



## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-105039; File No. SR-CboeBYX-2026-008]

### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Adopt Rules 11.28 and 11.29 Relating the Regulatory and Operations Trading Halts, Integrate Several Definitions and Concepts from the Amended CTA/CQ Plan, Reorganize Existing Rule 11.18 , and to make Conforming Changes to Related Rules**

March 18, 2026.

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 March 6, 2026, Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “BYX”) 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 Exchange. The Exchange filed the proposal as a “non-controversial” proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act<sup>3</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>4</sup> 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 Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) a proposal to adopt Rules 11.28 and 11.29 to integrate several definitions and concepts from the Amended CTA/CQ Plan and to reorganize existing Rule 11.18 in light of the Exchange’s experience with applying the rule during its time as a

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<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)(iii).

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

national securities exchange and to make conforming changes to related rules. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Commission’s website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>), the Exchange’s website ([https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule\\_filings/bzx/](https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule_filings/bzx/)), and at the principal office of the Exchange.

## **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**

In conjunction with adoption of amended CTA/CQ Plan proposed by its participants (“Amended CTA/CQ Plan”),<sup>5</sup> the Exchange proposes to adopt Rules 11.28 and 11.29 to integrate several definitions and concepts from the Amended CTA/CQ Plan and to reorganize existing Rule 11.18 in light of the Exchange’s experience with applying the rule during its time as a national securities exchange.<sup>6</sup> Current Rule 11.18 would be reorganized to include only the Limit Up-Limit

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<sup>5</sup> On February 23, 2021, the participants of the CTA/CQ Plans filed Amendment 36 to the CTA Plan and Amendment 27 to the CQ Plan, to revise provisions governing regulatory and operational halts. See Letter from Robert Books, Chairman, Operating Committee, CTA/CQ Plans, to Vanessa Countryman, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, dated February 3, 2021. The SEC approved the amendments on May 28, 2021. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-92070 (May 28, 2021), 86 FR 29849 (June 3, 2021) (SR-CTA/CQ-2021-01). The Amended CTA/CQ Plan includes provisions requiring participant self-regulatory organizations (“SROs”) to honor a Regulatory Halt declared by the Primary Listing Market. The provisions in the CTA/CQ Plans, and the plan for consolidation of data for NASDAQ-listed securities, The Joint Self-Regulatory Organization Plan Governing The Collection, Consolidation and Dissemination of Quotation and Transaction Information For NASDAQ-Listed Securities Traded on Exchanges on an Unlisted Trading Privilege Basis (“UTP Plan”), include provisions similar to the changes proposed by the Exchange in this filing.

<sup>6</sup> The Exchange notes that it is a participant of the transaction reporting plan governing Tape B securities.

Down Mechanism.<sup>7</sup> Proposed Rule 11.28 would be entitled “Trading Halts” and would set forth the Exchange’s authority to halt trading under various circumstances.<sup>8</sup> Proposed Rule 11.29 would be entitled “Trading Halts Due to Extraordinary Market Volatility” and would contain the rule text related to Market-Wide Circuit Breakers currently codified in Rule 11.18(a) – (d), (g) – (j). As part of these changes, the Exchange will create categories of regulatory and operational halts, improve the rule’s clarity, and adopt defined terms from the Amended CTA/CQ Plan. In addition, the Exchange is updating cross references in other rules that are affected by the proposed changes and making non-substantive formatting changes in related rules.

### **Background**

The Exchange has been working with other SROs to establish common criteria and procedures for halting and resuming trading in equity securities in the event of regulatory or operational issues. These common standards are designed to ensure that events which might impact multiple exchanges are handled in a consistent manner that is transparent. The Exchange believes that implementation of these common standards will assist the SROs in maintaining fair and orderly markets. Notwithstanding the development of these common standards, the Exchange will retain discretion in certain instances as to whether and how to handle halts, as is described below.

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Each transaction reporting plan has a securities information processor (“SIP”) responsible for consolidation of information for the plan’s securities, pursuant to Rule 603 of Regulation NMS. The transaction reporting plans for BZX-listed securities are known as the “Consolidated Tape System and Consolidated Quotations System Plan (collectively, the “CTA/CQ Plans”). Pursuant to the CTA/CQ Plans, the Securities Industry Automation Corporation (“SIAC”) consolidates order and trade data from all markets trading BZX-listed securities. The Exchange uses the term “CTA/CQ SIP” herein when referring specifically to the SIP responsible for consolidation of information in BZX-listed securities. BZX is an affiliate of the Exchange and serves as a Primary Listing Market, unlike the Exchange. Infra note 6.

<sup>7</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 88704 (April 21, 2020), 85 FR 23383 (April 27, 2020) (File No. 4-631) (approving the Twentieth Amendment to the National Market System Plan to Address Extraordinary Market Volatility).

