

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Page 1 of * 24		SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4		File No. * SR 2025 - * 46 Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *)	
Filing by MIAX Sapphire, LLC					
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934					
Initial * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Amendment * <input type="checkbox"/>		Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/>	
Section 19(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>		Section 19(b)(3)(A) * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Section 19(b)(3)(B) * <input type="checkbox"/>	
Pilot <input type="checkbox"/>		Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * <input type="checkbox"/>		Date Expires * <input type="text"/>	
		Rule			
		<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)		<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2)		<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3)		<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)	
Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010 Section 806(e)(1) * <input type="checkbox"/>			Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Section 3C(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>		
Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>			Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Description</b> Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *). <div>Proposed change by the Exchange to amend its fee schedule related to ORF to extend the current sunset date of December 31, 2025 to June 30, 2026.</div>					
<b>Contact Information</b> Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action. First Name * Tanya Last Name * Kitaigorovski Title * AVP, Associate Counsel E-mail * tkitaigorovski@miaxglobal.com Telephone * (609) 413-5787 Fax					
<b>Signature</b> Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange of 1934, MIAX Sapphire, LLC has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized. Date 12/29/2025 (Title *) By Tanya Kitaigorovski AVP, Associate Counsel (Name *) <div>NOTE: Clicking the signature block at right will initiate digitally signing the form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.</div> <div>Tanya Kitaigorovski Digitally signed by Tanya Kitaigorovski Date: 2025.12.29 15:44:33 -05'00'</div>					

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EDFS website.

**Form 19b-4 Information \***

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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.

**Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change \***

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SR-SAPPHIRE-2025-46 - Exhibit 1.docx

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 \***

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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 2- Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications**

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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.

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

**Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire**

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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.

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

**Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies**

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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**

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SR-SAPPHIRE-2025-46 Exhibit 5.docx

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. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change

**Partial Amendment**

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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 are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) MIAX Sapphire, LLC (“MIAX Sapphire” or “Exchange”), pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> proposes to amend the MIAX Sapphire Fee Schedule (the “Fee Schedule”) relating to the Options Regulatory Fee (“ORF”) to extend the current sunset date of December 31, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register is attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and a copy of the applicable section of the Fee Schedule is attached hereto as Exhibit 5.

(b) Inapplicable.

(c) Inapplicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

The proposed rule change was approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the MIAX Sapphire Board of Directors on February 27, 2025. Exchange staff will advise the Board of Directors of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action by the Exchange is necessary for the filing of the proposed rule change.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to Tanya Kitaigorovski, AVP, Associate Counsel, at (609) 413-5787.

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

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

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

a. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fee Schedule related to the ORF to extend the current sunset date of December 31, 2025 to June 30, 2026, and thus continue charging the previously established ORF in the amount of \$0.0013 per contract side through June 30, 2026. As discussed herein, the ORF sunset date of December 31, 2025 was initially proposed to provide time for the Exchange to inform its approach to ORF and discuss alternative ORF models with market participants, so that it may compete on equal footing with each of the other option exchanges that charge similar regulatory fees. Those discussions have yielded a consensus among market participants on a path forward that would address industry concerns in a manner that would effect change broadly across all U.S. options exchanges, however, the industry needs additional time to implement the changes. Thus, the Exchange proposes to extend the automatic sunset date of December 31, 2025 until June 30, 2026 in order to provide it additional time to implement changes to the ORF methodology after the sunset date while continuing to fund a portion of its regulatory program via ORF so that it may operate on equal footing with each of the seventeen (17) other options exchanges that charge similar regulatory fees in amounts that far exceed the relatively modest amounts collected by the Exchange.

As background, on August 7, 2024 the Exchange initially filed this proposal to establish an ORF in the amount of \$0.0013 per contract side that would automatically sunset on October 31, 2024 (SR-SAPPHIRE-2024-14). The Exchange withdrew SR-SAPPHIRE-2024-14, and on August 21, 2024 replaced it with SR-SAPPHIRE-2024-25 (the “Initial ORF Filing”).<sup>3</sup> The Initial

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<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 100824 (August 27, 2024), 89 FR 71496 (September 3, 2024) (SR-SAPPHIRE-2024-25).

