

information and coordinates inquiries and investigations with other exchanges designed to address potential intermarket manipulation and trading abuses. Accordingly, there is a strong nexus between the ORF and the Exchange's regulatory activities with respect to its TPHs' customer trading activity.

#### *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 not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. This proposal does not create an unnecessary or inappropriate intra-market burden on competition because the ORF applies to all customer activity, thereby raising regulatory revenue to offset regulatory expenses. It also supplements the regulatory revenue derived from non-customer activity. The Exchange notes, however, the proposed change is not designed to address any competitive issues. Indeed, this proposal does not create an unnecessary or inappropriate inter-market burden on competition because it is a regulatory fee that supports regulation in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange is obligated to ensure that the amount of regulatory revenue collected from the ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs.

#### *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 is effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)<sup>15</sup> of the Act and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4<sup>16</sup> thereunder, because it establishes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if

SROs by cooperatively sharing regulatory information pursuant to a written agreement between the parties. The goal of the ISG's information sharing is to coordinate regulatory efforts to address potential intermarket trading abuses and manipulations.

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

<sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

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)<sup>17</sup> 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 (<https://www.sec19b-4/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec19b-4](mailto:rule-comments@sec19b-4). Please include file number SR-CBOE-2023-038 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-CBOE-2023-038. 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.sec19b-4/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

<sup>17</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

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-CBOE-2023-038 and should be submitted on or before September 6, 2023.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>18</sup>

**Sherry R. Haywood,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2023-17530 Filed 8-15-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

## **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34-98114; File No. SR-NYSECHX-2023-15]

### **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. To Adopt a Fee for Directed Orders Routed Directly by the Exchange to an Alternative Trading System**

August 11, 2023.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1)<sup>1</sup> of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>2</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>3</sup> notice is hereby given that, on July 31, 2023, the NYSE Chicago, Inc. ("NYSE Chicago" or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "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 fee for Directed Orders routed directly by the Exchange to an alternative trading system ("ATS"). The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at [www.nyse.com](http://www.nyse.com), at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

<sup>18</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

## 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.

### 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 fee for Directed Orders routed directly by the Exchange to an ATS. The Exchange proposes to implement the fee change effective August 1, 2023.

#### Background

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market. The Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. 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."<sup>4</sup>

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."<sup>5</sup> Indeed, equity trading is currently dispersed across 16

exchanges,<sup>6</sup> numerous alternative trading systems,<sup>7</sup> and broker-dealer internalizers and wholesalers, all competing for order flow. Based on publicly available information, no single exchange currently has more than 17% market share.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, no exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of equity order flow. More specifically, the Exchange's share of executed volume of equity trades in Tapes A, B and C securities is less than 1%.<sup>9</sup>

The Exchange believes that the ever-shifting market share among the exchanges from month to month demonstrates that market participants can move order flow, or discontinue or reduce use of certain categories of products. While it is not possible to know a firm's reason for shifting order flow, the Exchange believes that one such reason is because of fee changes at any of the registered exchanges or non-exchange venues to which a firm routes order flow. Accordingly, competitive forces constrain exchange transaction fees, and market participants can readily trade on competing venues if they deem pricing levels at those other venues to be more favorable.

#### Proposed Rule Change

Pursuant to Commission approval, the Exchange adopted an order type known as Directed Orders.<sup>10</sup> Under Exchange rules, the ATS to which a Directed Order is routed is responsible for validating whether the order is eligible to be accepted, and if such ATS determines to reject the order, the order would be cancelled. Directed Orders that are the subject of this proposed rule change are those that are routed to OneChronos LLC ("OneChronos").

The Exchange implemented the routing functionality to OneChronos on November 21, 2022,<sup>11</sup> and introduced the functionality at that time without

charging a fee.<sup>12</sup> The Exchange now proposes to adopt a fee of \$0.0015 per share for Directed Orders routed to OneChronos. To reflect the proposed fee, the Exchange proposes to amend footnote 1 under current Section E. titled Transaction and Order Processing Fees. As proposed, the first sentence under footnote 1 would state "\$0.0015 per share for Directed Orders routed to OneChronos LLC."

