdollar TCV” means Ex-Subdollar ADAV as a percentage of Ex-Subdollar TCV in the relevant baseline month subtracted from the prior month’s Ex-Subdollar ADAV as a percentage of Ex-Subdollar TCV.

¹¹ Fee code MC is appended to Cboe Market Close orders.

¹² Cboe Market Close is a closing match process for non-BZX-listed securities that allows a Member to submit Market-on-Close (“MOC”) orders to BZX ahead of certain CMC matching sessions where these orders will be matched with other MOC orders participating in CMC and eligible to execute at the official closing price as published by the primary listing market. See Rule 11.28.

¹³ Supra note 9.

¹⁴ Supra note 10.

B, V, and Y. The Exchange also notes that proposed Step-Up Tier 1 will expire no later than February 28, 2027, which the Exchange will indicate on the Exchange's Fee Schedule.

The proposed Step-Up Tier 1, like other Add Volume Tiers,¹⁵ is intended to provide an additional opportunity to incentivize Members to earn an enhanced rebate by increasing their order flow to the Exchange, which further contributes to a deeper, more liquid market and provides even more execution opportunities for active market participants. Incentivizing an increase in liquidity adding volume through enhanced rebate opportunities encourages liquidity-adding Members on the Exchange to increase transactions and take execution opportunities provided by such increased liquidity, together providing for overall enhanced price discovery and price improvement opportunities on the Exchange. As such, increased overall order flow benefits all Members by contributing towards a robust and well-balanced market ecosystem.

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.⁵ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)⁶ 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

¹⁵ See BZX Equities Fee Schedule, Footnote 1, Add/Remove Volume Tiers.

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)⁷ 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)⁸ 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 that its proposal to create Step-Up Tier 1 reflects a competitive pricing structure designed to incentivize market participants to direct their order flow to the Exchange, which the Exchange believes would enhance market quality to the benefit of all Members. Specifically, the Exchange's proposal to introduce Step-Up Tier 1 is not a significant departure from existing criteria, is reasonably correlated to the enhanced rebate offered by the Exchange and other competing exchanges,¹⁶ and will continue to incentivize Members to submit order flow to the Exchange. Additionally, the Exchange notes that relative volume-based incentives and discounts have been widely adopted by exchanges,¹⁷ including the Exchange,¹⁸ and are reasonable, equitable and non-discriminatory because they are open to all Members on an equal basis and provide

¹⁶ See NYSE Arca Marketplace Fees, Tier Rates – Round Lots and Odd Lots (Per Share Price \$1.00 or Above), Step-Up Tiers, available at https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/markets/nyse-arca/NYSE_Arca_Marketplace_Fees.pdf;

¹⁷ See e.g., EDGX Equities Fee Schedule, Footnote 1, Add/Remove Volume Tiers.

¹⁸ See e.g., BZX Equities Fee Schedule, Footnote 1, Add/Remove Volume Tiers.

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.

In particular, the Exchange believes its proposed Step-Up Tier 1 is reasonable because the proposed tier will be available to all Members and provides all Members with an opportunity to receive an enhanced rebate. The Exchange further believes its proposed Step-Up Tier 1 will provide a reasonable means to encourage liquidity adding displayed orders in Members' order flow to the Exchange and to incentivize Members to continue to provide liquidity adding volume to the Exchange as well as encourage Members to participate in CMC by offering them an opportunity to receive an enhanced rebate 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 proposed Step-Up Tier 1 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 Step-Up Tier 1 and have the opportunity to meet the tier's criteria and receive the corresponding enhanced rebate if such criteria is met. 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 does not anticipate that any Member will be able to satisfy the proposed Step-Up Tier 1. The Exchange also notes that proposed changes will not adversely impact any Member's

ability to qualify for enhanced rebates offered under other tiers. Should a Member not meet the proposed new criteria, the Member will merely not receive that corresponding enhanced rebate.

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 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 creation of Step-Up Tier 1 does not impose an unnecessary burden as all Members are eligible to receive the enhanced rebate under the proposed tier. The Exchange does not believe the proposed changes burden competition, but rather, enhances competition as it is intended to increase the competitiveness of BZX by introducing a new pricing incentive 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.

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. 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 14% of the market share.¹⁹ 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.”²⁰ 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

¹⁹ Supra note 3.

²⁰ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005).

‘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’....’.²¹ 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 Act²² and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4²³ 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

²¹ 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)).

²² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

²³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

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-CboeBZX-2026-084 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-2026-084. 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-2026-084 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.²⁴

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

²⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

EXHIBIT 5

(additions are underlined; deletions are [bracketed])

* * * * *

Cboe U.S. Equities Fee Schedules**BZX Equities****Effective [September 28]October 1, 2026**

* * * * *

Fee Codes and Associated Fees:

Fee Code	Description	Fee/(Rebate)
* * * * *		
B ^{1,2,4,14,19,20}	Displayed order, adds liquidity to BZX (Tape B)	(0.00160)
* * * * *		
V ^{1,2,4,14,19,20}	Displayed order, adds liquidity to BZX (Tape A)	(0.00160)
* * * * *		
Y ^{1,2,4,14,19,20}	Displayed order, adds liquidity to BZX (Tape C)	(0.00160)
* * * * *		

Definitions:

* * * * *

- “Ex-Subdollar ADV” means ADV that excludes executions in securities priced below \$1.00.
- “Ex-Subdollar Step-Up Add Ex-Subdollar TCV” means Ex-Subdollar ADAV as a percentage of Ex-Subdollar TCV in the relevant baseline month subtracted from the prior month’s Ex-Subdollar ADAV as a percentage of Ex-Subdollar TCV.

* * * * *

- “Qualified LMM” means an LMM that meets the Minimum Performance Standards, as defined in Rule 11.8(e)(1)(E)(i).
- “Step-Up Add TCV” means ADAV as a percentage of TCV in the relevant baseline month subtracted from the prior month’s ADAV as a percentage of TCV.

* * * * *

2. [Reserved.]Step-Up Tiers

Applicable to the following fee codes: B, V and Y.

<u>Tier</u>	<u>Rebate Per Share to Add</u>	<u>Required Criteria</u>
<u>Step-Up Tier 1*</u>	<u>(\$0.0028)</u>	<u>(1) Member has a Step-Up Add TCV from September 2026 $\geq$ 0.08% or Member has an Ex-Subdollar Step-Up Add Ex-Subdollar TCV from September 2026 $\geq$ 0.08%; and (2) Member has a CMC ADV of 300,000 that yield fee code MC.</u>

* This tier will expire no later than February 28, 2027.

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