ORF Filing was published for comment in the Federal Register on September 3, 2024.<sup>4</sup> On October 31, 2024, the Exchange filed to extend the Initial ORF Filing sunset date of October 31, 2024 to May 31, 2025.<sup>5</sup> On May 14, 2025, the Exchange filed to extend the Initial ORF Filing sunset date from May 31, 2025 to December 31, 2025.<sup>6</sup> To date, the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) received no comments on the Initial ORF Filing or its subsequent extension.

The ORF is designed to recover a material portion of the costs to the Exchange of the supervision and regulation of Members’<sup>7</sup> customer options business, including performing routine surveillances and investigations, as well as policy, rulemaking, interpretive and enforcement activities. The Exchange believes that revenue generated from the ORF, when combined with all of the Exchange’s other regulatory fees and fines, will cover a material portion, but not all, of the Exchange’s regulatory costs. Currently, all other registered options exchanges impose ORF on their members, and those exchanges also charge ORF for executions occurring on the Exchange cleared by their customers.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> See Supra note 3.

<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 101589 (October 31, 2024), 89 FR 90787 (November 18, 2024) (SR-SAPPHIRE-2024-35).

<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 103081 (May 14, 2025), 90 FR 22389 (May 27, 2025) (SR-SAPPHIRE-2025-24).

<sup>7</sup> The term “Member” means an individual or organization that is registered with the Exchange pursuant to Chapter II of MIAX Sapphire Rules for purposes of trading on the Exchange as an “Electronic Exchange Member” or “Market Maker.” Members are deemed “members” under the Exchange Act. See Exchange Rule 100.

<sup>8</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 58817 (October 20, 2008), 73 FR 63744 (October 27, 2008) (SR-CBOE-2008-05) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of Cboe adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 61133 (December 9, 2009), 74 FR 66715 (December 16, 2009) (SR-Phlx-2009-100) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of Phlx adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 61154 (December 11, 2009), 74 FR 67278 (December 18, 2009) (SR-ISE-2009-105) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of ISE adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 61388 (January 20, 2010), 75 FR 4431 (January 27, 2010) (SR-BX-2010-001) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of Nasdaq OMX BX, Inc. (“BX”) adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 70200 (August 14, 2013) 78 FR 51242 (August 20, 2013) (SR-Topaz-2013-01) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of GEMX, formerly

The Exchange recognizes that in 2019, the Commission issued suspensions of and orders instituting proceedings to determine whether to approve or disapprove a proposed rule change to modify the Options Regulatory Fee of NYSE American, NYSE Arca, MIAX Options, MIAX PEARL, MIAX Emerald, Cboe, Cboe EDGX Options, and C2.<sup>9</sup> Each of those exchanges had filed to increase their ORF, and the Commission indicated that each of those filings lacked detail and specificity, signaling that more information was needed to speak to whether the proposed increased ORFs were reasonable, equitably allocated and not unfairly discriminatory, particularly

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known as ISE Gemini and Topaz Exchange, adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 64400 (May 4, 2011), 76 FR 27118 (May 10, 2011) (SR-NYSEAmex-2011-27) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of NYSE AMEX adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 64399 (May 4, 2011), 76 FR 27114 (May 10, 2011) (SR-NYSEArca-2011-20) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of NYSE Arca adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 65913 (December 8, 2011), 76 FR 77883 (December 14, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-163) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of Nasdaq Options Market (“NOM”) adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 66979 (May 14, 2012), 77 FR 29740 (May 18, 2012) (SR-BOX-2012-002) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of BOX adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 67596 (August 6, 2012), 77 FR 47902 (August 10, 2012) (SR-C2-2012-023) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of C2 Options Exchange, Inc. (“C2”) adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 68711 (January 23, 2013) 78 FR 6155 (January 29, 2013) (SR-MIAX-2013-01) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of MIAX Options adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 74214 (February 5, 2015), 80 FR 7665 (February 11, 2015) (SR-BATS-2015-08) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of BZX formerly known as BATS, adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 80025 (February 13, 2017) 82 FR 11081 (February 17, 2017) (SR-BatsEDGX-2017-04) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of EDGX formerly known as Bats EDGX Exchange, Inc., adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 80875 (June 7, 2017) 82 FR 27096 (June 13, 2017) (SR-PEARL-2017-26) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of MIAX PEARL adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 85127 (February 13, 2019) 84 FR 5173 (February 20, 2019) (SR-MRX-2019-03) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of Nasdaq MRX, LLC (“MRX”) adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 85251 (March 6, 2019) 84 FR 8931 (March 12, 2019) (SR-EMERALD-2019-01) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of MIAX Emerald adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges).

