

monitor risks and promptly notify the fund or its adviser of material changes in risks. The primary custodian and other custodians also are required to agree to exercise at least reasonable care, prudence, and diligence.

The collection of information requirements in rule 17f-7 are intended to provide workable standards that protect funds from the risks of using foreign securities depositories while assigning appropriate responsibilities to the fund's primary custodian and investment adviser based on their capabilities. The requirement that the foreign securities depository meet specified minimum standards is intended to ensure that the depository is subject to basic safeguards deemed appropriate for all depositories. The requirement that the fund or its adviser must receive from the primary custodian (or its agent) an initial risk analysis of the depository arrangements, and that the fund's contract with its primary custodian must state that the custodian will monitor risks and promptly notify the fund or its adviser of material changes in risks, is intended to provide essential information about custody risks to the fund's investment adviser as necessary for it to approve the continued use of the depository. The requirement that the primary custodian agree to exercise reasonable care is intended to provide assurances that its services and the information it provides will meet an appropriate standard of care.

The staff estimates that each of approximately 1,445 investment advisers¹ will make an average of 8 responses annually under the rule to address depository compliance with minimum requirements, any indemnification or insurance arrangements, and reviews of risk analyses or notifications.² The staff estimates each response will take 6 hours, requiring a total of approximately 48 hours for each adviser.³ Thus the total annual burden associated with these requirements of the rule is approximately 69,360.⁴

In addition, based on public filings made with the Commission, we estimate that there are approximately 38 global

custodians that are engaged to perform global custodial services to funds and thus subject to the provisions of rule 17f-7.⁵ This estimate is based on information that is publicly available on Form N-CEN filings.⁶ The staff further estimates that during each year, each of approximately 38 global custodians will make an average of 4 responses to analyze custody risks and provide notice of any material changes to custody risk under the rule.⁷ The staff estimates that each response will take 260 hours, requiring approximately 1,040 hours annually per global custodian.⁸ Thus the total annual burden associated with this specific aspect of the rule is approximately 39,520 hours.⁹ The staff estimates that the total annual hour burden associated with all collection of information requirements of the rule is therefore 108,880 hours.¹⁰

The estimate of average burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act and is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules and forms. Compliance with the collection of information requirements of the rule is necessary to obtain the benefit of relying on the rule's permission for funds to maintain their assets in foreign custodians. The information provided under rule 17f-7 will not be kept confidential. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Written comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given

to comments and suggestions submitted by February 13, 2023.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information under the PRA unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Please direct your written comments to: David Bottom, Acting Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o John Pezzullo, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: December 7, 2022.

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2022-26961 Filed 12-12-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-96460; File No. SR-IEX-2022-12]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Investors Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend Supplementary Material .15 of IEX Rule 5.110 (Supervision) To Extend the Temporary Remote Inspection Relief to IEX Members for Calendar Year 2022

December 7, 2022.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)¹ of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")² and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,³ notice is hereby given that, on November 30, 2022, the Investors Exchange LLC ("IEX" or "Exchange") 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 IEX. IEX has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a "non-controversial" rule change under Section 19(b)(3)(A)⁴ of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)⁵ thereunder, which renders the proposal effective upon receipt of this filing by the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

¹ From a review of the Form ADV filings and Form N-CEN filings, respectively, as of December 31, 2021 and for filings received through August 31, 2022, Commission staff estimated that 1,445 registered investment advisers managed or sponsored open-end registered funds (including exchange-traded funds) and closed-end registered funds.

² 1,445 advisers × 8 responses = 11,560 responses.

³ 8 responses per adviser × 6 hours per response = 48 hours per adviser.

⁴ 1,445 advisers × 48 hours per adviser = 69,360 hours.

⁵ We analyzed Form N-CEN filings for registrants as of December 31, 2021 and based on these filings, we estimated the number of global custodians that have been retained by funds and are subject to the provisions of rule 17f-7 to be 38.

⁶ See Item C.12.a.vii.7 of Form N-CEN.

⁷ 38 custodians × 4 responses = 152 responses.

⁸ 260 hours per response × 4 responses per global custodian = 1,040 hours per global custodian.

⁹ 38 global custodians × 1,040 hours per global custodian = 39,520 hours.

¹⁰ 69,360 hours + 39,520 hours = 108,880 hours.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 15 U.S.C. 78a.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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 Act,⁶ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,⁷ the Exchange is filing with the Commission a proposed rule change to amend Supplementary Material .15 of IEX Rule 5.110 (Supervision) to extend the temporary remote inspection relief to IEX Members for calendar year 2022.

