

representative is unable to contact the applicant in person or by telephone, for example, the applicant lives in another country, a manual version of Form AA–

3 is used. One response is requested of each respondent. Completion of the form is required to obtain a benefit.

The RRB proposes no changes to the forms in the information collection.

#### ESTIMATE OF ANNUAL RESPONDENT BURDEN

Form No.	Annual responses	Time (minutes)	Burden (hours)
Form AA–3cert (Ink Signature) .....	6,400	30	3,200
Form AA–3sum (Attestation) .....	4,600	29	2,223
Total .....	11,000	.....	5,423

*Additional Information or Comments:*  
To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, contact Brian Foster at (312) 751–4826. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Brian Foster, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611–1275 or emailed to [Brian.Foster@rrb.gov](mailto:Brian.Foster@rrb.gov). Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

**Brian D. Foster,**  
Records Officer.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–84846; File No. SR–BX–2014–048]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq BX, Inc.; Order Granting an Extension to Limited Exemptions From Rule 612(c) of Regulation NMS In Connection With the Exchange’s Retail Price Improvement Program Until June 30, 2019

December 18, 2018.

On November 28, 2014, the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) issued an order pursuant to its authority under Rule 612(c) of Regulation NMS (“Sub-Penny Rule”) <sup>1</sup> that granted The NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc., n/k/a Nasdaq BX, Inc. (“BX” or “Exchange”), a limited exemption from the Sub-Penny Rule in connection with the operation of the Exchange’s Retail Price Improvement Program (the “RPI Program”). <sup>2</sup> The limited exemption was granted concurrently with the Commission’s approval of the Exchange’s proposal to

adopt its RPI Program for a one-year pilot term. <sup>3</sup> On November 20, 2015, the Commission extended the temporary exemption until December 2016 concurrently with an immediately effective filing that extended the operation of the RPI Program until December 1, 2016. <sup>4</sup> On December 1, 2016, the Commission extended the temporary exemption until December 1, 2017 concurrently with an immediately effective filing that extended the operation of the RPI Program until December 1, 2017. <sup>5</sup> On December 1, 2017, the Commission extended the temporary exemption until June 30, 2018 concurrently with an immediately effective filing that extended the operation of the RPI Program until June 30, 2018. <sup>6</sup> On June 28, 2018, the Commission again extended the temporary exemption until December 31, 2018 concurrently with an immediately effective filing that extended the operation of the RPI Program until December 31, 2018. <sup>7</sup>

The Exchange now seeks to extend the exemption until June 30, 2019. <sup>8</sup> The Exchange’s request was made in conjunction with an immediately effective filing that extends the operation of the RPI Program through the same date. <sup>9</sup> In its request to extend the exemption, the Exchange notes that given the gradual implementation of the RPI Program and the preliminary

participation and results, extending the exemption would provide additional opportunities for greater participation and assessment of the results. <sup>10</sup> Accordingly, the Exchange has asked additional time to allow it and the Commission to analyze data concerning the RPI Program, which the Exchange committed to provide to the Commission. <sup>11</sup> For this reason and the reasons stated in the RPI Approval Order originally granting the limited exemption, the Commission, pursuant to its authority under Rule 612(c) of Regulation NMS, finds that pursuant to its authority under Rule 612(c) of Regulation NMS, extending the exemption is appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors.

*Therefore, it is hereby ordered that,* pursuant to Rule 612(c) of Regulation NMS, the Exchange is granted a limited exemption from Rule 612 of Regulation NMS that allows the Exchange to accept and rank orders priced equal to or greater than \$1.00 per share in increments of \$0.001, in connection with the operation of its RPI Program, until June 30, 2019.

The limited and temporary exemption extended by this Order is subject to modification or revocation if at any time the Commission determines that such action is necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Responsibility for compliance with any applicable provisions of the Federal securities laws must rest with the persons relying on the exemptions that are the subject of this Order.

<sup>3</sup> See *id.*

<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76490 (November 20, 2015), 80 FR 74165 (November 27, 2015) (SR–BX–2015–073).

<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79446 (December 1, 2016), 81 FR 88290 (December 7, 2016) (SR–BX–2016–065).

<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82192 (December 1, 2017), 82 FR 57809 (December 7, 2017) (SR–BX–2017–055).

<sup>7</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 83539 (June 28, 2018), 83 FR 31203 (July 3, 2018) (SR–BX–2018–026).

<sup>8</sup> See Letter from Jeffrey S. Davis, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel and Secretary, Nasdaq BX, Inc. to Eduardo A. Aleman, Assistant Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, dated December 11, 2018 (“BX Letter”).

<sup>9</sup> See SR–BX–2018–063.

<sup>10</sup> See, e.g., BX Letter at 3; RPI Approval Order, *supra* note 2.

<sup>11</sup> See, *id.*

<sup>1</sup> 17 CFR 242.612(c).

<sup>2</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 73702, 79 FR 72049 (December 4, 2014) (SR–BX–2014–048) (“RPI Approval Order”).

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>12</sup>

**Eduardo A. Aleman,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2018-27821 Filed 12-21-18; 8:45 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-84847; File No. SR-BX-2018-063]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Extend the Pilot Period for the Exchange's Retail Price Improvement Program Until June 30, 2019

December 18, 2018.