<sup>9</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87168 (September 30, 2019), 84 FR 53210 (October 4, 2019) (SR-Emerald-2019-29); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87167 (September 30, 2019), 84 FR 53189 (October 4, 2019) (SR-PEARL-2019-23); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87169 (September 30, 2019), 84 FR 53195 (October 4, 2019) (SR-MIAX-2019-35); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87170 (September 30, 2019), 84 FR 53213 (October 4, 2019) (SR-CBOE-2019-040); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87172 (September 30, 2019) 84 FR 53192 (October 4, 2019) (SR-CboeEDGX-2019-051); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87171 (September 30, 2019), 84 FR 53200 (October 4, 2019) (SR-C2-2019-018); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 86832 (August 30, 2019), 84 FR 46980 (September 6, 2019) (SR-NYSEArca-2019-49); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 86833 (August 30, 2019) 84 FR 47029 (September 6, 2019) (SR-NYSEAMER-2019-27).

given that the ORF is assessed on transactions that clear in the “customer” range and regardless of the exchange on which the transaction occurs. The Commission also noted that the filings provided only broad general statements regarding options transaction volume and did not provide any information on those exchanges’ historic or projected options regulatory costs (including the costs of regulating activity that cleared in the “customer” range and the costs of regulating activity that occurred off exchange), the amount of regulatory revenue they had generated and expected to generate from the ORF as well as other sources, or the “material portion” of options regulatory expenses that they sought to recover from the ORF. Each of those exchanges withdrew their filings, but continue charging ORF today as discussed above. The Exchange would be at an unfair competitive disadvantage if it were not allowed to charge the ORF to recover a material portion, but not all, of the Exchange’s regulatory costs for the supervision and regulation of activity of its Members which as noted above, is charged by all currently operating options exchanges.

The Exchange appreciates the evolving changes in the markets and regulatory environment and has been evaluating its options while considering industry and regulatory feedback. In light of this, the Exchange has been reviewing its current methodologies and practices for the assessment and collection of ORF. As a result of this review, the Exchange is submitting contemporaneously with this filing another filing that proposes to adopt a modified ORF model that updates the Exchange’s process of assessing and collecting ORF, in which model ORF would be assessed to only on-Exchange transactions that clear in the customer range at the Options Clearing Corporation (“OCC”). Under the proposed modified model, the Exchange expects to continue its current practice that revenue generated from ORF will cover a material portion, but not all, of the Exchange’s regulatory costs.

To create real ORF reform, moving to a new ORF model that only assesses a fee to transactions that occur on one's own options exchange seems to be the industry consensus. However, for a new, modified model to be truly meaningful and fair, a rate limited to transactions on one's own exchange should be adopted by all options exchanges to provide a consistent methodology in assessing and collecting ORF going forward. As set forth in its separate filing that proposes the new, modified ORF model, the Exchange is committed to switching to this new model as soon as a consistent framework has been established with the Commission, adopted by all the options exchanges and necessary regulatory filings submitted. Until that time, the Exchange believes it's fair and reasonable to continue to charge ORF under the current model as other options exchanges currently do until June 30, 2026. The proposed extension of the sunset date will provide time for establishment of one new, unified model going forward. The Exchange will endeavor to implement the modified ORF structure prior to the proposed June 30, 2026 sunset date.

As a new exchange, not having the opportunity to fund its regulatory program through the same regulatory fee charged by every other options exchange would place an undue competitive disadvantage upon the Exchange's regulatory program and options business as a whole. Further, the Exchange emphasizes that other exchanges will be charging ORF for transactions occurring on MIAX Sapphire until a new unified model is implemented, and as such, it follows that the exchange that is primarily responsible for monitoring those transactions should also be able to charge the ORF for activity occurring on its own market, as well as transactions it surveils on away markets. Again, the Exchange is committed to facilitating and joining efforts to revamp the ORF, however, it must be afforded additional time to do so while recouping a portion of its regulatory costs via the ORF as all other options exchanges do.



b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend its Fee Schedule is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>10</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) of the Act<sup>11</sup> in particular, in that it is an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members and issuers and other persons using its facilities. The Exchange also believes the proposal furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>12</sup> 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 and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers and dealers.