<sup>8</sup> The Exchange notes that its sister exchange, Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe BZX”), filed a similar proposed rule change with the Commission. The Exchange’s proposal provides the Exchange with less authority to declare halts in the event of regulatory or operational issues than under Cboe BZX’s proposal because the Exchange, unlike Cboe BZX, is not a Primary Listing Market. Given the Exchange’s status as a non-Primary Listing Market, certain definitions and concepts from the Amended CTA/CQ Plan, integrated in Cboe BZX’s proposal, are not included herein.

Every U.S.-listed equity security has its primary listing on a specific stock exchange that is responsible for a number of regulatory functions.<sup>9</sup> These include confirming that the security continues to meet the exchange's listing standards, monitoring trading in that security and taking action to halt trading in the security when necessary to protect investors and to ensure a fair and orderly market. While these core responsibilities remain with the primary listing venue, trading in the security can occur on multiple exchanges that have unlisted trading privileges for the security or in the over-the-counter market, regulated by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"). The exchanges and FINRA are responsible for monitoring activity on the markets over which they have oversight, but also must abide by the regulatory decisions made by the Primary Listing Market. For example, a venue trading a security pursuant to unlisted trading privileges must halt trading in that security during a Regulatory Halt, which is a defined term under the proposed rules,<sup>10</sup> and may only trade the security once the Primary Listing Market has cleared the security to resume trading.

While the Exchange and the other SROs intend to harmonize certain aspects of their trading halt rules, other elements of the rules will continue to be unique to each market. The Exchange believes that this is appropriate to reflect different products listed or traded on each market.

In addition to establishing common criteria and procedures for halting and resuming trading in equity securities in the event of regulatory or operational issues, the Exchange is reorganizing the rule to improve clarity. The Exchange will implement all of the changes proposed herein in conjunction with other SROs implementing the necessary rule changes. The Exchange will publish a Trade Desk Notice at least 30 business days prior to implementing the proposed changes.

### **Definitions**

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<sup>9</sup> The Exchange is proposing to adopt Primary Listing Market as a new term, defined in the CTA/CQ Plans, Section XI(a)(i)(H), as follows: "[T]he national securities exchange on which an Eligible Security is listed. If an Eligible Security is listed on more than one national securities exchange, Primary Listing Market means the exchange on which the security has been listed the longest."

<sup>10</sup> See proposed Rule 11.28(a)(8).

The Exchange proposes adding a definitions section as Rule 11.28(a) to consolidate the various definitions that will be used in the Rule, some of which are taken from the Amended CTA/CQ Plan. The Exchange is adopting the following terms from the Amended CTA/CQ Plan: “Operating Committee,” “Operational Halt,” “Primary Listing Market,” “Processor,”<sup>11</sup> “Regulatory Halt,” “SIP Halt,” and “SIP Halt Resume Time.” The Exchange is adopting a modified form of the term “Extraordinary Market Activity” from the Amended CTA/CQ Plan, as described below. The definitions of “After Hours Trading Session,” “Pre-Opening Session,” “Regular Trading Hours,” and “UTP Derivative Security” are currently defined in Rule 1.5(c), (r), (w), and (ee) respectively and have been cross-referenced in the definitions section.<sup>12</sup>

First, the Exchange proposes to add the definition of “Primary Listing Market”<sup>13</sup> to Rule 11.28(a), which will have the same meaning as in the Amended CTA/CQ Plan, Section XI(a)(i)(H). As is currently the case under Rule 14.1(c)(3), with respect to UTP Derivative Securities, and under the Amended CTA/CQ Plan, all Regulatory Halt decisions are made by the market on which the security has its primary listing. This reflects the regulatory responsibility that the Primary Listing Market has for fair and orderly trading in the securities that list on its market and its direct access to its listed companies, which are required to advise it of certain events and maintain lines of communication with the Primary Listing Market. The proposed definition makes clear that if a security is listed on more than one market (a dually-listed security), the Primary Listing Market means the exchange on which the security has been listed the longest. This provision matches the

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<sup>11</sup> The Exchange proposes to also define the term “SIP” to have the same meaning as the term “Processor” as set forth in the Amended CTA/CQ Plan. Because the terms “Processor” and “SIP” are also used throughout the Rules, at times, to apply to processors of information furnished pursuant to the Nasdaq UTP Plan (“UTP Plan”), the term “Processor” may, in those applicable circumstances, refer to the processor of transactions in Tape C securities, as set forth in the UTP Plan.

<sup>12</sup> As noted above, the Exchange is adopting several new terms that have the same meaning as those terms are defined in the Amended CTA/CQ Plan. Each of the national market system plans governing the single plan processors have identical definitions of these terms, thus there will be uniformity in the meaning of the terms among such plans as well as among the rules of the SROs.

<sup>13</sup> See proposed Rule 11.28(a)(6).

language used in the definition of “Primary Listing Exchange” in the Limit Up-Limit Down Plan and will avoid conflict in the event of dually-listed securities.

