provide rebates that are reasonably related to the value to an exchange’s market quality associated with higher levels of market activity, such as higher levels of liquidity provision and introduction of higher volumes of orders into the price and volume discovery process. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that the proposal is equitably allocated and not unfairly discriminatory because it is consistent with the overall goals of enhancing market quality. Further, the Exchange believes that a tiered pricing model not significantly altered by a single known day of atypical trading behavior which allows Members to predictably calculate what their costs associated with trading activity on the Exchange will be is reasonable, fair and equitable and not unreasonably discriminatory as it is uniform in application amongst Members and should enable such participants to operate their business without concern of unpredictable and potentially significant changes in expenses.

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 nor necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed changes will help the Exchange to continue to incentivize higher levels of liquidity at a tighter spread while providing more stable and predictable costs to its Members. As stated above, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if the deemed fee structures to be unreasonable or excessive.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were solicited or received.

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 11 and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b–4 thereunder.12 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.

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:

Electonic Comments

- Use the Commission’s Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR–BYX–2013–021 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR–BYX–2013–021. 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 Web site (http://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 Web site 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 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

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

The Exchange proposes to mitigate market maker risk by requiring market makers to enter values in the Exchange-provided risk parameters and by limiting the types of complex orders that can leg-into the regular market. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Web site www.ise.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

I. 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 self-regulatory organization has
preparad 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, Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

On [sic] Pursuant to ISE Rule 722 and 804, the Exchange currently provides functionality that will automatically remove a market maker’s quotes in all series of an options class when certain parameter settings are triggered. Specifically, there are four parameters that can be set by market makers on a class-by-class basis. These parameters are available for market maker quotes in single options series and for market maker quotes in complex instruments on the complex order book. Market makers establish a time frame during which the system calculates: (1) The number of contracts executed by the market maker in an options class; (2) the percentage of the total size of the market maker’s quotes in the class that has been executed; (3) the absolute value of the net between contracts bought and contracts sold in an options class, and the absolute value of the net between (a) calls sold plus puts sold, and (b) calls sold plus puts purchased. The market maker establishes limits for each of these four parameters, and when the limits are exceeded within the prescribed time frame, the market maker’s quotes are removed.3

The purpose of this functionality is to allow market makers to provide liquidity across potentially hundreds of options series without being at risk of executing the full cumulative size of all such quotes before being given adequate opportunity to adjust their quotes. For example, if a market maker can enter quotes with a size of 20 contracts in 150 series of an options class, its total potential exposure is 3000 contracts in the options class. To mitigate the risk of executing all 3000 contracts without evaluating its positions, the market maker risk functionality will automatically remove its quotes in all series of the options class after it has executed a specified number of contracts e.g., 100 in series of that options class during a specified time period e.g., 5 seconds.

To assure that all quotations are firm for their full size, the parameter calculations occur after an execution against a market maker’s quote takes place. For example, if a market maker has set a parameter of 100 contracts during a 5 second interval for an options class, and has executed a total of 95 contracts in the options class within the previous 3 seconds, a quote in a series of that class with a size of 20 contracts continues to be firm for all 20 contracts. In this example, an incoming order could execute all 20 contracts of the quote, and following the execution, the total size parameter would add 20 contracts to the running total of 95. Since the total size executed within the 5 second time frame exceeds the 100 contracts established by the market maker for the options class, all of the market maker’s quotes in the options class would be removed. The market maker would then enter new quotes in the class.

Use of these risk management tools has always been voluntary under the rules. Similarly, from a technical perspective, market makers currently do not need to enter any values into the parameters mandatory to prevent an inadvertent risk related to quoted market maker risk. The Exchange proposes to amend the rule to make it mandatory for market makers to enter values into all four of the quotation risk management parameters for all options classes in which it enters quotes. The purpose of the rule change is to prevent market makers from inadvertently entering quotes without risk-management parameters.

