

certain potentially erroneous ETF Instructions (whether due to mistakes in manual entry or otherwise) in a pending status until confirmed by the submitting ETF agent. Holding potentially erroneous ETF Instructions in a “pending” status would help minimize the potential impact of erroneous ETF Instructions on Members’ Required Deposits by preventing such ETF Instructions from being processed without confirmation from the submitting ETF agent. Thus, the automated threshold value reasonability check would help to ensure that Members are subject to Required Deposits that more closely reflect the Members’ intended trading activity and not erroneously entered information because Members would be required to confirm that the entered information is in fact correct. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed change to add the automated threshold value reasonability check would help promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions, consistent with Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act.⁷⁶

Finally, the Commission finds that NSCC’s proposal to remove the repetitive language regarding next-day settling creates and redeems would promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions, consistent with Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act.⁷⁷ Removing such repetitive language would help make the Rules more accurate and clear. Maintaining accurate and clear Rules would enable Members and other stakeholders to better understand their respective rights and obligations regarding NSCC’s clearance and settlement of securities transactions. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the proposed change to remove repetitive language from the Rules would promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions, consistent with the requirements of Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act.⁷⁸

Rule 17Ad-22(e)(6)(i) under the Act requires NSCC to cover its credit exposures to its Members by establishing a risk-based margin system that, at a minimum considers, and produces margin levels commensurate with, the risks and particular attributes of each relevant product, portfolio, and market.⁷⁹ As described above, ETF agents submit ETF Instructions to NSCC using a standardized input file, which

involves manual data entry that poses an inherent risk of communicating potentially erroneous information. The proposed Intraday Cycle and Supplemental Cycle would enable ETF agents to submit new ETF Instructions to correct previously submitted ETF Instructions before Members need to satisfy their next Required Deposit. Similarly, the automated threshold value reasonability check would help minimize the potential impact of erroneous ETF Instructions on Members’ Required Deposits by preventing such ETF Instructions from being processed absent confirmation from the submitting ETF agent. Thus, the proposed cycles and automated threshold value reasonability check are ETF-specific proposals designed to better produce margin levels commensurate with the risk and particular attributes of ETFs. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the proposed cycles and automated threshold value reasonability check would enhance NSCC’s risk-based margin system in a manner that considers the risks and particular attributes specific to ETFs, consistent with Rule 17Ad-22(e)(6)(i).⁸⁰

Rule 17Ad-22(e)(21) under the Act requires NSCC to be efficient and effective in meeting the requirements of its Members and the markets it serves, and regularly review the efficiency and effectiveness of its (1) clearing and settlement arrangements, (2) operating structure, including risk management policies, procedures, and systems, and (3) use of technology and communication procedures.⁸¹ As stated above, the proposed cycles would enable ETF agents to submit new ETF Instructions to correct previously submitted ETF Instructions before Members need to satisfy their next Required Deposit. Similarly, the automated threshold value reasonability check would help minimize the potential impact of erroneous ETF Instructions on Members’ Required Deposits by preventing such ETF Instructions from being processed absent confirmation from the submitting ETF agent. The Intraday Cycle also would enable NSCC to receive same-day settling ETF Instructions (corrections or otherwise), and thereby allow such same-day settling ETF Instructions to receive the benefits of NSCC processing. The proposed cycles and automated threshold reasonability check constitute changes designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of NSCC’s ETF clearance and settlement

arrangements, NSCC’s related operating structure, and NSCC’s communications with ETF agents and authorized participants via the input and output reports. The proposal would enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of NSCC’s provision of ETF-related services by (1) enabling ETF agents to correct previously submitted errors before additional Required Deposits are required, (2) preventing potentially erroneous ETF Instructions from being processing until confirmed, and (3) enabling same-day settling ETF Instructions to receive the benefits of NSCC processing. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the proposal would enhance NSCC’s efficiency and effectiveness in meeting the requirements of its Members, as well as the efficiency and effectiveness of NSCC’s ETF-related clearing and settlement arrangements, operating structure, and communication procedures, consistent with Rule 17Ad-22(e)(21).⁸²

III. Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the requirements of the Act, in particular the requirements of Section 17A of the Act⁸³ and the rules and regulations thereunder.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that proposed rule change SR-NSCC-2017-019 be, and hereby is, *approved*.⁸⁴

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁸⁵

Eduardo A. Aleman,
Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-82538; File No. SR-CboeBZX-2018-005]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change To List and Trade Shares of the Cboe Vest S&P 500® Premium Income ETF Under Rule 14.11(c)(5)

January 19, 2018.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the

⁸² *Id.*

⁸³ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

⁸⁴ In approving the proposed rule change, the Commission considered the proposals’ impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁸⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

⁷⁶ *Id.*

⁷⁷ *Id.*

⁷⁸ *Id.*

⁷⁹ 17 CFR 240.17Ad-22(e)(6)(i).

⁸⁰ *Id.*

⁸¹ 17 CFR 240.17Ad-22(e)(21).

“Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on January 10, 2018, Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“Exchange” or “BZX”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

The Exchange filed a proposal to list and trade shares of the Cboe Vest S&P 500® Premium Income ETF (formerly known as the Cboe Vest S&P 500® Market-Neutral Option Income ETF), a series of ETF Series Solutions (the “Trust”), under Rule 14.11(c)(5) (“Index Fund Shares”).

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange’s website at www.markets.cboe.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 parts of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to list and trade shares (“Shares”) of Cboe Vest S&P 500® Premium Income ETF (the “Fund”) under Rule 14.11(c)(5), which governs the listing and trading of Index Fund Shares based on equity and fixed income securities indexes on the Exchange. The Fund will be an index-based exchange traded fund (“ETF”). The Fund will track the Cboe S&P 500® Volatility Risk Premia Index (the “Index”).³

The Shares will be offered by the Trust, which was established as a Delaware statutory trust on February 9, 2012. The Trust is registered with the Commission as an open-end investment company and has filed a registration statement on behalf of the Fund on Form N-1A (“Registration Statement”) with the Commission.⁴ The Fund’s adviser, Cboe Vest Financial, LLC (the “Adviser”), and index provider, Cboe Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe Options” or the “Index Provider”), are affiliates and have implemented and will maintain a “fire wall” with respect to their respective personnel regarding access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to the underlying index or portfolio, as applicable. The Adviser and the Index Provider are not registered as broker-dealers, but are affiliated with a broker-dealer. The Index Provider has implemented and will maintain a “fire wall” with respect to such broker-dealer and its personnel regarding access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to the Index. In addition, Index Provider personnel who make decisions regarding the Index composition or methodology are subject to procedures designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material nonpublic information regarding the Index, pursuant to Rule 14.11(c)(5)(A)(iii). The Adviser has also implemented and will maintain a “fire wall” with respect to such broker-dealer and its personnel regarding access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to the portfolio. In addition, Adviser personnel who make decisions regarding the Fund’s portfolio are subject to procedures designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material nonpublic information regarding the Fund’s portfolio. In the event that (a) the Adviser becomes registered as a broker-dealer or newly affiliated with another broker-dealer; or (b) any new adviser or sub-adviser is a registered broker-dealer or becomes affiliated with a broker-dealer; it will implement a fire wall with respect to its relevant personnel or such broker-dealer affiliate, as applicable, regarding access

2018-004 was subsequently withdrawn on January 10, 2018 and replaced by this filing.