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange's website at 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 the 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 the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a host of operational disruptions to the securities industry and impacted IEX Members,⁸ regulators, investors, and other stakeholders. In response to the pandemic, IEX, adopted Supplementary Material .15 of IEX Rule 5.110 to provide Members the temporary option of satisfying their inspection obligations for offices of supervisory jurisdiction, branch offices, or non-branch locations under IEX Rule 5.110 (Supervision) remotely for calendar year 2021, subject to specified conditions,⁹ due to the logistical challenges of going on-site while public health and safety concerns related to COVID-19 persisted. While there are several signs that the pandemic has receded, much uncertainty still remains. The emergence of new variants, dissimilar

vaccination rates throughout the U.S., and varying levels of transmissions of the virus all indicate that COVID-19 remains an active and real public health concern. Against this setting, IEX understands the complexity Members face in assessing when and how to effectively and safely recall their employees back into offices alongside fashioning permanent telework arrangements or a hybrid workforce model in which some employees may work on-site in a commercial office space and other employees may work off-site in an alternative location (e.g., a personal residence).¹⁰ Accordingly, due to the continued logistical challenges of going on-site to branch offices or locations while these public health and safety concerns related to COVID-19 persist coupled with several Members delaying their return-to-office plans, IEX believes that extending the temporary remote inspection relief to Members through calendar year 2022 represents a prudent accommodation.¹¹ IEX also makes this proposed rule change to conform its rules with those of FINRA, which has extended the same temporary remote inspection relief to all FINRA member firms through December 31, 2022.¹²

This proposed extension would provide further clarity to Members on regulatory requirements and account for time needed for many Members to carefully assess when and how to have their employees safely return to their offices considering vaccination coverage in the U.S. and transmission levels of the virus, including any emergent variants throughout the country.

The proposed amendment would provide that Members have the option to conduct remotely those inspections described in Supplementary Material .15 to IEX Rule 5.110 through the end of 2022. IEX is not proposing to amend the other conditions of the temporary relief in Supplementary Material .15 of IEX Rule 5.110. The current conditions of Supplementary Material .15 of IEX Rule 5.110 for Members that elect to conduct remote inspections would remain unchanged: such firms must still

amend or supplement their written supervisory procedures for remote inspections, use remote inspections as part of an effective supervisory system, and maintain the required documentation. The additional period of time would also allow IEX to further monitor the effectiveness of remote inspections and their impacts—positive or negative—on Members' overall supervisory systems in the evolving workplace.

IEX continues to believe this temporary remote inspection option is a reasonable alternative to provide to Members to fulfill their IEX Rule 5.110 obligations during the ongoing pandemic, and is designed to achieve the investor protection objectives of the inspection requirements under these unique circumstances. Members should consider whether, under their particular operating conditions, reliance on remote inspections would be reasonable under the circumstances. For example, Members with offices that are open to the public or that are otherwise doing business as usual should consider whether some form of in-person inspections would be feasible and appropriately contribute to a supervisory system that is reasonably designed to achieve compliance with applicable securities laws and regulations, and with applicable IEX rules.

IEX has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the SEC waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, so IEX can implement the proposed rule change immediately.

2. Statutory Basis

IEX believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6(b)¹³ of the Act in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act¹⁴ in particular, in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, 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 Exchange's rule proposal is intended to harmonize IEX's supervision rules, specifically with respect to the requirements for inspections of Members' branch offices and other locations, with those of FINRA, on which they are based. Consequently, the

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

⁸ See IEX Rule 1.160(s).

⁹ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 92222 (June 22, 2021), 86 FR 34069 (June 28, 2021) (SR-IEX-2021-09) (providing remote inspection relief to Members for calendar year 2021).

¹⁰ For example, IEX understands that both the Commission and FINRA do not currently require employees to return to the office. See SEC Fiscal Year 2022 Agency Financial Report, available at <https://www.sec.gov/files/sec-2022-agency-financial-report.pdf> and <https://www.finra.org/rules-guidance/key-topics/covid-19>.

¹¹ The proposed rule change will automatically sunset on December 31, 2022. IEX will submit a separate rule filing if it seeks to extend the duration of the temporary proposed rule beyond December 31, 2022.

¹² See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 94018 (January 20, 2022), 87 FR 4072 (January 26, 2022) (SR-FINRA-2022-001).

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

proposed change will conform the Exchange's rules to changes made to corresponding FINRA rules, thus promoting application of consistent regulatory standards with respect to rules that FINRA enforces pursuant to its regulatory services agreement with the Exchange.

In recognition of the impact of COVID-19 on performing on-site inspections, the proposed rule change is intended to provide firms a temporary regulatory option to conduct inspections of offices and locations remotely for calendar year 2022 inspections. This proposed supplementary material does not relieve firms from meeting the core regulatory obligation to establish and maintain a system to supervise the activities of each associated person that is reasonably designed to achieve compliance with applicable securities laws and regulations, and with applicable IEX rules that directly serve investor protection. In a time when faced with unique challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, IEX believes that the proposed rule change provides sensibly tailored relief that will afford firms the ability to observe the recommendations of public health officials to provide for the health and safety of their personnel, while continuing to serve and promote the protection of investors and the public interest.