Second, the Exchange proposes to add the definition of “Extraordinary Market Activity” to Rule 11.28(a), which would represent a modified version of the term defined in the Amended CTA/CQ Plan, Section XI(a)(i)(A).<sup>14</sup> Specifically, the Exchange proposes to remove the concept of a “market-wide basis” from the Amended CTA/CQ Plan’s definition of Extraordinary Market Activity for purposes of the Exchange’s Rules because the term “Extraordinary Market Activity” would only be used in the Exchange’s Rules as a basis for the Exchange to initiate an Operational Halt, which would only occur on the market declaring the halt (i.e., the Exchange).<sup>15</sup> The current rule does not include a definition for Extraordinary Market Activity.

The next set of new proposed definitions would be specific to events involving the SIP. While the Exchange recognizes that many events involving the SIP would also meet the definition of “Extraordinary Market Activity” (as defined in the Amended CTA/CQ Plan), the Exchange believes that the critical role of the SIPs in market infrastructure factors in favor of additional guidance on how such events will be handled. The definitions of “SIP Halt Resume Time,” and “SIP Halt” are intended to provide additional guidance and specific processes to address this subset

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<sup>14</sup> In the Amended CTA/CQ Plan, “Extraordinary Market Activity” means a disruption or malfunction of any electronic quotation, communication, reporting, or execution system operated by, or linked to, the Processor or a Trading Center or a member of such Trading Center that has a severe and continuing negative impact, on a market-wide basis, on quoting, order, or trading activity or on the availability of market information necessary to maintain a fair and orderly market. For purposes of this definition in the Amended CTA/CQ Plan, a severe and continuing negative impact on quoting, order, or trading activity includes (i) a series of quotes, orders, or transactions at prices substantially unrelated to the current market for the security or securities; (ii) duplicative or erroneous quoting, order, trade reporting, or other related message traffic between one or more Trading Centers or their members; or (iii) the unavailability of quoting, order, or transaction information for a sustained period.

<sup>15</sup> The Exchange proposes to define “Extraordinary Market Activity” to mean a disruption or malfunction of any electronic quotation, communication, reporting, or execution system operated by, or linked to, the Processor or a Trading Center or a member of such Trading Center that has a severe and continuing negative impact on quoting, order, or trading activity or on the availability of market information necessary to maintain a fair and orderly market. For purposes of this definition in the Exchange’s rules, a severe and continuing negative impact on quoting, order, or trading activity includes (i) a series of quotes, orders, or transactions at prices substantially unrelated to the current market for the security or securities; (ii) duplicative or erroneous quoting, order, trade reporting, or other related message traffic between one or more Trading Centers of their members; or (iii) the unavailability of quoting, order, transaction information, or regulatory messages for a sustained period.

of potential market issues.<sup>16</sup> In addition, the Exchange is proposing to define terms related to SIP governance needed in order to understand these definitions:

- “Processor” or “SIP”<sup>17</sup> have the same meaning as the term “Processor” set forth in the CTA/CQ Plan, namely the entity selected by the Participants to perform the processing functions set forth in the Plan. Because the terms “Processor” and “SIP” are also used throughout the Rules, at times, to apply to processors of information furnished pursuant to the Nasdaq UTP Plan, the term “Processor” and “SIP” may, in those applicable circumstances, refer to the processor of transactions in Tape C securities, as set forth in the Nasdaq UTP Plan.
- “Operating Committee”<sup>18</sup> is defined as having the same meaning as in the CTA/CQ Plan, namely the committee charged with administering the CTA/CQ Plan.

The Exchange is proposing to adopt a category of Regulatory Halt, called a “SIP Halt,”<sup>19</sup> which will have the same meaning as that term is defined in Section XI(a)(i)(K) of the CTA/CQ Plan, namely “a Regulatory Halt to trading in one or more securities that a Primary Listing Market declares in the event of a SIP Outage or Material SIP Latency.” This new category of Regulatory Halt will address situations where the Primary Listing Market declares a Regulatory Halt in one or more securities as a result of a SIP Outage<sup>20</sup> or Material SIP Latency.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> The Exchange proposes to define the terms “SIP Halt Resume Time” and “SIP Halt” to have the same meaning as in the Amended CTA/CQ Plan.

<sup>17</sup> See proposed Rule 11.28(a)(7).

<sup>18</sup> See proposed Rule 11.28(a)(3).

<sup>19</sup> See proposed Rule 11.28(a)(10).

<sup>20</sup> SIP Outage means a situation in which the Processor has ceased, or anticipates being unable, to provide updated and/or accurate quotation or last sale price information in one or more securities for a material period that exceeds the time thresholds for an orderly failover to backup facilities established by mutual agreement among the Processor, the Primary Listing Market for the affected securities, and the Operating Committee unless the Primary Listing Market, in consultation with the Processor and the Operating Committee, determines that resumption of accurate data is expected in the near future. See Amended CTA/CTA Plan, Section XI(a)(i)(M).