The ORF is designed to recover a material portion of the costs of supervising and regulating Members' customer options business including performing routine surveillances and investigations, as well as policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities. Extending the current ORF sunset date to June 30, 2026 is reasonable because continued collection of ORF will serve to balance the Exchange's regulatory revenue against the anticipated regulatory costs, thereby ensuring proper regulatory funding. Moreover, the Exchange's ORF rate is lower than the amount of ORF assessed on other exchanges.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

<sup>12</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>13</sup> See, e.g., NYSE Arca Options Fees and Charges, ORF and NYSE American Options Fees Schedule, Section VII(A), which provide that ORF is assessed at a rate of \$0.0023 per contract for each respective exchange. See also Cboe Options Fee Schedule, which provides an ORF rate of \$0.0023 per contract; BOX Options Fee Schedule Section II(C), which provides an ORF rate of \$0.00295 per contract; MIAX Options Fee Schedule, Section 2(b), which provides an ORF rate of \$0.0017 per contract; MIAX Pearl Fee Schedule, Section 2(b), which provides an ORF rate of \$0.0016 per contract; and the MEMX Fee Schedule which provides an ORF rate of \$0.0015.

Extending the sunset date is also reasonable because doing so would allow the Exchange additional time to inform its approach to ORF moving forward while recouping a portion of its regulatory expenses via the ORF as other options exchanges do. If the Exchange were not allowed to charge an ORF during this additional time period, then after the sunset date of December 31, 2025, it would be forced to pay for its regulatory program solely out of business revenues while working towards an alternative ORF solution, unlike every other competing exchange, each of which would continue to assess an ORF, including on transactions executed on the Exchange, indefinitely. This would impact the Exchange's ability to assure adequate funding of its regulatory program.

Extending the ORF sunset date to June 30, 2026 is also equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because prior to the proposed sunset date, the ORF would continue to be objectively allocated to Members in a manner that is consistent with the ORF imposed by the other seventeen (17) options exchanges. The Exchange will continue to monitor the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed the Exchange's total regulatory costs.

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

MIAX Sapphire does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. This proposal will not create an unnecessary or inappropriate intra-market burden on competition because the ORF will apply to all customer activity, and is designed to enable the Exchange to recover a material portion of the Exchange's cost related to its regulatory activities. This proposal will not create an unnecessary or inappropriate inter-market burden on competition because it will be a regulatory fee that supports regulation in furtherance of the purposes of the

Act. The Exchange is obligated to ensure that the amount of regulatory revenue collected from the ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs. MIAX Sapphire's ORF, is lower than, or comparable to, fees charged by other options exchanges for the same or similar services.

The Exchange notes that while it does not believe that its proposed ORF will impose any burden on inter-market competition, the Exchange not charging an ORF or being precluded from charging an ORF after December 31, 2025 but prior to the proposed sunset date of June 30, 2026 would, in-fact, represent a significant burden on the Exchange's ability to assure adequate funding of its regulatory program. As noted above, the Exchange is a new entrant in the highly competitive environment for equity options trading. Also, as noted above, all registered options exchanges currently impose the ORF on their members, and such ORF fees imposed by other options exchanges currently do and will continue to extend to executions occurring on the Exchange. The Exchange believes that in order to compete with these existing options exchanges, it must, in fact, impose an ORF on its Members during this additional sunset period, and that the inability to do so would result in an unfair competitive disadvantage to the Exchange.

5. 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.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

Not applicable.

7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,<sup>14</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder<sup>15</sup> the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed 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.

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

Not applicable.

9. 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

1. Completed notice of proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register.
5. Copy of the applicable section of the Fee Schedule.

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<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

**EXHIBIT 1**

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-SAPPHIRE-2025-46)

January\_\_\_\_\_, 2026

Self-Regulatory Organizations: Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change by MIAX Sapphire, LLC to Amend the MIAX Sapphire Fee Schedule Related to the Options Regulatory Fee (“ORF”) to Extend the Current Sunset Date of December 31, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on December\_\_\_\_\_, 2025, MIAX Sapphire, LLC (“MIAX Sapphire” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) a 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. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange is filing a proposal to amend the MIAX Sapphire Options Exchange Fee Schedule (the “Fee Schedule”) relating to the Options Regulatory Fee (“ORF”) to extend the current sunset date of December 31, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at <https://www.miaxglobal.com/markets/us-options/all-options-exchanges/rule-filings>, and at MIAX Sapphire’s principal office.

