

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>22</sup>

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-80207; File No. SR-BatsBZX-2017-15]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Bats BZX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Exchange Rule 11.27 To Modify the Date of Appendix B Web Site Data Publication Pursuant to the Regulation NMS Plan To Implement a Tick Size Pilot Program

March 10, 2017.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on February 28, 2017, Bats BZX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “BZX”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Exchange has designated this proposal as a “non-controversial” proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>3</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder,<sup>4</sup> which renders it effective upon filing with the Commission. 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

The Exchange filed a proposal to amend Rule 11.27 to modify the date of Appendix B Web site data publication pursuant to the Regulation NMS Plan to Implement a Tick Size Pilot Program (“Plan”).

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange’s Web site at [www.bats.com](http://www.bats.com), at the principal office of the Exchange, 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 parts of such statements.

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

###### 1. Purpose

Rule 11.27(b) (Compliance with Data Collection Requirements)<sup>5</sup> implements the data collection and Web site publication requirements of the Plan.<sup>6</sup> Rule 11.27(b).08 provides, among other things, that the requirement that the Exchange or Designated Examining Authority (“DEA”) make certain data publicly available on their Web site pursuant to Appendix B and C to the Plan shall commence at the beginning of the Pilot Period,<sup>7</sup> and that the Exchange or DEA shall make data for the Pre-Pilot Period publicly available on their Web site pursuant to Appendix B and C to the Plan by February 28, 2017.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> See Exchange Rule 11.27(b). See also Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 77105 (February 10, 2016), 81 FR 8112 (February 17, 2016); 77310 (March 7, 2016), 81 FR 13012 (March 11, 2016); and 78795 (September 9, 2016), 81 FR 63508 (September 15, 2016).

<sup>6</sup> The Participants filed the Plan to comply with an order issued by the Commission on June 24, 2014. See Letter from Brendon J. Weiss, Vice President, Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., to Secretary, Commission, dated August 25, 2014 (“SRO Tick Size Plan Proposal”). See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 72460 (June 24, 2014), 79 FR 36840 (June 30, 2014); see also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 74892 (May 6, 2015), 80 FR 27513 (May 13, 2015).

<sup>7</sup> Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms have the meaning ascribed to them in Rule 11.27.

<sup>8</sup> On November 30, 2016, the SEC granted exemptive relief to the Participants, and the Exchange filed proposed rule changes to, among other things, delay the publication of Web site data pursuant to Appendices B and C to the Plan until February 28, 2017, and to delay the ongoing Web site publication by ninety days such that data would be published within 120 calendar days following the end of the month. See Letter from David S. Shillman, Associate Director, Division of Trading and Markets, Commission, to Marcia E. Asquith, Senior Vice President and Corporate Secretary, FINRA dated November 30, 2016; see also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79533 (December 13, 2016), 81 FR 91990 (December 19, 2016) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-BatsBZX-2016-82).

The Exchange is proposing amendments to Rule 11.27(b).08 to delay the date by which Pre-Pilot and Pilot Appendix B data is to be made publicly available on the Exchange or DEA’s Web site from February 28, 2017, until April 28, 2017.<sup>9</sup> Appendix C data for the Pre-Pilot Period through the month of January 2017, will be published on the Exchange or DEA’s Web site on February 28, 2017, and, thereafter, on the original 30-day schedule.

In the SRO Tick Size Plan Proposal, the Participants stated that the public data will be made available for free “on a disaggregated basis by trading center” on the Web sites of the Participants and the Designated Examining Authorities.<sup>10</sup> However, market participants have expressed confidentiality concerns regarding this approach for over-the-counter (“OTC”) data.<sup>11</sup> Thus, the Exchange is filing the instant proposed rule change to provide additional time to assess a means of addressing the confidentiality concerns raised in connection with the publication of Appendix B data related to OTC activity in furtherance of the objectives of the Plan.<sup>12</sup> Pursuant to this amendment, Appendix B data publication will be delayed until April 28, 2017. The Participants anticipate filing an additional proposed rule change in the near future to address the Appendix B data publication.

###### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>13</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>14</sup> in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of

<sup>9</sup> In addition, the Exchange is proposing an amendment to Rule 11.27(a)(6)(B) to clarify that no member, irrespective of whether that member operates a trading center, may execute orders in any Pilot Security in Test Group Three in price increments other than \$0.05, unless an exception applies. This proposed amendment makes the rule consistent with the Plan and conforms subparagraph (a)(6)(B) with subparagraph (a)(5)(B).

<sup>10</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 73511 (November 3, 2014), 79 FR 66423 (November 7, 2014) (Notice of Filing of Proposed National Market System Plan to Implement a Tick Size Pilot Program on a One-Year Pilot Basis, File No. 4-657) (“Tick Size Plan Proposal”).

<sup>11</sup> See letters from Adam C. Cooper, Senior Managing Director and Chief Legal Officer, Citadel Securities, to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Commission, dated December 21, 2016 (“Citadel letter”); and William Hebert, Managing Director, Financial Information Forum, to Robert W. Errett, Deputy Secretary, Commission, dated December 21, 2016 (“FIF letter”).

<sup>12</sup> FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, also is submitting an exemptive request with the SEC in connection with the instant filing.

<sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>22</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in 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.

The Plan is designed to allow the Commission, market participants, and the public to study and assess the impact of increment conventions on the liquidity and trading of the common stock of small-capitalization companies. The Exchange believes that this proposal is consistent with the Act because it is in furtherance of the objectives of Section VII(A) of the Plan in that it is designed to provide the Exchange with additional time to assess a means of addressing the confidentiality concerns raised in connection with the publication of Appendix B data, to comply with the Plan's requirements that the data made publicly available will not identify the trading center that generated the data.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange notes that the proposed rule change implements the provisions of the Plan.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>15</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>16</sup>

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), the Commission may designate a shorter time if such

action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the Commission waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing so that it may become operative on February 28, 2017.

The Exchange notes that the proposed rule change is intended to address confidentiality concerns raised in connection with the publication of OTC Appendix B data by permitting the Exchange to delay Web site publication of its Appendix B data from February 28, 2017 to April 28, 2017.<sup>17</sup> The Exchange notes that the delay would provide additional time to assess a means of addressing the confidentiality concerns. The Exchange notes that it expects Participants to file proposed rule changes related to publishing Appendix B data.

The Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because it will allow the Exchange to delay publication of its Appendix B data until April 28, 2017. As noted above, commenters continue to raise concerns about the publication of OTC Appendix B data.<sup>18</sup> Delaying publication of Exchange's Appendix B data<sup>19</sup> will prevent the publication of partial (*i.e.*, Exchange-only) Appendix B data required under the Plan. Therefore, the Commission hereby waives the 30-day operative delay and designates the proposed rule change to be operative on February 28, 2017.<sup>20</sup>

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

<sup>17</sup> See *supra* note 11. The Commission notes that FINRA has submitted a proposed rule change to delay the publication of OTC Appendix B data. See SR-FINRA-2017-005.

<sup>18</sup> The Commission notes that FINRA has filed a proposed rule change that is intended to mitigate confidentiality concerns raised by commenters regarding the publication of OTC Appendix B data. See SR-FINRA-2017-006.

<sup>19</sup> The Commission notes that other Participants have proposed to delay the publication of their Appendix B data until April 28, 2017. See SR-BatsBYX-2017-05; SR-BatsEDGA-2017-05; SR-BatsEDGX-2017-13; SR-BX-2017-016; SR-CHX-2017-05; SR-FINRA-2017-005; SR-IEX-2017-07; SR-NASDAQ-2017-024; SR-Phlx-2017-22; SR-NYSE-2017-10; SR-NYSEArca-2017-19; SR-NYSEMKT-2017-11.

