Page 1 of * 22		SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4		File No. * SR 2023 - * 42  Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *)			
Filing by MEMX	LLC						
Pursuant to Rule	19b-4 under the Securities Exchange	e Act of 1934					
Initial <sup>⋆</sup>	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2) *	Section 19(b)(3	)(A) * Section 19(b)(3)(B) *		
	Extension of Time Period for			Rule			
Pilot	Commission Action *	Date Expires *		19b-4(f)(1)	19b-4(f)(4)		
				19b-4(f)(2)	19b-4(f)(5)		
	<u>—</u>						
				19b-4(f)(3)	19b-4(f)(6)		
Notice of prop Section 806(e	osed change pursuant to the Paymere)(1) *	nt, Clearing, and Settlem Section 806(e)(2) *	Sec	curity-Based Swap a curities Exchange A ction 3C(b)(2) *	Submission pursuant to the act of 1934		
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Exhibit 2 Seni	Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document  Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document  Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document						
Description  Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked <sup>⋆</sup> ).  Proposal to amend the Exchange's fee schedule.							
	ormation ame, telephone number, and e-mail a espond to questions and comments o		the staff of the self-regulatory	organization			
First Name *	Anders	Last Name *	Franzon				
Title *	General Counsel						
E-mail *	afranzon@memx.com						
Telephone <sup>*</sup>	(551) 370-1033	Fax					
Signature							
Pursuant to t	he requirements of the Securities Exc sed this filing to be signed on its beha						
Date	12/28/2023		(Title *)				
Ву	_auren Strathman		Chief Compliance Officer				
_	(Name *)						
form. A digital sig	he signature block at right will initiate digitally sign nature is as legally binding as a physical signatur form cannot be changed		Strathma	signed by Lauren in 23.12.28 11:25:02			

### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

Fo	r complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.
Form 19b-4 Information *  Add Remove View	The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.
Feb 2024 Membership Fee Waiver (II	
Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change *  Add Remove View  Feb 2024 Membership Fee Waiver (E	The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)
Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advanced Notice by Clearing Agencies *  Add Remove View	The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines wil result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)
Exhibit 2- Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications	Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.
Add Remove View	Exhibit Sent As Paper Document
Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire Add Remove View	Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.
	Exhibit Sent As Paper Document
Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies  Add Remove View	The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.
Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text	The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4.
Add Remove View  Feb 2024 Membership Fee Waiver (E)	Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change
Partial Amendment  Add Remove View	If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes at being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shape clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

#### 1. <u>Text of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"), and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, MEMX LLC ("MEMX" or the "Exchange") is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposed rule change to amend the Exchange's fee schedule (the "Fee Schedule") pursuant to Exchange Rules 15.1(a) and (c). The Exchange proposes to extend the waiver (the "Membership Fee Waiver") of membership fees ("Membership Fees") which is currently in place for all new Members of the Exchange, for an additional month beyond the program's current expiration on December 31, 2023. The Exchange will continue to waive Membership Fees for new Members who join the Exchange through January 31, 2024.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u> is provided as <u>Exhibit 1</u>. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in <u>Exhibit 5</u>.

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.

#### 2. <u>Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

The proposed rule change was approved by Exchange staff pursuant to authority delegated to it by the Board of Directors of the Exchange (the "Board"). Exchange staff will advise the Board of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action is necessary for the filing of the proposed rule change.

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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Exchange Rule 1.5(p).

The persons on the Exchange staff prepared to respond to questions and comments on the proposed rule change are:

Anders Franzon
General Counsel
MEMX LLC
(551) 370-1003

Ikee Gardner
Counsel
MEMX LLC
(551) 370-1019

3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

### a. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to extend the time period for the waiver of Membership Fees until January 31, 2024. The Exchange will continue to implement the Membership Fee Waiver (as defined above) for all new Members who join the Exchange prior to and including January 31, 2024. The Exchange notes that the proposed change does not amend any existing fee or rebate for equities transactions, market data or connectivity fees. The sole change proposed herein is to extend the timeframe during which the Exchange will waive Membership Fees for new Members of the Exchange.

