

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-2024-083 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-2024-083. 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 submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also 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-2024-083 and should be submitted on or before October 10, 2024.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁷

Vanessa A. Countryman,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024-21284 Filed 9-18-24; 8:45 am]

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34-101022; File No. SR-CboeBYX-2024-033]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Its Fee Schedule Regarding Add Volume Tiers

September 13, 2024.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on September 3, 2024, Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "BYX") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("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 BYX Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "BYX") proposes to amend its Fee Schedule. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

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

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 ("BYX Equities") by modifying the criteria of Add Volume Tiers 1 and 2 and the rate associated with Add Volume Tier 1. The Exchange proposes to implement these changes effective September 3, 2024.

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 16% 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 "Taker-Maker" model whereby it pays credits to members that remove liquidity and assesses fees to those that add liquidity. The Exchange's Fee Schedule sets forth the standard rebates and rates applied per share for orders that remove and provide liquidity, respectively. Currently, for orders in securities priced at or above \$1.00, the Exchange provides a standard rebate of \$0.00200 per share for orders that remove liquidity and assesses a fee of \$0.00200 per share for orders that add liquidity.⁴ For orders in securities priced below \$1.00, the Exchange does not assess any fees for orders that add liquidity, and provides a rebate in the amount of 0.10% 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

³ See Cboe Global Markets, U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary, Month-to-Date (August 22, 2024), available at https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/market_statistics/.

⁴ See BYX Equities Fee Schedule, Standard Rates.

⁵ *Id.*

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

¹⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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.

Add/Remove Volume Tiers

Under footnote 1 of the Fee Schedule, the Exchange currently offers various Add/Remove Volume Tiers. In particular, the Exchange offers five Add Volume Tiers that each provide a reduced fee for Members' qualifying orders yielding fee codes B,⁶ V,⁷ Y,⁸ and AD⁹ where a Member reaches certain add volume-based criteria. The Exchange now proposes to amend the criteria of Add Volume Tiers 1 and 2. The Exchange also proposes to lower the reduced fee associated with Add Volume Tier 1. The current criteria for Add Volume Tiers 1 and 2 is as follows:

- Add Volume Tier 1 provides a reduced fee of \$0.0017 per share in securities priced at or above \$1.00 to qualifying orders (*i.e.*, orders yielding fee codes B, V, Y, or AD) where Member has a combined Auction ADV¹⁰ and ADAV¹¹ $\geq 0.20\%$ of the TCV.¹²
- Add Volume Tier 2 provides a reduced fee of \$0.0014 per share in securities priced at or above \$1.00 to qualifying orders (*i.e.*, orders yielding fee codes B, V, Y, or AD) where Member has a combined Auction ADV and ADAV $\geq 0.25\%$ of the TCV.

The proposed criteria for Add Volume Tiers 1 and 2 is as follows:

- Proposed Add Volume Tier 1 provides a reduced fee of \$0.0016 per share in securities priced at or above \$1.00 to qualifying orders (*i.e.*, orders yielding fee codes B, V, Y, or AD) where Member has a combined Auction ADV and ADAV $\geq 0.10\%$ of the TCV or has a combined Auction ADV and ADAV $\geq 11,000,000$.
- Proposed Add Volume Tier 2 provides a reduced fee of \$0.0014 per share in securities priced at or above \$1.00 to qualifying orders (*i.e.*, orders

yielding fee codes B, V, Y, or AD) where Member has a combined Auction ADV and ADAV $\geq 0.15\%$ of the TCV or has a combined Auction ADV and ADAV $\geq 16,000,000$.

The Exchange believes that the proposed modifications to current Add Volume Tiers 1 and 2 will continue to incentivize Members to add displayed liquidity to the Exchange, thereby contributing to a deeper and more liquid market, which benefits all market participants and provides greater execution opportunities on the Exchange. While the proposed criteria in Add Volume Tiers 1 and 2 is less difficult to achieve than the current criteria, the revised criteria continue to remain commensurate with the lower fees (including the proposed lower fee of Add Volume Tier 1) that will be assessed to a Member satisfying the proposed criteria.

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.¹³ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)¹⁴ 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)¹⁵ 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)¹⁶ 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 modify the criteria of Add Volume Tiers 1 and 2 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. 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 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 as assess similar fees or rebates for similar types of orders, to that of the Exchange.

In particular, the Exchange believes its proposal to modify the criteria of Add Volume Tiers 1 and 2 is reasonable because the tiers will be available to all Members and provide all Members with an opportunity to receive a lower fee. The Exchange further believes that proposed Add Volume Tiers 1 and 2 will provide a reasonable means to encourage adding displayed orders in Members' order flow to the Exchange and to incentivize Members to continue to provide volume to the Exchange by offering them an opportunity to receive a lower assessed fee on qualifying orders. An overall increase in activity would deepen the Exchange's liquidity pool, offers additional cost savings, support the quality of price discovery, promote market transparency and improve market quality, for all investors.

The Exchange believes proposed Add Volume Tiers 1 and 2 are reasonable as they do not represent a significant departure from the criteria currently offered in the Fee Schedule and the proposed lower fee associated with Add Volume Tier 1 is commensurate with the proposed lower volume thresholds. The Exchange also believes that the proposal represents an equitable allocation of fees and rebates and is not unfairly discriminatory because all

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

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

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

⁹ Fee code AD is appended to displayed orders that execute in a Periodic Auction.

¹⁰ "Auction ADV" means average daily auction volume calculated as the number of shares executed in an auction per day.

¹¹ "ADAV" means average daily added volume calculated as the number of shares added per day. ADAV is calculated on a monthly basis.