3 The Exchange is proposing certain non-substantive changes to the text of Rules 722 and 804 for clarity. The changes shorten the first sentence in Rule 804 by deleting “if the market maker trades, in the aggregate across all series of an options class during a specified time period” and to delete “(established by the market maker), within a time frame specified by the market maker” as the text might be confusing in its current form and is redundant with other text within the Rule. To assure clarity, the Exchange also proposes to specify that the first parameter is a number of “total contracts “in the class,” and to specify that the fourth parameter is a net value based on puts and calls purchased and sold “in the class.” Finally, the Exchange proposes to use a uniform construction of “the specified . . . “ for each of the four parameters. The same clarifying changes are also proposed with respect to Rule 722, as the language in both rules is identical except for the fact that Rule 722 applies to market maker quotes for complex orders. The Exchange is not proposing to alter the operation of the functionality, other than to make use of the parameters mandatory.

4 For example, a market maker could set the value for the total number of contracts executed in a class at a level that exceeds the total number of contracts the market maker actually quotes in an options class.

5 Pursuant to ISE Rule 722(b)(3)(ii), complex orders may be executed against bids and offers on the Exchange for the individual legs of the complex order, provided the complex order can be executed while maintaining a permissible ratio by such bids and offers.
contracts (95 + 20 = 115). With respect to a complex order with five legs 20 times, the next transaction against the market maker’s quote potentially could be as large as 100 contracts (depending upon whether there are other market participants same price), creating the potential in this example that the market maker could exceed the 100 contract limit by 95 contracts (95 + 100 = 195) instead of 15.

As the example demonstrates, the legging-in of complex orders presents higher risk to market makers as compared to regular orders being entered in multiple series of an options class in the regular market as it allows market makers to exceed their parameters by a greater number of contracts. Because this risk is directly proportional to the number of legs associated with a complex order, ISE market makers have requested that the Exchange prevent complex orders from legging into the market if they have a large number of legs. The Exchange therefore proposes to limit the legging functionally to complex orders with no more than either two or three legs, as determined by the Exchange on a class basis.6 The Exchange notes in this respect that over 85% of all complex orders have only two legs and that very few complex orders are entered with more than three legs. The Exchange believes that the potential risk to market makers in the regular market of allowing orders with more than three legs (in some cases more than two legs) to leg into the market, far out-weighs the potential benefit of offering such functionality to a very limited number of orders.

Complex orders with more than three legs (in some cases more than two legs) that could leg into the market except for the proposed limitation will be available for execution on the complex order book. The Exchange notes in this respect that the execution priority rules contained in ISE Rule 722(b)(2) often prevent the execution of complex orders that might otherwise be executable. Specifically, Rule 722(b)(2) provides that the legs of a complex order cannot be executed at the same price as a Priority Customer Order in the regular market unless another leg of the order is executed at a price that is better than the best price in the regular market.7 In other words, if there is a Priority Customer Order on the book in one or more of the series of a complex order, the net price of the complex order has to improve upon the price that would be available if the complex order legged-into the market. Thus, currently there can be complex orders resting on the book that cannot leg-into the market because the permissible ratio cannot be satisfied by the bids and offers in the regular market or because there are Priority Customer Orders in the regular market in one or more of the series of the complex order that prevent its execution. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that preventing orders with more than three legs (in some cases more than two legs) from legging-into the market does not create any unusual circumstances on the complex order book. The Exchange further notes that priority of complex orders on the complex order book is not impacted by the proposed rule change.8

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the the [sic] Act9 in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act10 in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism for a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The Exchange believes that requiring market makers to enter values into the risk parameters provided by the Exchange will not be unreasonably burdensome, as all ISE market makers currently utilize the functionality. Moreover, the Exchange is proposing this rule change at the request of its market makers to reduce their risk of inadvertently entering quotes without populating the risk parameters. As discussed above, the Exchange will be modifying the trading system to automatically reject quotations unless the parameters are populated with values, which will protect market makers from inadvertent exposure to excessive risk. Reducing such risk will enable market makers to enter quotations with larger size, which in turn will benefit investor through increased liquidity for the execution of their orders. Such increased liquidity benefits investors because they receive better prices and because it lowers volatility in the options market.