⁴ See Registration Statement on Form N-1A for the Trust, dated September 28, 2017 (File Nos. 333-179562 and 811-22668). The descriptions of the Fund and the Shares contained herein are based, in part, on information in the Registration Statement. The Commission has not yet issued an order granting exemptive relief to the Trust under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1) applicable to the activities of the Fund, but the Fund will not be listed on the Exchange until such an order is issued and any conditions contained therein are satisfied.

to information concerning the composition and/or changes to the portfolio, and will be subject to procedures designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material nonpublic information regarding such portfolio. The Exchange also notes that the Adviser is a BZX Affiliate as defined in Rule 14.3(e)(1)(A),⁵ but the Fund is not an Affiliate Security, as defined in Rule 14.11(e)(1)(B),⁶ and is therefore not subject to the additional requirements applicable to Affiliate Securities because such definition explicitly excludes Index Fund Shares. The Fund intends to qualify each year as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

The Exchange is submitting this proposed rule change because the Index for the Fund does not meet the listing requirements of Rule 14.11(c)(5) applicable to an index that consists of both equity securities and Fixed Income Securities,⁷ which requires that the equity and fixed income component securities in an index or portfolio separately meet the criteria set forth in Rules 14.11(c)(3) and 14.11(c)(4), respectively. As further described below, the Index consists of options on an index that consists of “U.S. Component Stocks” as defined in Rule 14.11(c)(1)(D),⁸ and Fixed Income Securities. The Fixed Income Security component of the Index, which consists of only Treasury bills, meets the “generic” listing requirements of Rule 14.11(c)(4). However, because the Index consists partially of options based on an index of U.S. Component Stocks (the

⁵ As defined in Rule 14.3(e)(1)(A), the term “BZX Affiliate” means the Exchange and any entity that directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with the Exchange, where “control” means that one entity possesses, directly or indirectly, voting control of the other entity either through ownership of capital stock or other equity securities or through majority representation on the board of directors or other management body of such entity.

⁶ As defined in Rule 14.3(e)(1)(B), the term “Affiliate Security” means any security issued by a BZX Affiliate or any Exchange-listed option on any such security, with the exception of Portfolio Depository Receipts as defined in Rule 14.11(b) and Index Fund Shares as defined in Rule 14.11(c).

⁷ As defined in Rule 14.11(c)(4), the term “Fixed Income Security” shall mean debt securities that are notes, bonds, debentures or evidence of indebtedness that include, but are not limited to, Treasury bills, government-sponsored entity securities (“GSE Securities”), municipal securities, trust preferred securities, supranational debt and debt of a foreign country or subdivision thereof.

⁸ As defined in Rule 14.11(c)(1)(D), the term “U.S. Component Stock” shall mean an equity security that is registered under Sections 12(b) or 12(g) of the Act, or an American Depositary receipt, the underlying equity security of which is registered under Sections 12(b) or 12(g) of the Act.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ This filing was originally submitted on January 10, 2018 as SR-CboeBZX-2018-004. SR-CboeBZX-

S&P 500 Index) and Rule 14.11(c)(3)(A)(i) applies only to U.S. Component Stocks (that is, the rule provides criteria for an index composed of equity securities and not for an index that includes options on an index of equity securities), it does not meet the criteria set forth in Rule 14.11(c)(3) and, thus, does not meet Rule 14.11(c)(5).

Cboe S&P 500® Volatility Risk Premia Index

The Index is a rules-based options index created by the Index Provider, an affiliate of the Adviser, and designed to capture the “volatility risk premium” in standardized options on the S&P 500 Index (“S&P 500 Index Options”) by writing one-month call and put S&P 500 Index Options (“Sold SPX Options”) and buying an identical number of one-month call and put S&P 500 Index Options (together, the “Bought SPX Options”) with a lesser market value (*i.e.*, buying call options with a higher strike price and put options with a lower strike price).⁹ The “volatility risk premium” in S&P 500 Index Options is based on the premise that the expected level of volatility of the S&P 500 Index priced into such options (the options’ “implied volatility”) is, on average, higher than the volatility actually experienced by the S&P 500 Index (the “realized volatility”). The Index will only include S&P 500 Index Options and Treasury bills.