<sup>21</sup> Material SIP Latency means a delay of quotation or last sale price information in one or more securities between the time data is received by the Processor and the time the Processor disseminates the data over the Processor’s vendor lines, which delay the Primary Listing Market determines, in consultation with, and in accordance with, publicly disclosed guidelines established by the Operating Committee, to be (a) material and (b) unlikely to be resolved in the near future. See Amended CTA/CTA Plan, Section

The Exchange proposes to add a definition of “Regulatory Halt”<sup>22</sup> as having the same meaning as in Section XI(a)(i)(J) of the Amended CTA/CQ Plan, which defines a Regulatory Halt to mean a halt declared by the Primary Listing Market in trading in one or more securities on all Trading Centers<sup>23</sup> for regulatory purposes, including for the dissemination of material news, news pending, suspensions, or where otherwise necessary to maintain a fair and orderly market. A Regulatory Halt includes a trading pause triggered by Limit Up-Limit Down, a halt based on Extraordinary Market Activity (as defined in the Amended CTA/CQ Plan), a trading halt triggered by a Market-Wide Circuit Breaker, and a SIP Halt.

Finally, the Exchange proposes to add a definition of “Operational Halt,”<sup>24</sup> as having the same meaning as in Section XI(a)(i)(G) of the Amended CTA/CQ Plan, which defines an Operational Halt to mean “a halt in trading in one or more securities only on a Market declared by such Participant and is not a Regulatory Halt.”<sup>25</sup> An Operational Halt is effective only on the Exchange; other markets are not required to halt trading in the impacted securities. In practice, the Exchange has always had the capacity to implement operational halts in specified circumstances, but such halts are not currently referred to as “operational halts” in the Exchange’s rules.<sup>26</sup> The proposed change would provide greater clarity on when an Operational Halt may be implemented and the process for halting and resuming trading in the event of an Operational Halt. An Operational Halt is not a Regulatory Halt.

### **Regulatory Halt Types**

Proposed Rule 11.28(b) would set forth requirements relating to Regulatory Halts.

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XI(a)(i)(E).

<sup>22</sup> See proposed Rule 11.28(a)(8).

<sup>23</sup> See Amended CTA/CQ Plan Section XI(a)(i)(N). A “Trading Center” has the same meaning as that term is defined in Rule 600(b)(82) of Regulation NMS.

<sup>24</sup> See proposed Rule 11.28(a)(4).

<sup>25</sup> A “Market” has the same meaning as that term is defined in Section XI(A)(i)(C) of the Amended CTA/CQ Plan.

<sup>26</sup> See Rule 11.1(c).

### *Authority to Initiate a Regulatory Halt*

The Exchange proposes to consolidate the various types of situations that form the basis for declaring a Regulatory Halt in proposed Rule 11.28(b)(1). In this subsection, the Exchange would identify all of the bases for its Regulatory Halt authority, including cross-referencing to current rules describing existing halt authority and by adding the new Regulatory Halt authority consistent with the Amended CTA/CQ Plan.

Proposed Rule 11.28(b)(1)(A) describes “Mandatory Halts,” where the Exchange must issue a Regulatory Halt. The proposed rule would identify four categories of Regulatory Halts:

- Pursuant to proposed Rule 11.28(b)(1)(A)(i) regarding the Market-Wide Circuit Breakers, which will be retained without modification in proposed Rule 11.29 (currently codified in Rule 11.18(a) – (d); (f) – (j)). This proposed rule would effectuate the definition of Regulatory Halt in proposed Rule 11.28(a)(8), which cross-references Section XI(a)(i)(J) of the Amended CTA/CQ Plan.
- Pursuant to proposed Rule 11.28(b)(1)(A)(ii) regarding the Limit Up-Limit Down Mechanism (proposed Rule 11.18). This proposed rule would effectuate the definition of Regulatory Halt in proposed Rule 11.28(a)(8), which cross-references Section XI(a)(i)(J) of the Amended CTA/CQ Plan. The Exchange, as a non-Primary Listing Market, does not itself declare trading pauses pursuant to the Limit Up-Limit Down Mechanism, but rather implements such pauses declared by Primary Listing Markets.
- Pursuant to proposed Rule 11.28(b)(1)(A)(iii), which would provide that the Exchange must halt trading when the Primary Listing Market declares a SIP Halt or halts trading based on Extraordinary Market Activity. This proposed rule would effectuate the definition of Regulatory Halt in proposed Rule 11.28(a)(8), which cross-references Section XI(a)(i)(J) of the Amended CTA/CQ Plan.

- Pursuant to proposed Rule 11.28(b)(1)(A)(iv), which would provide that the Exchange would honor a Regulatory Halt initiated by the Primary Listing Market for any security listed on the Exchange. This proposed rule would effectuate the definition of Regulatory Halt in proposed Rule 11.28(a)(8), which cross-references Section XI(a)(i)(J) of the Amended CTA/CQ Plan.

