

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-96413; File No. SR-GEMX-2022-11)

November 30, 2022

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq GEMX, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend the Definition of Short Term Option Series

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on November 18, 2022, Nasdaq GEMX, LLC (“GEMX” or “Exchange”) 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 proposes to amend Options 1, General Provisions. The Exchange also proposes amendments within General 2, Organization and Administration.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Website at <https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/gemx/rules>, 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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend the description of the term “Short Term Option Series” within Options 1, Section 1, Definitions, to conform the term to Nasdaq ISE, LLC’s (“ISE”) term of Short Term Option Series which was recently amended.³ The Exchange also proposes certain non-substantive amendments. Each change is described below.

Short Term Option Series

Options 1, Section 1(a)(48) describes the term “Short Term Option Series” as follows:

The term “**Short Term Option Series**” means a series in an option class that is approved for listing and trading on the Exchange in which the series is opened for trading on any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday that is a business day and that expires on the Monday, Wednesday or Friday of the following business week that is a business day, or, in the case of a series that is listed on a Friday and expires on a Monday, is listed one business week and one business day prior to that expiration. If a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday is not a business day, the series may be opened (or shall expire) on the first business day immediately prior to that Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. For a series listed pursuant to this section for Monday expiration, if a Monday is not a business day, the series shall expire on the first business day immediately following that Monday.

ISE’s Options 4 rules were recently amended to expand the Short Term Option Series program to permit the listing and trading of options series with Tuesday and Thursday expirations for options on SPY and QQQ listed pursuant to the Short Term Option Series Program.⁴ In

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 96281 (November 9, 2022), 87 FR 68769 (November 16, 2022) (SR-ISE-2022-18) (Order Granting Approval of a Proposed Rule Change to Amend the Short Term Option Series Program).

⁴ See note 3 above. GEMX’s Options 4 Rules are incorporated by reference to ISE’s

conjunction with that change, ISE amended its definition of Short Term Option Series, within Options 1, Section 1(a)(49), to accommodate the listing of options series that expire on Tuesdays and Thursdays.⁵ Specifically, the Exchange added Tuesday and Thursday to the permitted expiration days, which currently include Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, that it may open for trading.

At this time, the Exchange proposes to amend the term “Short Term Option Series” at Options 1, Section 1(a)(48) to provide,

The term “**Short Term Option Series**” means a series in an option class that is approved for listing and trading on the Exchange in which the series is opened for trading on any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday that is a business day and that expires on the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday of the following business week that is a business day, or, in the case of a series that is listed on a Friday and expires on a Monday, is listed one business week and one business day prior to that expiration. If a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday is not a business day, the series may be opened (or shall expire) on the first business day immediately prior to that Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. For a series listed pursuant to this section for Monday expiration, if a Monday is not a business day, the series shall expire on the first business day immediately following that Monday.

Today, GEMX’s listing rules permit the listing and trading of options series with Tuesday and Thursday expirations for options on SPY and QQQ listed pursuant to the Short Term Option Series Program.⁶

Other Non-Substantive Amendments

The Exchange proposes to make other amendments to reserve certain sections of the

Options 4 Rules.

⁵ See note 3 above.

⁶ GEMX’s Options 4 Rules are incorporated by reference to ISE’s Options 4 Rules and therefore the approval of ISE’s Options 4 rules permits the listing and trading of options series with Tuesday and Thursday expirations for options on SPY and QQQ on GEMX.

Rulebook. These sections contain content in other Nasdaq affiliated rulebooks. To harmonize the section numbers across the Nasdaq affiliated markets, the Exchange proposes to reserve General 2, Sections 23 and 24. These amendments are non-substantive.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁷ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁸ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, 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.

Short Term Option Series

The Exchange's proposal to amend the term "Short Term Option Series" at Options 1, Section 1(a)(48) to reflect the recent change⁹ to GEMX's listing rules to permit the listing and trading of options series with Tuesday and Thursday expirations for options on SPY and QQQ listed pursuant to the Short Term Option Series Program is consistent with the Exchange Act. This proposal will align the description of Short Term Option Series within Options 1, Section 1(a)(48) to the expirations permitted within the Short Term Option Series Program within Supplementary .03(a) to Options 4, Section 5.

Other Non-Substantive Amendments

The Exchange's proposal to reserve certain sections of the Rulebook, namely General 2, Sections 23 and 24, to harmonize section numbers across the Nasdaq affiliated markets is non-

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁹ See note 3 above.

substantive.

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

The proposed rule change does not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Short Term Option Series

The Exchange's proposal to amend the term "Short Term Option Series" at Options 1, Section 1(a)(48) to reflect the recent change¹⁰ to GEMX's listing rules to permit the listing and trading of options series with Tuesday and Thursday expirations for options on SPY and QQQ listed pursuant to the Short Term Option Series Program does not impose an undue burden on competition, rather this proposal will align the description of Short Term Option Series within Options 1, Section 1(a)(48) to the expirations permitted within the Short Term Option Series Program within Supplementary .03(a) to Options 4, Section 5.

Other Non-Substantive Amendments

The Exchange's proposal to make other amendments to reserve certain sections of the Rulebook, namely General 2, Sections 23 and 24, to harmonize section numbers across the Nasdaq affiliated markets is non-substantive.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

¹⁰ See note 3 above.

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

The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act¹¹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹² Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) 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)(iii) of the Act¹³ and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹⁴ The Exchange has stated that the Options 4 listing rules were recently amended to expand the Short Term Option Series program to permit the listing and trading of options series with Tuesday and Thursday expirations for options on SPY and QQQ listed pursuant to the Short Term Option Series Program,¹⁵ and that waiver of the 30-day operative delay will allow the Exchange to conform the definition of a Short Term Option Series to the Options 4 listing rules. The Commission believes that waiver of the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because the proposed rule change does not raise

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

¹² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

¹⁵ See supra note 4.

any new or novel issues. Accordingly, the Commission hereby waives the operative delay and designates the proposed rule change operative upon filing.¹⁶

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 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 (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-GEMX-2022-11 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-GEMX-2022-11. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your

¹⁶ For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has also considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

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-GEMX-2022-11, and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁷

Sherry R. Haywood,
Assistant Secretary

¹⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12), (59).