On the last trading day of each month, the Index writes (sells) and buys call and put S&P 500 Index Options with an expiration date of the last trading day of the following month. The strike prices for the Sold SPX Options will be “out-of-the-money” (*i.e.*, the strike price of the sold put options will be less than the level of S&P 500 Index and the strike price of the sold call options will be more than the level of the S&P 500 Index). The strike prices for the Bought SPX Options will be higher and lower, respectively, than the strike price for the Sold SPX Options, which offsets some of the Index’s risk from the Sold SPX Options. The difference between the strike prices of the Sold SPX Options and the Bought SPX Options represents the net liability for the Index, and the Index maintains an allocation to one- and three-month Treasury bills at least equal to such net liability. The Index receives premiums from the sale of the

Sold SPX Options and pays premiums to buy the Bought SPX Options. The Index invests the net premium difference between the Sold SPX Options and the Bought SPX Options in one- and three-month Treasury bills. The Index holds each option until its expiration.

If the value of the S&P 500 Index rises above the strike price of the put S&P 500 Index Options (the “SPX Puts”) or falls below the strike price of the call S&P 500 Index Options (the “SPX Calls”) sold by the Index, the Sold SPX Options will not be exercised and will expire worthless, resulting in a gain to the Index equal to the premiums received from the Sold SPX Options. If the value of the S&P 500 Index falls below the strike price of the SPX Puts or rises above the strike price of the SPX Calls sold by the Index, the Sold SPX Options will finish “in-the-money” and the Index incurs a loss equal to the difference between the Sold SPX Options’ strike price and the value of the S&P 500 Index, less the value of the premiums received from the Sold SPX Options.

If the value of the S&P 500 Index rises above the strike price of the SPX Puts or falls below the strike price of the SPX Calls bought by the Index, the Bought SPX Options will not be exercised and will expire worthless, resulting in a loss to the Index equal to the premiums paid for the Bought SPX Options. If the value of the S&P 500 Index falls below the strike price of the SPX Puts or rises above the strike price of the SPX Calls sold by the Index, the Bought SPX Options will finish “in-the-money” and the Index receives a gain equal to the difference between the Bought SPX Options’ strike price and the value of the S&P 500 Index, less the value of the premiums paid for the Bought SPX Options.

The strike prices of the SPX Puts and SPX Calls are calculated such that the Index is equity-market-neutral, meaning that it seeks to earn a total return in most equity market conditions regardless of general market direction as measured by the move in value of the S&P 500 Index. The cash and net option premium proceeds will be invested in short-term Treasury bills which will be rolled at maturity. This makes the Index bond-market-neutral, meaning that as interest rates and the yield for Treasury bills go up or down, the short duration of the Treasury bills will result in minimal effect on the Index.

Fund Holdings

Under Normal Market Conditions,¹⁰ the Fund will invest all, or substantially all, of its assets in the S&P 500 Index Options that make up the Index, as well as the Treasury bills included in the Index. Under Normal Market Conditions, at least 80% of the Fund’s total assets (exclusive of any collateral held from securities lending) will be invested in the S&P 500 Index Options or Treasury bills that make up the Index. In addition to the S&P 500 Index Options and Treasury bills that make up the Index, the Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in U.S. exchange-listed options based on one or more ETFs that track the performance of the S&P 500 Index (“Comparable ETF Options”). The Fund will hold only S&P 500 Index Options, Comparable ETF Options, Treasury bills included in the Index, and other cash and cash equivalents.¹¹

Additional Discussion

The Exchange believes that sufficient protections are in place to protect against market manipulation of the Fund’s Shares and S&P 500 Index Options and Comparable ETF Options for the following reasons: (i) The diversity, liquidity, and market cap of the securities underlying the S&P 500 Index;¹² (ii) the liquidity of the S&P 500 Index Options;¹³ and (iii) surveillance

¹⁰ The term “Normal Market Conditions” includes, but is not limited to, the absence of trading halts in the applicable financial markets generally; operational issues causing dissemination of inaccurate market information or system failures; or force majeure type events such as natural or man-made disaster, act of God, armed conflict, act of terrorism, riot or labor disruption, or any similar intervening circumstance.