Currently, MEMX applies a Membership Fee Waiver to all new Members of the Exchange which is set to expire on December 31, 2023. Under the current Membership Fee Waiver, new Members who join the Exchange after December 31, 2023, would be assessed Membership Fees of \$200 per month to maintain active membership, and new Members whose Membership Fees were waived during the Waiver Period would be assessed Membership Fees of \$200 per month beginning January 1, 2024. In addition, in September of 2023 the Exchange adopted specific fees applicable to participation on the

Exchange's platform for trading equity options ("MEMX Options").<sup>4</sup> The current Membership Fee Waiver has also been applied to new Members of MEMX Options, and thus such fees have not been imposed on such Members to date.

The Exchange believes that the existing Membership Fee Waiver has been effective in incentivizing options market participants to join MEMX Options. MEMX Options launched in September of 2023, and has been conducting a staged rollout of options available for trading on the Exchange since that time. The Exchange believes that its rollout will be complete in January of 2024 and would like to extend the Membership Fee Waiver until after its rollout is complete in the event there are options firms that are waiting to join the Exchange until after such rollout is complete. In addition, the Exchange believes the Membership Fee Waiver is a proper incentive for new participants on MEMX Options to continue to increase their participation as they become accustomed to the new trading platform.

Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to extend the time period of the Membership Fee Waiver to expire on January 31, 2024. The Exchange proposes to continue to waive Membership Fees for all new Members who join the exchange on or before January 31, 2024. Under the proposed Membership Fee Waiver, new Members who join the Exchange after January 31, 2024, will be assessed Membership Fees to maintain active membership and if applicable, Members who participate on MEMX Options will be assessed the specific Additional Fees applicable to such participation. Similarly, new Members whose Membership Fees have been waived since joining the Exchange will be

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 98648 (September 29, 2023), 88 FR 68762 (October 4, 2023) (SR-MEMX-2023-26).

assessed Membership Fees, including Additional Fees applicable to participation on MEMX Options, if applicable, beginning February 1, 2024. In addition, new Members of MEMX Options who join after January 31, 2024, will be assessed Membership Fees of \$200 per month to maintain active membership, and new Members whose Membership Fees were waived will be assessed Membership Fees of \$200 per month beginning February 1, 2024. Specifically, the Exchange is proposing to amend the description under "Membership" in the Exchange's Fee Schedule, noting that Membership Fees will be waived for new Members of the Exchange until February 1, 2024.

#### b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,<sup>5</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using its facilities and does not unfairly discriminate between customers, issuers, brokers or dealers.

The Exchange believes it is reasonable to extend the timeframe of the Membership Fee Waiver for new Members of the Exchange, primarily to continue to provide an incentive for options trading firms to continue to apply for Exchange membership during the current phase of the rollout of MEMX Options. The options markets are quote-driven markets and are dependent on liquidity providers for liquidity and price discovery. Extending the timeframe of the Membership Fee Waiver will

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

continue to encourage additional liquidity providers to become members of the Exchange, which may result in more trading opportunities, enhanced competition, and improved overall market quality on the Exchange. Although the proposed extension of the Membership Fee Waiver timeframe is intended primarily to encourage new participants to join the Exchange in order to participate on the MEMX Options market and the Exchange believes the participants that will benefit from this waiver are firms that will do so, the Exchange also believes that it is reasonable to continue applying the Membership Fee Waiver broadly to all new participants on the Exchange during the timeframe extension, including firms that would trade only on the Exchange's market for equity securities or on both the Exchange's market for equity securities and MEMX Options.

In addition, the Exchange believes that the proposed extension of the Membership Fee Waiver is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory in that it will apply uniformly to all new Members of the Exchange. Further, the Exchange believes that the proposed extension of the waiver is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to current Members of the Exchange because the majority of the Exchange's existing Members joined at a time when the Exchange did not impose membership fees (also to incentivize such participants to join), and thus have already received this benefit.

