SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Sixth Amended and Restated Bylaws of Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc.’s Parent Corporation, Cboe Global Markets, Inc. To Implement Proxy Access

April 29, 2021.

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 April 16, 2021, Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc. (“Exchange” or “BYX”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “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

Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “BYX”) is filing with the SEC a proposed rule change with respect to amendments to the Sixth Amended and Restated Bylaws (the “CGM Bylaws”) of its parent corporation, Cboe Global Markets, Inc. (“Cboe” or “Corporation”). 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

Cboe has received a stockholder proposal submitted pursuant to Rule 14a–8 under the Act3 which requested that the CGM Board take steps to implement a “proxy access” bylaw provision. In general, proxy access bylaws allow a stockholder, or group of stockholders, who comply with certain requirements, to nominate candidates for service on a board and have those candidates included in a company’s proxy materials. Such provisions have become common among S&P 500 companies.4 Cboe has determined to take the stockholder’s requested steps to implement proxy access. Accordingly, the Exchange now proposes to make these changes by adopting new Section 2.16 of the CGM Bylaws and making certain conforming changes to current Sections 2.10 and 2.11 of the CGM Bylaws, all of which are described further below.

In developing its proposal, Cboe generally tried to balance the relative weight of arguments for and against proxy access provisions. On the one hand, Cboe recognizes the significance of this issue to some investors, who see proxy access as an important accountability mechanism that allows them to participate in board elections through the nomination of stockholder candidates that are presented in a company’s proxy statement. On the other hand, Cboe’s proposed proxy access provision includes certain procedural requirements that are designed to help ensure, among other things, that Cboe and its stockholders will have full and accurate information about nominating stockholders and their nominees and that such stockholders and nominees will comply with applicable laws, regulations and other requirements. Additionally, the Exchange notes the proposed terms are common among companies that have adopted proxy access. The Exchange also notes that the parent companies of other exchanges have adopted substantively similar proxy access provisions and the Exchange does not

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3 See 17 CFR 240.14a–8, which requires companies that are subject to the federal proxy rules to include shareholder proposals in companies’ proxy statements to shareholders, subject to certain procedural and substantive requirements.
4 More than 75% of S&P 500 companies have adopted proxy access bylaw provisions.