¹¹ For purposes of this filing, cash equivalents are short-term instruments with maturities of less than three months, including: (i) U.S. Government securities, including bills, notes, and bonds differing as to maturity and rates of interest, which are either issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury or by U.S. Government agencies or instrumentalities; (ii) certificates of deposit issued against funds deposited in a bank or savings and loan association; (iii) bankers acceptances, which are short-term credit instruments used to finance commercial transactions; (iv) repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements; (v) bank time deposits, which are monies kept on deposit with banks or savings and loan associations for a stated period of time at a fixed rate of interest; (vi) commercial paper, which are short-term unsecured promissory notes; and (vii) money market funds.

¹² The Exchange notes that the diversity, liquidity, and market cap of the components of the S&P 500 Index are such that the S&P 500 Index would meet the generic listing standards applicable to an index composed of U.S. Component Stocks in Rule 14.11(c)(3)(A)(i).

¹³ The market for S&P 500 Index Options traded on Cboe Options is among the most liquid markets in the world. In 2016, 1,023,623 options contracts on the S&P 500 Index were traded per day on Cboe

⁹ For purposes of this filing, when describing the Index, the terms “buy,” “sell,” “write,” “hold,” or any other term related to the acquisition, disposition, or issuance of an asset are intended to describe a theoretical transaction conducted by the Index that will be reflected in the Index constituents, rather than to imply that the Index is actually transacting.

by the Exchange, Cboe Options and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") designed to detect violations of the federal securities laws and self-regulatory organization ("SRO") rules.

Trading in the Shares and the underlying investments will be subject to the federal securities laws and Exchange, Cboe Options, FINRA, and, with respect to the Comparable ETF Options, other U.S. options exchanges' rules and surveillance programs.¹⁴

The Exchange has in place a surveillance program for transactions in ETFs to ensure the availability of information necessary to detect and deter potential manipulations and other trading abuses, thereby making the Shares less readily susceptible to manipulation. Further, the Exchange believes that because the assets in the Fund's portfolio, which are comprised primarily of S&P 500 Index Options, will be acquired in extremely liquid and highly regulated markets,¹⁵ the Shares are less readily susceptible to manipulation.

The Exchange believes that its surveillance procedures are adequate to properly monitor the trading of the Shares on the Exchange during all trading sessions and to deter and detect violations of Exchange rules and the applicable federal securities laws. Trading of the Shares through the Exchange will be subject to the Exchange's surveillance procedures for derivative products, including Index Fund Shares. FINRA conducts certain cross-market surveillances on behalf of the Exchange pursuant to a regulatory services agreement. The Exchange is responsible for FINRA's performance under this regulatory services agreement.

All statements and representations made in this filing regarding the index composition, the description of the portfolio or reference assets, limitations on portfolio holdings or reference assets, dissemination and availability of index,

reference asset, and intraday indicative values (as applicable), or the applicability of Exchange listing rules shall constitute continued listing requirements for listing the Shares on the Exchange. The issuer has represented to the Exchange that it will advise the Exchange of any failure by the Fund or Shares to comply with the continued listing requirements, and, pursuant to its obligations under Section 19(g)(1) of the Act, the Exchange will surveil for compliance with the continued listing requirements. If the Fund or Shares are not in compliance with the applicable listing requirements, then, with respect to such Fund or Shares, the Exchange will commence delisting procedures under Exchange Rule 14.12.

The Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, will communicate as needed regarding trading in the Shares and exchange-traded options contracts with other markets and other entities that are members of the ISG and may obtain trading information regarding trading in the Shares and exchange-traded options contracts from such markets and other entities. The Exchange is also able to access, as needed, trade information for certain fixed income instruments reported to FINRA's Trade Reporting and Compliance Engine ("TRACE"). In addition, the Exchange may obtain information regarding trading in the Shares and exchange-traded options contracts from markets and other entities that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement. In addition, the Exchange also has a general policy prohibiting the distribution of material, non-public information by its employees.