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

IEX 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 proposed rule change is not designed to address any competitive issue but to align the Exchange's rules with those of FINRA, which will assist FINRA in its oversight work done pursuant to a regulatory services agreement with IEX. The proposed rule change will also provide for consistent application of the Exchange's supervision rules with those of FINRA, on which they are based. Consequently, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed change implicates competition at all.

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

Written comments on the proposed rule change were neither solicited nor received.

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

The Exchange has designated this rule filing as non-controversial under Section 19(b)(3)(A)¹⁵ of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁶ thereunder. Because the 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 and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder. In addition, the Exchange provided the Commission with written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing.¹⁷

The Exchange believes that this filing is non-controversial because it raises no novel issues and is consistent with FINRA rules previously approved by or filed with the Commission. In particular, the purpose of the proposed rule change is to harmonize with and conform to FINRA rules. The Exchange believes that the proposal promotes the protection of investors as it will harmonize the Exchange's supervision rules with those of FINRA, which will simplify the oversight process conducted by FINRA pursuant to a regulatory services agreement with the Exchange. Moreover, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change implicates competition at all because the proposed change aligns the Exchange's rules with those of FINRA, which will assist it in its oversight work done pursuant to such regulatory services agreement.

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁸ normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),¹⁹ the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay to permit the Exchange to harmonize its rules with FINRA, as described herein, upon effectiveness of the proposed rule filing.

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

¹⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

IEX has indicated that extending the relief provided in SR-IEX-2021-09 would provide assurances to its member firms that they can plan their 2022 inspection program and conduct remote inspections for any inspections to be conducted through calendar year 2022. Importantly, extending the relief immediately upon filing and without a 30-day operative delay would allow IEX's member firms to continue performing their supervisory obligations, while addressing the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, like SR-IEX-2021-09, the proposed extension would provide only temporary relief during the period in which IEX's member firms' operations remain impacted by COVID-19. Thus, the amended rules will revert back to their original state at the conclusion of the temporary relief period and, if applicable, any extension thereof. For these reasons, the Commission believes that waiver of the 30-day operative delay for this proposed rule change is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Accordingly, the Commission hereby waives the 30-day operative delay and designates the proposed rule change operative upon filing.²⁰

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 shall institute proceedings under Section 19(b)(2)(B)²¹ of the Act 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 (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or

²⁰ For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rule change's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

²¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

• Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-IEX-2022-12 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-IEX-2022-12. This file number should be included in 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 (<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 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 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of IEX and on its internet website at www.iextrading.com. All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-IEX-2022-12 and should be submitted on or before January 3, 2023.

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

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2022-26950 Filed 12-12-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-96461; File No. SR-NYSECHX-2022-28]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Chicago, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Fee Schedule of NYSE Chicago, Inc.

December 7, 2022.

Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to amend the Fee Schedule of NYSE Chicago, Inc.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)¹ of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")² and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,³ notice is hereby given that, on November 28, 2022, NYSE Chicago, Inc. ("NYSE Chicago" or "Exchange") 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 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

The Exchange proposes to amend the Fee Schedule of NYSE Chicago, Inc. (the "Fee Schedule") to adopt a new credit and increase an existing credit applicable to certain Exchange members. The Exchange proposes to implement the fee changes effective November 28, 2022. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at www.nyse.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 those 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.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 15 U.S.C. 78a.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend the Fee Schedule to adopt a new credit and increase an existing credit applicable to certain Exchange members. Specifically, the Exchange proposes new Section F.1 to adopt a Participant⁴ credit applicable to Clearing Participants and amend Section F.2 to increase the Transaction Fee Credit and Clearing Submission Fee Credit applicable to Clearing Brokers. The Exchange proposes to implement the fee changes effective November 28, 2022.⁵

Background

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market. The Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation National Market System ("NMS"), the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and Self-Regulatory Organizations ("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."⁶

While Regulation NMS has enhanced competition, it has also fostered a "fragmented" market structure where trading in a single stock can occur across multiple trading centers. When multiple trading centers compete for order flow in the same stock, the Commission has recognized that "such competition can lead to the fragmentation of order flow in that stock."⁷ Indeed, equity trading is

⁴ A "Participant" is, except as otherwise described in the Rules of the Exchange, "any Participant Firm that holds a valid Trading Permit and any person associated with a Participant Firm who is registered with the Exchange under Articles 16 and 17 as a Market Maker Authorized Trader or Institutional Broker Representative, respectively." See Article 1, Rule 1(s).

⁵ The Exchange originally filed to amend the Fee Schedule on November 1, 2022 (SR-NYSECHX-2022-25). SR-NYSECHX-2022-25 was subsequently withdrawn and replaced by SR-NYSECHX-2022-26. SR-NYSECHX-2022-26 was subsequently withdrawn and replaced by this filing.

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) (File No. S7-10-04) (Final Rule) ("Regulation NMS").

⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 61358, 75 FR 3594, 3597 (January 21, 2010) (File No. S7-02-10) (Concept Release on Equity Market Structure).

²² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).