Since its implementation, the Directed Order functionality has facilitated additional trading opportunities by offering Participants<sup>13</sup> the ability to designate orders submitted to the Exchange to be routed to OneChronos for execution. The functionality has also created efficiencies for Participants that choose to use the functionality by enabling them to send orders that they wish to route to OneChronos through the Exchange by leveraging order entry protocols already configured for their interaction with the Exchange. Routing functionality offered by the Exchange is completely optional and Participants can readily select between various providers of routing services, including other exchanges and non-exchange venues. Participants that choose not to utilize Directed Orders would continue to be able to trade on the Exchange as they currently do.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>14</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of sections 6(b)(4) and (5) of the Act,<sup>15</sup> in particular, because it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members, issuers and other persons using its facilities and does not unfairly discriminate between customers, issuers, brokers or dealers.

As discussed above, the Exchange operates in a highly fragmented and competitive market. 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

<sup>6</sup> See Cboe U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary, available at [https://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/market\\_share](https://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/market_share).

<sup>7</sup> See FINRA ATS Transparency Data, available at <https://otctransparency.finra.org/otctransparency/AtsIssueData>. A list of alternative trading systems registered with the Commission is available at <https://www.sec.gov/foia/docs/atlist.htm>.

<sup>8</sup> See Cboe Global Markets U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary, available at [http://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/market\\_share/](http://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/market_share/).

<sup>9</sup> See *id.*

<sup>10</sup> A Directed Order is a Limit Order with instructions to route on arrival at its limit price to a specified ATS with which the Exchange maintains an electronic linkage. See Rule 7.31(f)(4). See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 95425 (August 4, 2022), 87 FR 48735 (August 10, 2022) (SR-NYSECHX-2022-06).

<sup>11</sup> See [https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/notifications/trader-update/110000486743/ALO\\_MPL\\_One\\_Chronos\\_Chicago.pdf](https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/notifications/trader-update/110000486743/ALO_MPL_One_Chronos_Chicago.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 96433 (December 1, 2022), 87 FR 75113 (December 7, 2022) (SR-NYSECHX-2022-27).

<sup>13</sup> 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).

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

<sup>15</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

<sup>4</sup> 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").

<sup>5</sup> 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).

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.”<sup>16</sup>

The Exchange believes that the ever-shifting market share among the exchanges from month to month demonstrates that market participants can shift order flow, or discontinue or reduce use of certain categories of products, in response to fee changes. Accordingly, changes to exchange transaction fees can have a direct effect on the ability of an exchange to compete for order flow.

The routing of orders to OneChronos is provided by the Exchange on a voluntary basis and no rule or regulation requires that the Exchange offer it. Nor does any rule or regulation require market participants to send orders to an ATS generally, let alone to OneChronos. The routing of orders to OneChronos operates similarly to the Primary Only Order already offered by the Exchange, which is an order that is routed directly to the primary listing market on arrival, without interacting with the interest on the Exchange Book.<sup>17</sup>

The Exchange believes its proposal equitably allocates its fees among market participants. The Exchange believes that the proposal represents an equitable allocation of fees because it would apply uniformly to all Participants, in that all Participants will have the ability to designate orders submitted to the Exchange to be routed to OneChronos, and each such Participant would be charged the proposed fee when utilizing the functionality. Without having a view of Participants’ activity on other exchanges and off-exchange venues, the Exchange has no way of knowing whether the proposed fee would result in any Participant from reducing or discontinuing its use of the routing functionality. While the Exchange has no way of knowing whether this proposed rule change would serve as a disincentive to utilize the order type, the Exchange believes that a number of Participants will continue to utilize the functionality because of the efficiencies created for Participants that enables them to send orders that they wish to route to OneChronos through the Exchange by leveraging order entry

protocols already configured for their interactions with the Exchange.

The Exchange reiterates that the routing functionality offered by the Exchange is completely optional and that the Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily select between various providers of routing services with different product offerings and different pricing. The Exchange believes that the proposed flat fee structure for orders routed to away venues is a fair and equitable approach to pricing, as it will provide certainty with respect to execution fees.