As noted above, S&P 500 Index Options are among the most liquid options in the world and derive their value from the actively traded S&P 500 Index components. The contracts are cash-settled with no delivery of stocks or ETFs, and trade in competitive auction markets with price and quote transparency. The Exchange believes the highly regulated options markets and the broad base and scope of the S&P 500 Index make securities that derive their value from that index less susceptible to market manipulation in view of market capitalization and liquidity of the S&P 500 Index components, price and quote transparency, and arbitrage opportunities.

The Exchange believes that the liquidity of the markets for S&P 500 Index securities, S&P 500 Index Options, and other related derivatives is sufficiently great to deter fraudulent or

manipulative acts associated with the price of the Shares. The Exchange also believes that such liquidity are [sic] sufficient to support the creation and redemption mechanism. Coupled with the surveillance programs of the SROs described above, the Exchange does not believe that trading in the Fund's Shares would present manipulation concerns. The Fund's investments will be consistent with the Fund's investment objective and will not be used to enhance leverage (although certain derivatives and other investments may result in leverage).¹⁶ The Fund's investments will not be used to seek performance that is the multiple or inverse multiple (*i.e.* 2x or -2x) of the Index. The Fund's use of derivative instruments will be collateralized.

The Exchange represents that, except as described above, the Fund will meet each of the initial and continued listing criteria in BZX Rule 14.11(c)(5) with the exception of meeting the requirements of Rule 14.11(c)(3)(A)(i), applicable to the listing of Index Fund Shares based upon an index of "U.S. Component Stocks," as required under Rule 14.11(c)(5). Further to this point, the three-month Treasury bills that compose the entirety of the fixed income portion of the Index will satisfy all requirements of Rule 14.11(c)(4). The Trust is required to comply with Rule 10A-3 under the Act for the initial and continued listing of the Shares of the Fund. A minimum of 100,000 Shares will be outstanding at the commencement of trading on the Exchange. In addition, the Exchange represents that the Shares of the Fund will comply with all other requirements applicable to Index Fund Shares, which includes requirements relating to the dissemination of key information such as the Net Asset Value, Index value, and the Intraday Indicative Value, rules governing the trading of equity securities, trading hours, trading halts, firewalls for the Index Provider and Adviser, surveillance, and the information circular, as set forth in Exchange rules applicable to Index Fund Shares and the orders approving such rules.

¹⁶ The Fund will include appropriate risk disclosure in its offering documents, including leveraging risk. Leveraging risk is the risk that certain transactions of a fund, including a fund's use of derivatives, may give rise to leverage, causing a fund to be more volatile than if it had not been leveraged. To mitigate leveraging risk, the Adviser will segregate or earmark liquid assets or otherwise cover the transactions that give rise to such risk. See 15 U.S.C. 80a-18; Investment Company Act Release No. 10666 (April 18, 1979), 44 FR 25128 (April 27, 1979); *Dreyfus Strategic Investing*, Commission No-Action Letter (June 22, 1987); *Merrill Lynch Asset Management, L.P.*, Commission No-Action Letter (July 2, 1996).

Options, which is more than \$200 billion in notional volume traded on a daily basis.

¹⁴ The Exchange notes that Cboe Options is a member of the Option Price Regulatory Surveillance Authority, which was established in 2006, to provide efficiencies in looking for insider trading and serves as a central organization to facilitate collaboration in insider trading and investigations for the U.S. options exchanges. For more information, see <http://www.cboe.com/aboutcboe/legal/departments/orsareg.aspx>.

¹⁵ All exchange-listed securities that the Fund may hold will trade on a market that is a member of the Intermarket Surveillance Group ("ISG") and the Fund will not hold any non-exchange-listed options, however, not all of the components of the portfolio for the Fund may trade on exchanges that are members of the ISG or with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement. For a list of the current members of ISG, see www.isgportal.org.