The Exchange also believes it is reasonable to limit the types of complex orders that are eligible to leg-into the market. In this respect, the Exchange notes that the vast majority of complex orders consist of only two legs, which will be unaffected by this rule change. Moreover, the Exchange believes that the potential risk of continuing to offer legging functionality for complex orders with more than three legs (in some cases with more than two legs) limits the amount of liquidity that market makers are willing to provide in the regular market.

In particular, market makers may reduce the size of their quotations in the regular market because they are at risk of executing the cumulative size of their quotations across multiple options series without an opportunity to adjust their quotes. Accordingly, reducing market maker risk in the regular market by limiting the legging functionality to orders with no more than three legs (in some cases with no more than two legs) will benefit investors by encouraging additional liquidity in the regular market. This benefit to investors far exceeds the small amount of potential liquidity provided by the few complex orders that have more than three legs (in some case more than two legs).

B. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Burden on Competition

The proposed rule change does not impose any burden on competition. The proposed rule change to make it mandatory for market makers to populate the quotation risk management parameters is being made at the request of ISE market makers to prevent the inadvertent entry of quotes without risk-management parameters. Market makers who prefer to use their own risk-management systems can enter out-of-range values so that the Exchange-provided parameters will not be triggered. Accordingly, the proposal does not require members to manage their risk using an Exchange-provided tool. The proposed change to limit legging functionality to complex orders of no more than three legs (in some cases no more than two legs) will reduce risk to market makers that are quoting in the regular market. As such, the proposal may encourage market makers to increase the size of their quotations, thereby adding liquidity on the Exchange.

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6 The Exchange will issue a circular to members identifying the options classes for which legging is limited to complex orders with two legs and those for which legging is limited to complex order with three legs. The Exchange will provide members with reasonable notice prior to change the limit applicable to an options class.
7 Pursuant to ISE Rule 100(a)(37A) and (37B), a Priority Customer Order is an order for the account of a person or entity that (i) is not a broker or dealer in securities, and (ii) does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s).
8 For example, if there are multiple complex orders for the same strategy at the same price with four or more legs, they will be executed pursuant to Rule 722(b)(3) (i.e., in time priority or pro-rata bases on size (with or without Priority Customer priority)).
Securities and Exchange Commission

Date: June 18, 2013

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”) and Rule 19b–4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that on June 11, 2013, NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. (“BX” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II 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

BX is filing with the Commission a proposal to amend Chapter VI, Section 5 (Minimum Increments) to: extend through December 31, 2013, the Penny Pilot Program in options classes in certain issues (“Penny Pilot” or “Pilot”), and to change the date when delisted classes may be replaced in the Penny Pilot.  

The Exchange requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay period contained in Exchange Act Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii) to the extent needed for timely industry-wide implementation of the proposal.

The text of the amended Exchange rule is set forth immediately below.

Proposed new language is italicized and proposed deleted language is bracketed.

NASDAQ OMX BX Rules

Options Rules

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Chapter VI Trading Systems

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Sec. 5 Minimum Increments

(a) The Board may establish minimum quoting increments for options contracts traded on BX Options. Such minimum increments established by the Board will be designated as a stated policy, practice, or interpretation with respect to the administration of this Section within the meaning of Section 19 of the Exchange Act and will be filed with the SEC as a rule change for effectiveness upon filing. Until such time as the Board makes a change in the increments, the following principles shall apply:

(1) If the options series is trading at less than $3.00, five (5) cents;
(2) If the options series is trading at $3.00 or higher, ten (10) cents; and
(3) For a pilot period scheduled to expire on [June 30] December 31, 2013, if the options series is trading pursuant to the Penny Pilot program one (1) cent if the options series is trading at less than $3.00, five (5) cents if the options series is trading at $3.00 or higher, unless for QQQQs, SPY and IWM where the minimum quoting increment will be one cent for all series regardless of price. A list of such options shall be communicated to membership via Options Trader Alert (“OTA”) posted on the Exchange’s Web site. The Exchange