The Exchange believes that the proposal is not unfairly discriminatory. The Exchange believes it is not unfairly discriminatory as the proposal to charge a fee would be assessed on an equal basis to all Participants that use the Directed Order functionality. Moreover, this proposed rule change neither targets nor will it have a disparate impact on any particular category of market participant. The Exchange believes that this proposal does not permit unfair discrimination because the changes described in this proposal would be applied to all similarly situated Participants. Accordingly, no Participant already operating on the Exchange would be disadvantaged by the proposed allocation of fees. The Exchange further believes that the proposed rule change would not permit unfair discrimination among Participants because the Directed Order functionality would remain available to all Participants on an equal basis and each such Participant would be charged the same fee for using the functionality.

Finally, the submission of orders to the Exchange is optional for Participants in that they could choose whether to submit orders to the Exchange and, if they do, the extent of its activity in this regard. The Exchange believes that it is subject to significant competitive forces, as described below in the Exchange’s statement regarding the burden on competition.

For the foregoing reasons, the Exchange believes that the proposal is consistent with the Act.

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

In accordance with section 6(b)(8) of the Act,<sup>18</sup> the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes that the proposed change furthers the Commission’s goal

in adopting Regulation NMS of fostering integrated competition among orders, which promotes “more efficient pricing of individual stocks for all types of orders, large and small.”<sup>19</sup> The Exchange does not believe that the proposed fee change represents a significant departure from previous pricing offered by the Exchange or pricing offered by the Exchange’s competitors. Participants may opt to disfavor the Exchange’s pricing if they believe that alternatives offer them better value. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed change will impair the ability of Participants or competing venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

*Intramarket Competition.* The Exchange believes the proposed amendment to its Fee Schedule would not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Directed Order functionality is available to all Participants and all Participants that use the functionality to route their orders to OneChronos would be charged the proposed fee. The routing of orders to OneChronos is provided by the Exchange on a voluntary basis and no rule or regulation requires that the Exchange offer it. Participants have the choice whether or not to use the Directed Order functionality and those that choose not to utilize it will not be impacted by the proposed rule change. The Exchange also does not believe the proposed rule change would impact intramarket competition as the proposed fee would apply to all Participants equally that choose to utilize the Directed Order functionality, and therefore the proposed change would not impose a disparate burden on competition among market participants on the Exchange.

*Intermarket Competition.* The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which market 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. As noted above, the Exchange’s market share of intraday trading is currently less than 1%. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees and rebates to remain competitive with other exchanges and with off-exchange venues. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees and credits in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange

<sup>16</sup> See *supra* note 4.

<sup>17</sup> See Rule 7.31(f)(1).

<sup>18</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

<sup>19</sup> See *supra* note 4.

does not believe its proposed fee change can impose any burden on intermarket competition.

*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 with respect to 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 upon filing pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A)<sup>20</sup> of the Act and paragraph (f) 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.

**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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include file number SR-NYSECHX-2023-15 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 number SR-NYSECHX-2023-15. 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 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-NYSECHX-2023-15 and should be submitted on or before September 6, 2023.

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

**J. Matthew DeLesDernier,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2023-17605 Filed 8-15-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34-98109; File No. SR-CboeBZX-2023-061]

**Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Its Fee Schedule Related to the Options Regulatory Fee**

August 10, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on August 8, 2023, Cboe 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 Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

<sup>21</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.

**I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change**

Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "BZX") proposes to amend its Fee Schedule related to the Options Regulatory Fee. 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/bzx/](http://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule_filings/bzx/)), 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 Options Fee Schedule, to harmonize the language and processes relating to the Options Regulatory Fee ("ORF").<sup>3</sup> By way of background, the ORF is designed to recover a material portion of the costs to the Exchange of the supervision and regulation of Member customer options business, including performing routine surveillances, investigations, examinations, financial monitoring, as well as policy, rulemaking, interpretive and enforcement activities. The revenue generated from the ORF, when combined with all of the Exchange's other regulatory fees and fines, covers a material portion, but not all, of the Exchange's regulatory costs.

The Exchange monitors the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed the Exchange's total regulatory costs. The Exchange monitors its regulatory costs and revenues at a

<sup>3</sup> The Exchange initially filed the proposed rule change on August 1, 2023 (SR-CboeBZX-2023-057). On August 8, 2023, the Exchange withdrew that filing and submitted this proposal.

<sup>20</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).