Quotation and last sale information for S&P 500 Index Options will be available via the Options Price Reporting Authority. The intra-day, closing and settlement prices of exchange-traded options will be readily available from the options exchanges, automated quotation systems, published or other public sources, or online information services such as Bloomberg or Reuters. Price information on Treasury bills and other cash equivalents is available from major broker-dealer firms or market data vendors, as well as from automated quotation systems, published or other public sources, or online information services.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act¹⁷ in general and Section 6(b)(5) of the Act¹⁸ in particular in that it is 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 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.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is 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 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 in that the Shares of the Fund will meet each of the initial and continued listing criteria required by BZX Rule 14.11(c)(5), which includes the listing requirements for an index that is composed of both equity securities and fixed income securities, with the exception of the requirement that the equity portion of the Index meets the criteria set forth in Rule 14.11(c)(3). Specifically, the Index does not meet the requirements of Rule 14.11(c)(3) because the equity portion of the Index consists of options on U.S. Component Stocks and Rule 14.11(c)(3)(A)(i) applies only to U.S. Component Stocks (that is, the rule provides criteria for an index composed of equity securities and not for an index

that includes options on an index of equity securities), it does not meet the criteria set forth in Rule 14.11(c)(3) and, thus, does not meet Rule 14.11(c)(5).¹⁹ The Exchange believes that the concerns that Rule 14.11(c)(3)(A)(i) are intended to address are mitigated and that sufficient protections are in place to protect against market manipulation of the Fund's Shares and S&P 500 Index Options and Comparable ETF Options for the following reasons: (i) The diversity, liquidity, and market cap of the securities underlying the S&P 500 Index;²⁰ (ii) the liquidity of the S&P 500 Index Options;²¹ and (iii) surveillance by the Exchange, Cboe Options and FINRA designed to detect violations of the federal securities laws and self-regulatory organization ("SRO") rules.

The Exchange has in place a surveillance program for transactions in ETFs to ensure the availability of information necessary to detect and deter potential manipulations and other trading abuses, thereby making the Shares less readily susceptible to manipulation. Further, the Exchange believes that because the assets in the Fund's portfolio, which are comprised primarily of S&P 500 Index Options, will be acquired in extremely liquid and highly regulated markets, the Shares are less readily susceptible to manipulation.

The Exchange believes that its surveillance procedures are adequate to properly monitor the trading of the Shares on the Exchange during all trading sessions and to deter and detect violations of Exchange rules and the applicable federal securities laws. Trading of the Shares through the Exchange will be subject to the Exchange's surveillance procedures for

derivative products, including Index Fund Shares. All statements and representations made in this filing regarding the index composition, the description of the portfolio or reference assets, limitations on portfolio holdings or reference assets, dissemination and availability of index, reference asset, and intraday indicative values (as applicable), or the applicability of Exchange listing rules shall constitute continued listing requirements for listing the Shares on the Exchange. . [sic] The issuer has represented to the Exchange that it will advise the Exchange of any failure by the Fund or Shares to comply with the continued listing requirements, and, pursuant to its obligations under Section 19(g)(1) of the Act, the Exchange will surveil for compliance with the continued listing requirements. If the Fund or Shares are not in compliance with the applicable listing requirements, then, with respect to such Fund or Shares, the Exchange will commence delisting procedures under Exchange Rule 14.12. FINRA conducts certain cross-market surveillances on behalf of the Exchange pursuant to a regulatory services agreement. The Exchange is responsible for FINRA's performance under this regulatory services agreement. If the Fund is not in compliance with the applicable listing requirements, the Exchange will commence delisting procedures with respect to such Fund under Exchange Rule 14.12.

The Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, will communicate as needed regarding trading in the Shares and exchange-traded options contracts with other markets and other entities that are members of the ISG and may obtain trading information regarding trading in the Shares and exchange-traded options contracts from such markets and other entities. The Exchange is also able to access, as needed, trade information for certain fixed income instruments reported to TRACE. In addition, the Exchange may obtain information regarding trading in the Shares and exchange-traded options contracts from markets and other entities that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement. In addition, the Exchange also has a general policy prohibiting the distribution of material, non-public information by its employees.