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

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

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fee Schedule related to the ORF to extend the current sunset date of December 31, 2025 to June 30, 2026, and thus continue charging the previously established ORF in the amount of \$0.0013 per contract side through June 30, 2026. As discussed herein, the ORF sunset date of December 31, 2025 was initially proposed to provide time for the Exchange to inform its approach to ORF and discuss alternative ORF models with market participants, so that it may compete on equal footing with each of the other option exchanges that charge similar regulatory fees. Those discussions have yielded a consensus among market participants on a path forward that would address industry concerns in a manner that would effect change broadly across all U.S. options exchanges, however, the industry needs additional time to implement the changes. Thus, the Exchange proposes to extend the automatic sunset date of December 31, 2025 until June 30, 2026 in order to provide it additional time to implement changes to the ORF methodology after the sunset date while continuing to fund a portion of its regulatory program via ORF so that it may operate on equal footing with each of the seventeen (17) other options exchanges that charge similar regulatory fees in amounts that far exceed the relatively modest amounts collected by the Exchange.

As background, on August 7, 2024 the Exchange initially filed this proposal to establish an ORF in the amount of \$0.0013 per contract side that would automatically sunset on October

31, 2024 (SR-SAPPHIRE-2024-14). The Exchange withdrew SR-SAPPHIRE-2024-14, and on August 21, 2024 replaced it with SR-SAPPHIRE-2024-25 (the “Initial ORF Filing”).<sup>3</sup> The Initial ORF Filing was published for comment in the Federal Register on September 3, 2024.<sup>4</sup> On October 31, 2024, the Exchange filed to extend the Initial ORF Filing sunset date of October 31, 2024 to May 31, 2025.<sup>5</sup> On May 14, 2025, the Exchange filed to extend the Initial ORF Filing sunset date from May 31, 2025 to December 31, 2025.<sup>6</sup> To date, the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) received no comments on the Initial ORF Filing or its subsequent extension.

The ORF is designed to recover a material portion of the costs to the Exchange of the supervision and regulation of Members’<sup>7</sup> customer options business, including performing routine surveillances and investigations, as well as policy, rulemaking, interpretive and enforcement activities. The Exchange believes that revenue generated from the ORF, when combined with all of the Exchange’s other regulatory fees and fines, will cover a material portion, but not all, of the Exchange’s regulatory costs. Currently, all other registered options exchanges impose ORF on their members, and those exchanges also charge ORF for executions occurring on the Exchange cleared by their customers.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 100824 (August 27, 2024), 89 FR 71496 (September 3, 2024) (SR-SAPPHIRE-2024-25).

<sup>4</sup> See Supra note 3.

<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 101589 (October 31, 2024), 89 FR 90787 (November 18, 2024) (SR-SAPPHIRE-2024-35).

<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 103081 (May 14, 2025), 90 FR 22389 (May 27, 2025) (SR-SAPPHIRE-2025-24).

<sup>7</sup> The term “Member” means an individual or organization that is registered with the Exchange pursuant to Chapter II of MIAx Sapphire Rules for purposes of trading on the Exchange as an “Electronic Exchange Member” or “Market Maker.” Members are deemed “members” under the Exchange Act. See Exchange Rule 100.

<sup>8</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 58817 (October 20, 2008), 73 FR 63744 (October 27, 2008) (SR-CBOE-2008-05) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of Cboe adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 61133 (December 9, 2009), 74 FR 66715 (December 16, 2009) (SR-Phlx-2009-100) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of Phlx adopting an ORF applicable to

The Exchange recognizes that in 2019, the Commission issued suspensions of and orders instituting proceedings to determine whether to approve or disapprove a proposed rule change to modify the Options Regulatory Fee of NYSE American, NYSE Arca, MIAX Options, MIAX PEARL, MIAX Emerald, Cboe, Cboe EDGX Options, and C2.<sup>9</sup> Each of those exchanges had filed to increase their ORF, and the Commission indicated that each of those filings lacked detail