¹² "TCV" means total consolidated volume calculated as the volume reported by all exchanges and trade reporting facilities to a consolidated transaction reporting plan for the month for which the fees apply.

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

¹⁷ See *e.g.*, EDGA Equities Fee Schedule, Footnote 7, Add/Remove Volume Tiers.

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

Members will be eligible for the tiers and have the opportunity to meet the tiers' criteria and receive the corresponding reduced fee if such criteria are met. Without having a view of activity on other markets and off-exchange venues, the Exchange has no way of knowing whether these proposed rule changes would definitely result in any Members qualifying for the new proposed tiers. 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 no Member will be able to satisfy proposed Add Volume Tier 1 and at least one Member will be able to satisfy proposed Add Volume Tier 2. The Exchange also notes that the proposed changes will not adversely impact any Member's ability to qualify for reduced fees or 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 change does not impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Particularly, proposed Add Volume Tiers 1 and 2 will apply to all Members equally in that all Members are eligible for the tiers and reduced fees, have a reasonable opportunity to meet the proposed tiers' criteria and will receive the enhanced rebate on their qualifying orders if such criteria is met. The Exchange does not believe the proposed change burdens competition, but rather, enhances competition as it is intended to increase the competitiveness of BYX 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.

Next, the Exchange believes the proposed rule changes does 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 16% 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 '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 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-CboeBYX-2024-033 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange

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).

¹⁹ *Supra* note 3.

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

Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR-CboeBYX-2024-033. 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 submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also 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-CboeBYX-2024-033 and should be submitted on or before October 10, 2024.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁴

Vanessa A. Countryman,
Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-224, OMB Control No. 3235-0217]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 17e-1

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-2736.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) ("Paperwork Reduction Act"), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") for extension and approval.

Rule 17e-1 (17 CFR 270.17e-1) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 *et seq.*) (the "Investment Company Act") deems a remuneration as "not exceeding the usual and customary broker's commission" for purposes of Section 17(e)(2)(A) of the Investment Company Act (15 U.S.C. 80a-17(e)(2)(A)) if, among other things, a registered investment company's ("fund's") board of directors, including a majority of the directors who are not interested persons of the fund, has adopted procedures reasonably designed to provide that the remuneration to an affiliated broker is reasonable and fair compared to that received by other brokers in connection with comparable transactions involving similar securities being purchased or sold on a securities exchange during a comparable period of time and the board makes and approves such changes as it deems necessary. In addition, each quarter, the board must determine that all transactions effected under the rule during the preceding quarter complied with the established procedures ("review requirement"). Rule 17e-1 also requires the fund to (i) maintain permanently in an easily accessible place a written copy of the procedures adopted by the board for complying with the requirements of the rule; and (ii) maintain for a period of six years, the first two in an easily accessible place, a written record of each transaction subject to the rule, setting forth the amount and source of the commission, fee, or other remuneration received; the identity of the broker; the terms of the transaction; and the materials used to determine that the transactions were effected in compliance with the procedures adopted by the board ("recordkeeping requirement"). The review and recordkeeping requirements of rule 17e-1 permit Commission staff to monitor the reasonableness and fairness of remuneration received by affiliated persons of the fund. Without the recordkeeping requirement, Commission inspectors would have difficulty ascertaining whether funds were complying with rule 17e-1.

Based upon an analysis of fund filings on Form N-CEN, approximately 1,614 funds report reliance on rule 17e-1.¹ Based on staff experience and conversations with fund representatives, we estimate that the burden of compliance with rule 17e-1 is approximately 50 hours per fund per year. This time is spent, for example, reviewing the applicable transactions and maintaining records. Accordingly, we calculate the total estimated annual internal burden of complying with the review and recordkeeping requirements of rule 17e-1 to be approximately 80,700 hours.² We further estimate that, of these:

- 60 percent (48,420 hours) are spent by senior accountants, at an estimated hourly wage of \$266,³ for a total of approximately \$12,879,720 per year;⁴
- 30 percent (24,210 hours) are spent by in-house attorneys at an estimated hourly wage of \$511, for a total of approximately \$12,371,310 per year;⁵ and
- 10 percent (8,070) are spent by the funds' board of directors at an hourly cost of \$4,770, for a total of approximately \$38,493,900 per year.⁶

Based on these estimated wage rates, the total cost to the industry of the hour burden for complying with the review and recordkeeping requirements of rule 17e-1 is approximately \$63,744,930.⁷ The Commission staff estimates that there is no cost burden associated with the information collection requirement of rule 17e-1 other than this cost.

Estimates of average burden hours are made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act and are not derived from a comprehensive or even

¹ Staff estimate is based on a three-year average of funds reporting reliance on rule 17e-1 covering calendar years 2022-2024.

² 1,614 funds × 50 hours per fund = 80,700 hours.

³ The Commission's estimates concerning the allocation of burden hours and the relevant wage rates are based on consultations with industry representatives and on salary information for the securities industry compiled by the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association; the estimated wage figures are also based on published rates for senior accountants and in-house attorneys, modified to account for an 1800-hour work-year and multiplied by 5.35 to account for bonuses, firm size, employee benefits, and overhead, yielding effective hourly rates of \$266 and \$511, respectively; see Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, Report on Management & Professional Earnings in the Securities Industry 2013.

⁴ 48,420 hours × \$266 per hour = \$12,879,720.

⁵ 24,210 hours × \$511 per hour = \$12,371,310.

⁶ 8,070 hours × \$4,770 per hour = \$38,493,900; the estimate for the cost of board time as a whole is derived from estimates made by the staff regarding typical board size and compensation that is based on information received from fund representatives and publicly available sources.

⁷ \$12,879,720 + \$12,371,310 + \$38,493,900 = \$63,744,930.

²⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).