The Exchange proposes to add proposed Rule 11.28(b)(1)(A)(iv)(a), which makes clear that the start time of a Regulatory Halt is the time the Primary Listing Market declares the Regulatory Halt, regardless of whether communication issues impact the dissemination of notice of the Halt.<sup>27</sup> This proposal would provide market participants with certainty on the official start time of the Regulatory Halt. Under the proposed rule, the start time is fixed by the Primary Listing Market; it is not dependent on whether notice is disseminated immediately. This will avoid possible disagreement if the Regulatory Halt time were tied to dissemination or receipt of notification, which may occur at different times. The Exchange recognizes that in situations where communication is interrupted, trades may continue to occur until news of the Regulatory Halt reaches all Trading Centers. However, a fixed “official” Regulatory Halt time will allow SROs to revisit trades after the fact and determine in a consistent manner whether specific trades should stand.

#### **Resumption of Trading After a Regulatory Halt**

The SROs have jointly developed processes to govern the resumption of trading in the event of a Regulatory Halt. While the actual process of re-launching trading will remain unique to each exchange, the proposed rule would harmonize certain common elements of the reopening process that would benefit from consistency across markets. These common elements include the primacy of the Primary Listing Market in resumption decisions, the requirement that the Primary Listing Market make its determination to resume trading in good faith,<sup>28</sup> and certain parts of the complex process of reopening trading after a SIP Halt. With respect to a SIP Halt, common elements of the

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<sup>27</sup> This is consistent with the Amended CTA/CQ Plan. See Amended CTA/CQ Plan, Section XI(a)(iv)(A).

<sup>28</sup> See Partial Amendment No. 1 to the CTA/CQ Plans, dated March 31, 2021.

reopening process include the interaction among SROs (including the Primary Listing Market with the SIP), the requirement that the Primary Listing Market terminate a SIP Halt with a notification that specifies a SIP Halt Resume Time, the minimum quoting times before resumption of trading, the cutoff time after which trading would not resume during Regular Trading Hours, and the time when trading may resume if the Primary Listing Market does not open a security within the amount of time specified in its rules after the SIP Halt Resume Time.

Proposed Rule 11.28(b)(2)(A) provides the process to be followed when resuming trading upon the conclusion of Regulatory Halts other than SIP Halts. The new rule would effectuate Section XI(a)(v) of the Amended CTA/CQ Plan.

Proposed Rule 11.28(b)(2), which incorporates Section XI(a)(v)(A) and Section XI(a)(vi)(C) of the Amended CTA/CQ Plan, is divided into the following two subsections concerning resumption of trading: (A) after a Regulatory Halt other than a SIP Halt; and (B) after a SIP Halt. Proposed Rule 11.28(b)(2)(A)(i) provides that, for a Regulatory Halt other than a SIP Halt, the Exchange may resume trading after the Exchange receives notification from the Primary Listing Market that the Regulatory Halt has been terminated.

Proposed Rule 11.28(b)(2)(B) would address the resumption of trading following a SIP Halt. The new rule would effectuate Section XI(a)(vi) of the Amended CTA/CQ Plan. Proposed Rule 11.28(b)(2)(B)(i) would provide that, for securities subject to a SIP Halt initiated by another exchange that is the Primary Listing Market, during Regular Trading Hours, the Exchange may resume trading after trading has resumed on the Primary Listing Market or notice has been received from the Primary Listing Market that trading may resume. During Regular Trading Hours, if the Primary Listing Market does not open a security within the amount of time specified by the rules of the Primary Listing Market after the SIP Halt Resume Time, the Exchange may resume trading in

that security. Outside Regular Trading Hours, the Exchange may resume trading immediately after the SIP Halt Resume Time.<sup>29</sup>

Proposed Rule 11.28(b)(2)(C) would state that trading will resume and orders will be accepted pursuant to the re-opening process found in current Rule 11.23(e). The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 11.23(e) to make clear that the rule only applies to the resumption of trading following a Regulatory Halt and to amend the cross-reference to the rule associated with halts due to a Market-Wide Circuit Breaker. Rule 11.23(e) describes the re-opening process for all securities subject to a Regulatory Halt and is consistent with current practice.

### **Operational Halt**

The Exchange proposes in Rule 11.28(c) to address Operational Halts, which are non-regulatory in nature and apply only to the Exchange that calls the halt. As described above, the Exchange has always had the capacity to implement operational halts and local trading suspensions in specified circumstances, but such halts are not currently referred to as “operational halts” in the Exchange’s rules.<sup>30</sup> As part of the Exchange’s assessment with the other SROs of the halting and resumption of trading, the Exchange believes that the markets would benefit from greater clarity regarding when an Operational Halt may be appropriate.<sup>31</sup> In part, the proposed change is designed to cover situations similar to those that might constitute a Regulatory Halt, but where the impact is limited to a single market. For example, just as a market disruption might trigger a Regulatory Halt for Extraordinary Market Activity (as defined in the Amended CTA/CQ Plan) if it affects multiple markets, so a disruption at the Exchange, such as a technical issue affecting trading in one or more securities, could impact trading on the Exchange so significantly that an Operational Halt is

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<sup>29</sup> See Partial Amendment No. 2 of Trading Halt Amendments to the CTA/CQ Plan, dated April 7, 2021.