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transactions across all options exchanges); 61154 (December 11, 2009), 74 FR 67278 (December 18, 2009) (SR-ISE-2009-105) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of ISE adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 61388 (January 20, 2010), 75 FR 4431 (January 27, 2010) (SR-BX-2010-001) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of Nasdaq OMX BX, Inc. (“BX”) adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 70200 (August 14, 2013) 78 FR 51242 (August 20, 2013) (SR-Topaz-2013-01) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of GEMX, formerly known as ISE Gemini and Topaz Exchange, adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 64400 (May 4, 2011), 76 FR 27118 (May 10, 2011) (SR-NYSEAmex-2011-27) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of NYSE AMEX adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 64399 (May 4, 2011), 76 FR 27114 (May 10, 2011) (SR-NYSEArca-2011-20) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of NYSE Arca adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 65913 (December 8, 2011), 76 FR 77883 (December 14, 2011) (SR-NASDAQ-2011-163) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of Nasdaq Options Market (“NOM”) adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 66979 (May 14, 2012), 77 FR 29740 (May 18, 2012) (SR-BOX-2012-002) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of BOX adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 67596 (August 6, 2012), 77 FR 47902 (August 10, 2012) (SR-C2-2012-023) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of C2 Options Exchange, Inc. (“C2”) adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 68711 (January 23, 2013) 78 FR 6155 (January 29, 2013) (SR-MIAX-2013-01) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of MIAX Options adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 74214 (February 5, 2015), 80 FR 7665 (February 11, 2015) (SR-BATS-2015-08) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of BZX formerly known as BATS, adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 80025 (February 13, 2017) 82 FR 11081 (February 17, 2017) (SR-BatsEDGX-2017-04) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of EDGX formerly known as Bats EDGX Exchange, Inc., adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 80875 (June 7, 2017) 82 FR 27096 (June 13, 2017) (SR-PEARL-2017-26) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of MIAX PEARL adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 85127 (February 13, 2019) 84 FR 5173 (February 20, 2019) (SR-MRX-2019-03) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of Nasdaq MRX, LLC (“MRX”) adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges); 85251 (March 6, 2019) 84 FR 8931 (March 12, 2019) (SR-EMERALD-2019-01) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of MIAX Emerald adopting an ORF applicable to transactions across all options exchanges).

<sup>9</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87168 (September 30, 2019), 84 FR 53210 (October 4, 2019) (SR-Emerald-2019-29); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87167 (September 30, 2019), 84 FR 53189 (October 4, 2019) (SR-PEARL-2019-23); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87169 (September 30, 2019), 84 FR 53195 (October 4, 2019) (SR-MIAX-2019-35); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87170 (September 30, 2019), 84 FR 53213 (October 4, 2019) (SRCBOE-2019-040); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87172 (September 30, 2019) 84 FR 53192 (October 4, 2019) (SR-CboeEDGX-2019-051); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87171 (September 30, 2019), 84 FR 53200 (October 4, 2019) (SR-C2-2019-018); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 86832 (August 30, 2019), 84 FR 46980 (September 6, 2019) (SR-NYSEArca-2019-49); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 86833 (August 30, 2019) 84 FR 47029 (September 6, 2019) (SR-NYSEAMER-2019-27).



and specificity, signaling that more information was needed to speak to whether the proposed increased ORFs were reasonable, equitably allocated and not unfairly discriminatory, particularly given that the ORF is assessed on transactions that clear in the “customer” range and regardless of the exchange on which the transaction occurs. The Commission also noted that the filings provided only broad general statements regarding options transaction volume and did not provide any information on those exchanges’ historic or projected options regulatory costs (including the costs of regulating activity that cleared in the “customer” range and the costs of regulating activity that occurred off exchange), the amount of regulatory revenue they had generated and expected to generate from the ORF as well as other sources, or the “material portion” of options regulatory expenses that they sought to recover from the ORF. Each of those exchanges withdrew their filings, but continue charging ORF today as discussed above. The Exchange would be at an unfair competitive disadvantage if it were not allowed to charge the ORF to recover a material portion, but not all, of the Exchange’s regulatory costs for the supervision and regulation of activity of its Members which as noted above, is charged by all currently operating options exchanges.