# 4. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Instead, as discussed above, the Exchange believes that the proposed change would encourage market participants who have not already done so to join the Exchange.

As a result, if such participants do join the Exchange and route their orders to the Exchange or support other Members that route orders (i.e., clearing firms) the Exchange believes the proposal would further enhance its competitiveness as a market. Encouraging additional participants to join the Exchange will enable a greater number of participants to participate on MEMX Options during the continued rollout of the platform. Further, the Exchange believes that by continuing to make the Membership Fee Waiver applicable to both the Exchange's options platform and the Exchange's equity platform for an extended time period, the proposal will enhance the competitiveness of both platforms. Attracting a greater number of participants will foster greater competition on the Exchange, particularly in the case of MEMX Options which is a quote-driven market. For these reasons, the Exchange believes that the proposal furthers the Commission's goal in adopting Regulation NMS of fostering competition among orders, which promotes "more efficient pricing of individual stocks for all types of orders, large and small."

#### Intramarket Competition

As discussed above, the Exchange believes that the proposal would encourage new participants to apply for Exchange membership, thereby enhancing liquidity and market quality on the Exchange, as well as enhancing the attractiveness of the Exchange as a trading venue, which the Exchange believes, in turn, would continue to encourage market participants to direct additional order flow to the Exchange.

Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) ("Regulation NMS Adopting Release").

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes would impose any burden on intramarket competition because such changes will incentivize new participants to join the Exchange and the majority of the Exchange's current members joined at a time when the Exchange did not impose membership fees (also to incentivize such participants to join), and thus have already received this benefit. The options markets are quote-driven markets and are dependent on liquidity providers for liquidity and price discovery. The proposal will be of particular importance in encouraging additional liquidity providers to become members of the Exchange, which may result in more trading opportunities, enhanced competition, and improved overall market quality on the Exchange. For the foregoing reasons, the Exchange believes the proposed changes would not impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

#### *Intermarket Competition*

As described above, the proposed extension of the Membership Fee Waiver timeframe will incent market participants to join the Exchange during the extended Membership Fee Waiver period. Accordingly, the Exchange believes the proposal would not burden, but rather promote, intermarket competition by enabling it to better compete with other options exchanges during the continued rollout of MEMX Options. In addition, as noted above, the Exchange has intentionally proposed to apply the waiver broadly so that it continues to be applicable to new Members that will participate on the Exchange's market for equity securities or that will participate on such market as well as MEMX Options, and thus, the proposal may also better enable the Exchange to compete with other options exchanges and equities exchanges.

5. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule</u>
<u>Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

- Extension of Time Period for Commission Action
   Not applicable.
- 7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,<sup>8</sup> the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-regulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings under Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.<sup>9</sup>

8. <u>Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission</u>

Not applicable.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

 Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act Not applicable.

10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

# 11. Exhibits

Exhibit 1. Form of Notice of the Proposed Rule Change for Publication in the

# Federal Register.

Exhibit 5. Text of Proposed Fee Schedule.

#### EXHIBIT 1

#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-; File No. SR-MEMX-2023-42] [Insert date]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; MEMX LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Amend the Exchange's Fee Schedule

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 [insert date], MEMX LLC ("MEMX" 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 Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

# I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

(a) The Exchange is filing with the Commission a proposed rule change to amend the Exchange's fee schedule (the "Fee Schedule") pursuant to Exchange Rules 15.1(a) and (c). The Exchange proposes to extend the waiver (the "Membership Fee Waiver") of membership fees ("Membership Fees") which is currently in place for all new Members<sup>3</sup> of the Exchange, for an additional month beyond the program's current expiration on December 31, 2023. The Exchange will continue to waive Membership Fees for new Members who join the Exchange through January 31, 2024. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

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

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

See Exchange Rule 1.5(p).

# II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> 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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u> <u>Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

#### 1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to extend the time period for the waiver of Membership Fees until January 31, 2024. The Exchange will continue to implement the Membership Fee Waiver (as defined above) for all new Members who join the Exchange prior to and including January 31, 2024. The Exchange notes that the proposed change does not amend any existing fee or rebate for equities transactions, market data or connectivity fees. The sole change proposed herein is to extend the timeframe during which the Exchange will waive Membership Fees for new Members of the Exchange.