<sup>20</sup> For purposes only of waiving the operative delay for this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

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 shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule 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 proposal is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

#### Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File No. SR-BatsBZX-2017-15 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 No. SR-BatsBZX-2017-15. 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 will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-BatsBZX-

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

<sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

2017–15 and should be submitted on or before April 6, 2017.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>21</sup>

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–80202; File No. SR–IEX–2017–06]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Investors Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend Rule 11.190(g) To Modify the Quote Instability Coefficients and Quote Instability Threshold Included in the Quote Instability Calculation Specified in Subparagraph (g)(1) for Purposes of Determining Whether a Crumbling Quote Exists

March 10, 2017.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)<sup>1</sup> of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934<sup>2</sup> and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,<sup>3</sup> notice is hereby given that, on February 28, 2017, the Investors Exchange LLC filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. 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

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),<sup>4</sup> and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,<sup>5</sup> Investors Exchange LLC (“IEX” or “Exchange”) is filing with the Commission a proposed rule change to amend Rule 11.190(g) to incrementally optimize and enhance the effectiveness of the quote instability calculation in determining whether a crumbling quote exists. The Exchange has designated this proposal as non-controversial and provided the Commission with the

notice required by Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii) under the Act.<sup>6</sup>

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange’s Web site at [www.iextrading.com](http://www.iextrading.com), at the principal office of the Exchange, 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 self-regulatory organization 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 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

###### Overview

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend Rule 11.190(g) to modify the quote instability coefficients and quote instability threshold included in the quote instability calculation specified in subparagraph (g)(1) for purposes of determining whether a crumbling quote exists. When the Exchange determines that the quote in a particular security is crumbling from the national best bid, as comprised of Protected Quotations (“Protected NBB”), Discretionary Peg buy orders are restricted from exercising price discretion to trade against interest above the NBB. Similarly, when the Exchange determines that the quote in a particular security is crumbling from the national best offer, as comprised of Protected Quotations (“Protected NBO” and collectively with the Protected NBB the “Protected NBBO”), Discretionary Peg sell orders are restricted from exercising price discretion to trade against interest below the NBO.

###### Discretionary Peg Order

The manner in which Discretionary Peg orders operate is described in Rule 11.190(b)(10). Specifically, a Discretionary Peg order is a non-displayed, pegged order that upon entry into the System, the price of the order is automatically adjusted by the System to be equal to the less aggressive of the

Midpoint Price or the order’s limit price, if any. When unexecuted shares of such order are posted to the Order Book, the price of the order is automatically adjusted by the System to be equal to and ranked at the less aggressive of the primary quote or the order’s limit price and is automatically adjusted by the System in response to changes in the NBB (NBO) for buy (sell) orders up (down) to the order’s limit price, if any. In order to meet the limit price of active orders on the Order Book, a Discretionary Peg order will exercise the least amount of price discretion necessary from the Discretionary Peg order’s resting price to its discretionary price (defined as the less aggressive of the Midpoint Price or the Discretionary Peg order’s limit price, if any), except during periods of quote instability (*i.e.*, when a crumbling quote exists) as defined in paragraph Rule 11.190(g).

In determining whether a crumbling quote exists, the Exchange utilizes real time relative quoting activity of Protected Quotations (not including quotations of the Exchange) and a proprietary mathematical calculation (the “quote instability calculation”) to assess the probability of an imminent change to the current Protected NBB to a lower price or Protected NBO to a higher price for a particular security (“quote instability factor”). When the quoting activity meets predefined criteria and the quote instability factor calculated is greater than the Exchange’s defined threshold (“quote instability threshold”), the System treats the quote as not stable (“quote instability” or a “crumbling quote”). During all other times, the quote is considered stable (“quote stability”). The System independently assesses the stability of the Protected NBB and Protected NBO for each security.

When the System determines that a quote, either the Protected NBB or the Protected NBO, is unstable, the determination remains in effect at that price level for two (2) milliseconds. The System will only treat one side of the Protected NBBO as unstable in a particular security at any given time.<sup>7</sup> By not permitting resting Discretionary Peg orders to execute at a price that is more aggressive than the near-side protected NBB or NBO (as applicable) during periods of quote instability, the Exchange System is intended to attempt to protect such orders from unfavorable executions when the market is moving against them. Once the market has moved and the Exchange System deems the near-side Protected NBB or NBO (as applicable) to be stable (pursuant to a

<sup>21</sup> 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

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

<sup>2</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78a.

<sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>5</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

<sup>6</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(6)(iii).

<sup>7</sup> See, Rule 11.190(g).