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 December 11, 2018, Nasdaq BX, Inc. ("BX" 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 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

The Exchange proposes to extend the pilot period for the Exchange's Retail Price Improvement ("RPI") Program (the "Program"), which is set to expire on December 31, 2018, for an additional period to expire on June 30, 2019.

The Exchange has designated December 11, 2018 as the date the proposed rule change becomes effective.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at <http://nasdaqbx.cchwallstreet.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 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 purpose of this filing is to extend the pilot period of the RPI Program,<sup>3</sup> currently scheduled to expire on December 31, 2018, for an additional period to expire on June 30, 2019.

##### Background

In November 2014, the Commission approved the RPI Program on a pilot basis.<sup>4</sup> The Program is designed to attract retail order flow to the Exchange, and allow such order flow to receive potential price improvement. The Program is currently limited to trades occurring at prices equal to or greater than \$1.00 per share. Under the Program, a new class of market participant called a Retail Member Organization ("RMO") is eligible to submit certain retail order flow ("Retail Orders")<sup>5</sup> to the Exchange. BX members ("Members") are permitted to provide potential price improvement for Retail Orders in the form of non-displayed interest that is priced more aggressively than the Protected National Best Bid or Offer ("Protected NBBO").<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 73702 (November 28, 2014), 79 FR 72049 (December 4, 2014) ("RPI Approval Order") (SR-BX-2014-048).

<sup>4</sup> See *id.*

<sup>5</sup> A "Retail Order" is defined in BX Rule 4780(a)(2) by referencing BX Rule 4702, and BX Rule 4702(b)(6) says it is an order type with a non-display order attribute submitted to the Exchange by a RMO. A Retail Order must be an agency order, or riskless principal order that satisfies the criteria of FINRA Rule 5320.03. The Retail Order must reflect trading interest of a natural person with no change made to the terms of the underlying order of the natural person with respect to price (except in the case of a market order that is changed to a marketable limit order) or side of market and that does not originate from a trading algorithm or any other computerized methodology.

<sup>6</sup> The term Protected Quotation is defined in Chapter XII, Sec. 1(19) and has the same meaning as is set forth in Regulation NMS Rule 600(b)(58). The Protected NBBO is the best-priced protected bid and offer. Generally, the Protected NBBO and the national best bid and offer ("NBBO") will be the same. However, a market center is not required to route to the NBBO if that market center is subject to an exception under Regulation NMS Rule 611(b)(1) or if such NBBO is otherwise not available for an automatic execution. In such case, the Protected NBBO would be the best-priced protected bid or offer to which a market center must route interest pursuant to Regulation NMS Rule 611.

The Program was approved by the Commission on a pilot basis running one-year from the date of implementation.<sup>7</sup> The Commission approved the Program on November 28, 2014.<sup>8</sup> The Exchange implemented the Program on December 1, 2014 and the pilot has since been extended for a one year period twice and for an additional six month period twice, with it now scheduled to end on December 31, 2018.<sup>9</sup>

#### Proposal To Extend the Operation of the Program

The Exchange established the RPI Program in an attempt to attract retail order flow to the Exchange by potentially providing price improvement to such order flow. The Exchange believes that the Program promotes competition for retail order flow by allowing Exchange members to submit Retail Price Improvement Orders ("RPI Orders")<sup>10</sup> to interact with Retail Orders. Such competition has the ability to promote efficiency by facilitating the price discovery process and generating additional investor interest in trading securities, thereby promoting capital formation. The Exchange believes that extending the pilot is appropriate because it will allow the Exchange and the Commission additional time to analyze data regarding the Program that the Exchange has committed to provide.<sup>11</sup> As such, the Exchange believes that it is appropriate to extend the current operation of the Program.<sup>12</sup> Through this filing, the Exchange seeks to amend BX Rule 4780(h) and extend the current pilot period of the Program

<sup>7</sup> See RPI Approval Order, *supra* note 3 at 72053.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 72049.

<sup>9</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76490 (November 20, 2015), 80 FR 74165 (November 27, 2015) (SR-BX-2015-073); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79446 (December 1, 2016), 81 FR 88279 (December 7, 2016) (SR-BX-2016-065); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82192 (December 1, 2017), 82 FR 57809 (December 7, 2017) (SR-BX-2017-055); and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 83539 (June 28, 2018), 83 FR 31203 (July 3, 2018) (SR-BX-2018-026).

<sup>10</sup> A Retail Price Improvement Order is defined in BX Rule 4780(a)(3) by referencing BX Rule 4702 and BX Rule 4702(b)(5) says that it is as an order type with a non-display order attribute that is held on the Exchange Book in order to provide liquidity at a price at least \$0.001 better than the NBBO through a special execution process described in Rule 4780.

<sup>11</sup> See RPI Approval Order, *supra* note 3 at 72051.

<sup>12</sup> Concurrently with this filing, the Exchange has submitted a request for an extension of the exemption under Regulation NMS Rule 612 previously granted by the Commission that permits it to accept and rank the RPI orders in sub-penny increments. See Letter from Jeffrey S. Davis, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel and Secretary, Nasdaq BX, Inc. to Eduardo A. Aleman, Assistant Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission dated December 11, 2018.

<sup>12</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(83).

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

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