<sup>30</sup> See Rule 11.1(c). The Exchange also notes that its proposed Rule 11.28(c) regarding Operational Halts is substantially identical to similar rule changes filed by competitor exchanges. See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 96574 (December 22, 2022), 87 FR 80213 (December 29, 2022), SR-PHLX-2022-49; Securities Exchange Act Release No. 97093 (March 9, 2023), 88 FR 16045 (March 15, 2023), SR-PEARL-2023-11; and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 97824 (June 29, 2023), 88 FR 43159 (July 6, 2023), SR-MEMX-2023-11.

<sup>31</sup> Differences between Cboe BZX and the Exchange’s proposals as it relates to Operational Halts stem from Cboe BZX’s status as a Primary Listing Market, unlike the Exchange.

appropriate in one or more securities. In such an instance, it would be in the public interest to institute an Operational Halt to minimize the impact of a disruption that, if trading were allowed to continue, might negatively affect a greater number of market participants. An Operational Halt does not implicate other trading centers.

Proposed Rule 11.28(c)(1) would specify the Exchange's authority to initiate an Operational Halt, which is discretionary, and provide that the Exchange may declare an Operational Halt for any security trading on the Exchange if it is experiencing Extraordinary Market Activity on the Exchange (proposed Rule 11.28(c)(1)(A)) or when otherwise necessary to maintain a fair and orderly market or in the public interest (proposed Rule 11.28(c)(1)(B)).

Under proposed Rule 11.28(c)(2) the Exchange would notify the Processor if it has concerns about its ability to collect and transmit quotes, orders, or last sale prices, or if it has declared an Operational Halt or suspension of trading in one or more Eligible Securities (as that term is defined in the Amended CTA/CQ Plan), pursuant to the procedures adopted by the Operating Committee.

Proposed Rule 11.28(c)(3) will clarify how the Exchange resumes trading after an Operational Halt. Proposed Rule 11.28(c)(3)(A) provides that the Exchange would resume trading when it determines that trading may resume in a fair and orderly manner consistent with the Exchange's rules. Proposed Rule 11.28(c)(3)(B) specifies that the Exchange would resume trading following an Operational Halt pursuant to Rule 11.23(f). The Exchange proposes adding subsection (f) to Rule 11.23 to describe the Exchange's re-opening process for a security subject to an Operational Halt, which differs from the process of re-opening a security following a Regulatory Halt. Proposed Rule 11.23(f) describes the Exchange's current practice for re-opening securities that are not subject to a Regulatory Halt and states that while a security is subject to an Operational Halt, orders will not be accepted for queuing prior to the security's resumption of trading and that any open orders on the BYX Book<sup>32</sup> will be cancelled.<sup>33</sup> Proposed Rule 11.23(f)(1) states that a security

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<sup>32</sup> See Rule 1.5(e).

<sup>33</sup> The Exchange notes that its re-opening process for securities subject to an Operational Halt is simply to open the security for trading. There is no queuing process or re-opening auction associated with the re-

subject to an Operational Halt will return to trading when the Exchange declares that trading may resume pursuant to Rule 11.28(c)(3).

Proposed Rule 11.28(c)(4) provides that trading in a halted security shall resume at the time specified by the Exchange in a notice. It would further specify that the Exchange would notify all other Plan participants and the SIP of such Operational Halt as well as provide notice that an Operational Halt has been lifted using such protocols and other emergency procedures as may be mutually agreed to between the Operating Committee and the Exchange. If the SIP is unable to disseminate notice of an Operational Halt or the Exchange is not open for trading, the Exchange would take reasonable steps to provide notice of an Operational Halt, which shall include both the type and start time of the Operational Halt. Each Plan participant shall continuously monitor communication protocols established by the Operating Committee and the Processor during market hours to disseminate notice of an Operational Halt, and the failure of a participant to do so shall not prevent the Exchange from initiating an Operational Halt.