Currently, MEMX applies a Membership Fee Waiver to all new Members of the Exchange which is set to expire on December 31, 2023. Under the current Membership Fee Waiver, new Members who join the Exchange after December 31, 2023, would be assessed Membership Fees of \$200 per month to maintain active membership, and new Members whose Membership Fees were waived during the Waiver Period would be assessed Membership Fees of \$200 per month beginning January 1, 2024. In addition, in September of 2023 the Exchange adopted specific fees applicable to participation on the

Exchange's platform for trading equity options ("MEMX Options").<sup>4</sup> The current Membership Fee Waiver has also been applied to new Members of MEMX Options, and thus such fees have not been imposed on such Members to date.

The Exchange believes that the existing Membership Fee Waiver has been effective in incentivizing options market participants to join MEMX Options. MEMX Options launched in September of 2023, and has been conducting a staged rollout of options available for trading on the Exchange since that time. The Exchange believes that its rollout will be complete in January of 2024 and would like to extend the Membership Fee Waiver until after its rollout is complete in the event there are options firms that are waiting to join the Exchange until after such rollout is complete. In addition, the Exchange believes the Membership Fee Waiver is a proper incentive for new participants on MEMX Options to continue to increase their participation as they become accustomed to the new trading platform.

Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to extend the time period of the Membership Fee Waiver to expire on January 31, 2024. The Exchange proposes to continue to waive Membership Fees for all new Members who join the exchange on or before January 31, 2024. Under the proposed Membership Fee Waiver, new Members who join the Exchange after January 31, 2024, will be assessed Membership Fees to maintain active membership and if applicable, Members who participate on MEMX Options will be assessed the specific Additional Fees applicable to such participation. Similarly, new Members whose Membership Fees have been waived since joining the Exchange will be assessed Membership Fees, including Additional Fees applicable to participation on

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 98648 (September 29, 2023), 88 FR 68762 (October 4, 2023) (SR-MEMX-2023-26).

MEMX Options, if applicable, beginning February 1, 2024. In addition, new Members of MEMX Options who join after January 31, 2024, will be assessed Membership Fees of \$200 per month to maintain active membership, and new Members whose Membership Fees were waived will be assessed Membership Fees of \$200 per month beginning February 1, 2024. Specifically, the Exchange is proposing to amend the description under "Membership" in the Exchange's Fee Schedule, noting that Membership Fees will be waived for new Members of the Exchange until February 1, 2024.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,<sup>5</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using its facilities and does not unfairly discriminate between customers, issuers, brokers or dealers.

The Exchange believes it is reasonable to extend the timeframe of the Membership Fee Waiver for new Members of the Exchange, primarily to continue to provide an incentive for options trading firms to continue to apply for Exchange membership during the current phase of the rollout of MEMX Options. The options markets are quote-driven markets and are dependent on liquidity providers for liquidity and price discovery. Extending the timeframe of the Membership Fee Waiver will continue to encourage additional liquidity providers to become members of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

Exchange, which may result in more trading opportunities, enhanced competition, and improved overall market quality on the Exchange. Although the proposed extension of the Membership Fee Waiver timeframe is intended primarily to encourage new participants to join the Exchange in order to participate on the MEMX Options market and the Exchange believes the participants that will benefit from this waiver are firms that will do so, the Exchange also believes that it is reasonable to continue applying the Membership Fee Waiver broadly to all new participants on the Exchange during the timeframe extension, including firms that would trade only on the Exchange's market for equity securities or on both the Exchange's market for equity securities and MEMX Options.