As noted above, S&P 500 Index Options are among the most liquid options in the world and derive their value from the actively traded S&P 500 Index components. The contracts are cash-settled with no delivery of stocks or ETFs, and trade in competitive

¹⁹ Rule 14.11(c)(3)(A)(i)(e) provides that all securities in the applicable index or portfolio shall be U.S. Component Stocks listed on a national securities exchange and shall be NMS Stocks as defined in Rule 600 under Regulation NMS of the Act. Each component stock of the S&P 500 Index is a U.S. Component Stock that is listed on a national securities exchange and is an NMS Stock. Options are excluded from the definition of NMS Stock. The Fund and the Index meet all of the requirements of the listing standards for Index Fund Shares in Rule 14.11(c)(3), except the requirements in Rule 14.11(c)(3)(A)(i)(a)–(e), as the Index consists of options on the S&P 500 Index. The S&P 500 Index consists of U.S. Component Stocks and satisfies the requirements of Rule 14.11(c)(3)(A)(i)(a)–(e).

²⁰ The Exchange notes that the diversity, liquidity, and market cap of the components of the S&P 500 Index are such that the S&P 500 Index would meet the generic listing standards applicable to an index composed of U.S. Component Stocks in Rule 14.11(c)(3)(A)(i).

²¹ The market for S&P 500 Index Options traded on Cboe Options is among the most liquid markets in the world. In 2016, 1,023,623 options contracts on the S&P 500 Index were traded per day on Cboe Options, which is more than \$200 billion in notional volume traded on a daily basis.

¹⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

auction markets with price and quote transparency. The Exchange believes the highly regulated options markets and the broad base and scope of the S&P 500 Index make securities that derive their value from that index less susceptible to market manipulation in view of market capitalization and liquidity of the S&P 500 Index components, price and quote transparency, and arbitrage opportunities.

The Exchange believes that the liquidity of the markets for S&P 500 Index securities, S&P 500 Index Options, and other related derivatives is sufficiently great to deter fraudulent or manipulative acts associated with the price of the Shares. The Exchange also believes that such efficiency and liquidity are sufficient to support the creation and redemption mechanism. Coupled with the extensive surveillance programs of the SROs described above, the Exchange does not believe that trading in the Fund's Shares would present manipulation concerns.

The Exchange represents that, except as it relates to the options portion of the Index and the index dissemination requirements described above, the Fund will meet and be subject to all other requirements of Rule 14.11(c)(5) related to generic listing standards of the Index and other applicable requirements for such a series of Index Fund Shares under Rule 14.11(c) on an initial and continued listing basis, including those requirements regarding the dissemination of key information such as the Net Asset Value, and the Intraday Indicative Value, rules governing the trading of equity securities, trading hours, trading halts, surveillance, and the information circular, as set forth in Exchange rules applicable to Index Fund Shares and the orders approving such rules. The Trust is required to comply with Rule 10A-3 under the Act for the initial and continued listing of the Shares of the Fund. Moreover, all of the options contracts held by the Fund will trade on markets that are a member of ISG or affiliated with a member of ISG or with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement.

For the above reasons, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purpose of the Act. The Exchange notes that the proposed rule change will

facilitate the listing and trading of an additional type of Index Fund Shares that will enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace.

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

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

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

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

- (A) By order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, or
- (B) Institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-CboeBZX-2018-005 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-CboeBZX-2018-005. 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 (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written

communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549 on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CboeBZX-2018-005 and should be submitted on or before February 16, 2018.

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

Eduardo A. Aleman,
Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-82565; File No. SR-NYSE-2017-42]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; New York Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Designation of a Longer Period for Commission Action on Proposed Rule Change To Amend the NYSE Listed Company Manual To Modify Its Requirements With Respect to Physical Delivery of Proxy Materials to the Exchange

January 22, 2018.

On November 22, 2017, New York Stock Exchange LLC ("NYSE" or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change to amend the NYSE Listed Company Manual (the "Manual") to modify its requirements with respect to the physical delivery of proxy materials to the Exchange. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the

²² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.