#### **Conforming Changes to Other Rules**

The Exchange is proposing to modify Rules 11.8 (Obligations of Market Makers), Rule 11.9 (Orders and Modifiers), Rule 11.13 (Order Execution and Routing), Rule 11.23 (Opening Process), and Rule 14.1 (Unlisted Trading Privileges) that cross reference Rule 11.18 in light of the reorganization of current Rule 11.18 into Rules 11.28 and 11.29. Rule 11.8(d)(2)(D), Rule 11.8(d)(2)(E), Rule 11.9(a)(2), Rule 11.13(a)(3), and Rule 11.13(b)(3)(I) will be modified to update a cross-reference to the revised Rule 11.18(a) that governs Limit Up-Limit Down procedures. Additionally, Rules 11.13(b)(3) and 11.13(b)(5) have been modified to remove the italic formatting from the title of each subsection in order to conform with other subsections of Rule 11.13(b). Rule 11.23(e) will be modified to update a cross-reference to the Rule that governs halts under a Market-Wide Circuit Breaker. In addition, Rule 11.23(e) will be

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opening of a security subject to an Operational Halt.

modified to include the word “Regulatory” in order to indicate its applicability only to Regulatory Halts. Rule 14.1(c)(3) will be modified to update a cross-reference to current Rule 11.18 to also cross-reference proposed Rule 11.28 and proposed Rule 11.29. Rule 14.1 *Interpretation and Policies* .01 will be modified to correct an incorrect rule reference to Rule 14.1(c)(4)(A) and (B) to properly reflect Rule 14.1(c)(3)(A) and (B). The Exchange notes that the changes described above are not substantive and serve only to update cross-references to rules that have been relocated.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”) and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.<sup>34</sup> Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>35</sup> requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and 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. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>36</sup> requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

As described above, the Exchange and other SROs are seeking to adopt harmonized rules related to halting and resuming trading in U.S.-listed equity securities. The Exchange believes that the proposed rules will provide greater transparency and clarity with respect to the situations

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<sup>34</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>35</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>36</sup> Id.

in which trading will be halted and the process through which that halt will be implemented and terminated. Particularly, the proposed changes seek to achieve consistent results for participants across U.S. equities exchanges while maintaining a fair and orderly market, protecting investors and protecting the public interest. Based on the foregoing, the Exchange believes that the proposed rules are consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>37</sup> because they will foster competition and coordination with persons engaged in regulating and facilitating transactions in securities.

As discussed previously, the Exchange believes that the various provisions of the proposed rules that will apply to all SROs are focused on the type of cross-market event where a consistent approach will assist market participants and reduce confusion during a crisis. Because market participants often trade the same security across multiple venues and trade securities listed on different exchanges as part of a common strategy, the Exchange believes that the proposed rules will lessen the risk that market participants holding a basket of securities will have to deal with divergent outcomes depending on where the securities are listed or traded. Conversely, the proposed rules would still allow individual SROs to react differently to events that impact various securities or markets in different ways. This avoids the “brittle market” risk where an isolated event at a single market forces all markets trading equity securities to halt or halts trading in all securities where the issue impacted only a subset of securities. By addressing both concerns, the Exchange believes that the proposed rules further the Act’s goal of maintaining fair and orderly markets.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rules’ focus of responsibility on the Primary Listing Market for decisions related to a Regulatory Halt and the resumption of trading is consistent with the Act, which itself imposes obligations on exchanges with respect to issuers that are listed. As is currently the case, the Primary Listing Market would be responsible for the

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<sup>37</sup> Id.

many regulatory functions related to its listings, including the determination of when to declare a Regulatory Halt. While these core responsibilities remain with the Primary Listing Market, trading in the security can occur on multiple exchanges that have unlisted trading privileges for the security, such as on the Exchange, or in the over-the-counter market, regulated by FINRA. The Exchange is responsible for monitoring activity on its own markets, but also must honor a Regulatory Halt.

The proposed changes relating to Regulatory Halts would ensure that all SROs handle the situations covered therein in a consistent manner that would prevent conflicting outcomes in cross-market events and ensure that all trading centers recognize a Regulatory Halt declared by the Primary Listing Market. The changes are consistent with and implement the Amended CTA/CQ Plan.

The Exchange believes that the other definitions in the proposed rules are also consistent with the Act. For example, the proposed rules would define what constitutes Extraordinary Market Activity, consistent with the amended definition of that term in the Amended CTA/CQ Plan, thereby furthering the Act's goal of promoting fair and orderly markets. The Exchange is also proposing to adopt definitions for "SIP Outage," "Material SIP Latency" and "SIP Halt," to explicitly address situations that may disrupt the markets, and these definitions are identical to the definitions in the Amended CTA/CQ Plan. The proposed rules provide guidance on when the Exchange should seek information from the Operating Committee, other SROs and market participants as well as means for dissemination of important information to the market, consistent with the Amended CTA/CQ Plan. The Exchange believes these provisions strike the right balance in outlining a process to address unforeseen events without preventing SROs from taking action needed to protect the market.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rules, which make halts more consistent across exchange rules, are consistent with the Act in that they will foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating the equities markets. In particular, the Exchange believes it is

important for SROs to coordinate when there is a widespread and significant event, as multiple trading centers are impacted in such an event. Further, while the Exchange recognizes that the proposed rule will not guarantee a consistent result on every market in all situations, the Exchange does believe that it will assist in that outcome. While the proposed rules relating to Regulatory Halts focus primarily on the kinds of cross-market events that would likely impact multiple markets, individual SROs will still retain flexibility to deal with unique products or smaller situations confined to a particular market.