In addition, the Exchange believes that the proposed extension of the Membership Fee Waiver is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory in that it will apply uniformly to all new Members of the Exchange. Further, the Exchange believes that the proposed extension of the waiver is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to current Members of the Exchange because the majority of the Exchange's existing Members joined at a time when the Exchange did not impose membership fees (also to incentivize such participants to join), and thus have already received this benefit.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Instead, as discussed above, the Exchange believes that the proposed change would encourage market participants who have not already done so to join the Exchange. As a result, if such participants do join the Exchange and route their orders to the Exchange or support other Members that route orders (i.e., clearing firms) the Exchange

believes the proposal would further enhance its competitiveness as a market.

Encouraging additional participants to join the Exchange will enable a greater number of participants to participate on MEMX Options during the continued rollout of the platform. Further, the Exchange believes that by continuing to make the Membership Fee Waiver applicable to both the Exchange's options platform and the Exchange's equity platform for an extended time period, the proposal will enhance the competitiveness of both platforms. Attracting a greater number of participants will foster greater competition on the Exchange, particularly in the case of MEMX Options which is a quote-driven market. For these reasons, the Exchange believes that the proposal furthers the Commission's goal in adopting Regulation NMS of fostering competition among orders, which promotes "more efficient pricing of individual stocks for all types of orders, large and small."

#### *Intramarket Competition*

As discussed above, the Exchange believes that the proposal would encourage new participants to apply for Exchange membership, thereby enhancing liquidity and market quality on the Exchange, as well as enhancing the attractiveness of the Exchange as a trading venue, which the Exchange believes, in turn, would continue to encourage market participants to direct additional order flow to the Exchange.

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes would impose any burden on intramarket competition because such changes will incentivize new participants to join the Exchange and the majority of the Exchange's current members

Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) ("Regulation NMS Adopting Release").

joined at a time when the Exchange did not impose membership fees (also to incentivize such participants to join), and thus have already received this benefit. The options markets are quote-driven markets and are dependent on liquidity providers for liquidity and price discovery. The proposal will be of particular importance in encouraging additional liquidity providers to become members of the Exchange, which may result in more trading opportunities, enhanced competition, and improved overall market quality on the Exchange. For the foregoing reasons, the Exchange believes the proposed changes would not impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

#### Intermarket Competition

As described above, the proposed extension of the Membership Fee Waiver timeframe will incent market participants to join the Exchange during the extended Membership Fee Waiver period. Accordingly, the Exchange believes the proposal would not burden, but rather promote, intermarket competition by enabling it to better compete with other options exchanges during the continued rollout of MEMX Options. In addition, as noted above, the Exchange has intentionally proposed to apply the waiver broadly so that it continues to be applicable to new Members that will participate on the Exchange's market for equity securities or that will participate on such market as well as MEMX Options, and thus, the proposal may also better enable the Exchange to compete with other options exchanges and equities exchanges.

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

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 has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act<sup>8</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)<sup>9</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 shall 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 <a href="mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov">rule-comments@sec.gov</a>. Please include file number SR-MEMX-42 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.

<sup>8 15</sup> U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

All submissions should refer to file number SR-MEMX-42. 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-MEMX-42 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>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> 

# Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

#### Exhibit 5

Proposed new language is <u>underlined</u>; Proposed deletions are in [brackets].

### MEMX Membership Fee Schedule (EFFECTIVE | SEPTEMBER 28 | DECEMBER 28, 2023)

\* \* \* \* \*

MEMX charges the following monthly fees to maintain active membership.

#### Fees applicable to all Members

Member Type	Monthly Fee
All Members	\$200

#### Additional Fees applicable to Options Trading Members

Member Type	Monthly Fee
Options Order Entry Firm	\$1,000
Options Market Maker	\$7,000

- The MEMX membership fee is assessed to each active Member at the close of business on the first day of each month.
- If a Member is pending a voluntary termination of rights as a Member pursuant to Rule 2.8 prior to such fee being assessed and the Member does not utilize the facilities of the Exchange while such voluntary termination of rights is pending, then the Member will not be obligated to pay the monthly membership fee.
- MEMX does not return pro-rated fees if a membership is not active for an entire month.
- Membership fees for new members of the Exchange are waived until [January] February 1, 2024.

\* \* \* \* \*