Also consistent with the Act, and with the Amended CTA/CQ Plan, is the Exchange's proposal in Rule 11.28(c) to address Operational Halts, which are non-regulatory in nature and apply only to the exchange that calls the halt. As noted earlier, the Exchange presently has the ability to implement operational halts and local trading suspensions, but such halts are not currently referred to as "operational halts" in the Exchange's rules.<sup>38</sup> The Exchange also notes that its proposed Rule 11.28(c) regarding Operational Halts is substantially identical to the proposals filed by competitor exchanges,<sup>39</sup> and is therefore not novel.

The Exchange believes that its proposal to introduce Rule 11.23(f) is consistent with the Act because it will describe the Exchange's ability to accept and process orders during an Operational Halt and describe the re-opening process for securities subject to an Operational Halt, which will provide clarity to market participants about how their orders will behave during an Operational Halt and describe how a security subject to an Operation Halt will resume trading.

Additionally, the proposed conforming changes to Rules 11.8, 11.9, 11.13, 11.23, and 14.1 are consistent with the Act in that they seek to provide the correct reference to the Limit Up-Limit Down procedures and halts, suspensions, or trading pauses due to Market-Wide Circuit Breakers without modification from current Rule 11.18. The Exchange believes that it is

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<sup>38</sup> See Rule 11.1(c).

<sup>39</sup> Supra note 30.

consistent with the Act to reorganize the text related to Market-Wide Circuit Breakers currently codified in Rule 11.18(a) – (d), (g) – (j) into Rule 11.29 as it would provide clarity to market participants and better align with how the rules of other market centers are currently organized.

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

The Exchange believes the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(8) of the Act<sup>40</sup> in that it does not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act as explained below.

Importantly, the Exchange believes the proposal will not impose a burden on intermarket competition but will rather alleviate any burden on competition because it is the result of a collaborative effort by all SROs to harmonize and improve the process related to the halting and resumption of trading in U.S.-listed equity securities, consistent with the Amended CTA/CQ Plan. In this area, the Exchange believes that all SROs should have consistent rules to the extent possible in order to provide additional transparency and certainty to market participants and to avoid inconsistent outcomes that could cause confusion and erode market confidence. The proposed changes would ensure that all SROs handle the situations covered therein in a consistent manner and ensure that all trading centers handle a Regulatory Halt consistently. The Exchange understands that all other non-Primary Listing Markets intend to file proposals that are substantially similar to this proposal.

The Exchange does not believe that its proposals concerning Operational Halts impose an undue burden on competition. Under the existing Rules, the Exchange already possesses discretionary authority to impose Operational Halts for various reasons, including because of an order imbalance or influx that causes another national securities exchange to impose a trading halt in a security.<sup>41</sup> As described earlier, the proposed Rule change clarifies and broadens the circumstances in which the Exchange may impose such Halts, and specifies procedures for both

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<sup>40</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

<sup>41</sup> See Rule 11.1(c).

imposing and lifting them. The Exchange does not intend for these proposals to have any competitive impact whatsoever. Indeed, the Exchange expects that other exchanges will adopt similar rules and procedures to govern operational halts, to the extent that they have not done so already.<sup>42</sup>

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change imposes a burden on intramarket competition because the provisions apply to all market participants equally. In addition, information regarding the halting and resumption of trading will be disseminated using several freely accessible sources to ensure broad availability of information in addition to the SIP data and proprietary data feeds offered by the Exchange and other SROs that are available to subscribers. In addition, the declaration and timing of trading halts and the resumption of trading is designed to avoid any advantage to those who can react more quickly than other participants. The proposals encourage early and frequent communication among the SROs, SIPs and market participants to enable the dissemination of timely and accurate information concerning the market to market participants.

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**

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not:

- A. significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest;
- B. impose any significant burden on competition; and
- C. 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)

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<sup>42</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 96574 (December 22, 2022), 87 FR 80213 (December 29, 2022), SR-PHLX-2022-49; Securities Exchange Act Release No. 97093 (March 9, 2023), 88 FR 16045 (March 15, 2023), SR-PEARL-2023-11; and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 97824 (June 29, 2023), 88 FR 43159 (July 6, 2023), SR-MEMX-2023-11.

of the Act<sup>43</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>44</sup> 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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission will institute proceedings 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.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include file number SR-CboeBYX-2026-008 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-CboeBYX-2026-008. 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 filing 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

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<sup>43</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>44</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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-CboeBYX-2026-008 and should be submitted on or before **[INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>45</sup>

**Vanessa A. Countryman,**

*Secretary.*

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