The Exchange appreciates the evolving changes in the markets and regulatory environment and has been evaluating its options while considering industry and regulatory feedback. In light of this, the Exchange has been reviewing its current methodologies and practices for the assessment and collection of ORF. As a result of this review, the Exchange is submitting contemporaneously with this filing another filing that proposes to adopt a modified ORF model that updates the Exchange’s process of assessing and collecting ORF, in which model ORF would be assessed to only on-Exchange transactions that clear in the customer range at the Options Clearing Corporation (“OCC”). Under the proposed modified model, the

Exchange expects to continue its current practice that revenue generated from ORF will cover a material portion, but not all, of the Exchange's regulatory costs.

To create real ORF reform, moving to a new ORF model that only assesses a fee to transactions that occur on one's own options exchange seems to be the industry consensus. However, for a new, modified model to be truly meaningful and fair, a rate limited to transactions on one's own exchange should be adopted by all options exchanges to provide a consistent methodology in assessing and collecting ORF going forward. As set forth in its separate filing that proposes the new, modified ORF model, the Exchange is committed to switching to this new model as soon as a consistent framework has been established with the Commission, adopted by all the options exchanges and necessary regulatory filings submitted. Until that time, the Exchange believes it's fair and reasonable to continue to charge ORF under the current model as other options exchanges currently do until June 30, 2026. The proposed extension of the sunset date will provide time for establishment of one new, unified model going forward. The Exchange will endeavor to implement the modified ORF structure prior to the proposed June 30, 2026 sunset date.

As a new exchange, not having the opportunity to fund its regulatory program through the same regulatory fee charged by every other options exchange would place an undue competitive disadvantage upon the Exchange's regulatory program and options business as a whole. Further, the Exchange emphasizes that other exchanges will be charging ORF for transactions occurring on MIAX Sapphire until a new unified model is implemented, and as such, it follows that the exchange that is primarily responsible for monitoring those transactions should also be able to charge the ORF for activity occurring on its own market, as well as transactions it surveils on away markets. Again, the Exchange is committed to facilitating and

joining efforts to revamp the ORF, however, it must be afforded additional time to do so while recouping a portion of its regulatory costs via the ORF as all other options exchanges do

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend its Fee Schedule is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>10</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) of the Act<sup>11</sup> in particular, in that it is an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members and issuers and other persons using its facilities. The Exchange also believes the proposal furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>12</sup> 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 and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers and dealers.

The ORF is designed to recover a material portion of the costs of supervising and regulating Members' customer options business including performing routine surveillances and investigations, as well as policy, rulemaking, interpretive, and enforcement activities. Extending the current ORF sunset date to June 30, 2026 is reasonable because continued collection of ORF will serve to balance the Exchange's regulatory revenue against the anticipated regulatory costs, thereby ensuring proper regulatory funding. Moreover, the Exchange's ORF rate is lower than the amount of ORF assessed on other exchanges.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

<sup>12</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>13</sup> See, e.g., NYSE Arca Options Fees and Charges, ORF and NYSE American Options Fees Schedule, Section VII(A), which provide that ORF is assessed at a rate of \$0.0023 per contract for each respective exchange. See also Cboe Options Fee Schedule, which provides an ORF rate of \$0.0023 per contract; BOX Options Fee Schedule Section II(C), which provides an ORF rate of \$0.00295 per contract; MIAX Options Fee Schedule, Section 2(b), which provides an ORF rate of \$0.0017 per contract; MIAX Pearl Fee

Extending the sunset date is also reasonable because doing so would allow the Exchange additional time to inform its approach to ORF moving forward while recouping a portion of its regulatory expenses via the ORF as other options exchanges do. If the Exchange were not allowed to charge an ORF during this additional time period, then after the sunset date of December 31, 2025, it would be forced to pay for its regulatory program solely out of business revenues while working towards an alternative ORF solution, unlike every other competing exchange, each of which would continue to assess an ORF, including on transactions executed on the Exchange, indefinitely. This would impact the Exchange's ability to assure adequate funding of its regulatory program.

Extending the ORF sunset date to June 30, 2026 is also equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because prior to the proposed sunset date, the ORF would continue to be objectively allocated to Members in a manner that is consistent with the ORF imposed by the other seventeen (17) options exchanges. The Exchange will continue to monitor the amount of revenue collected from the ORF to ensure that it, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed the Exchange's total regulatory costs.

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

MIAX Sapphire does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. This proposal will not create an unnecessary or inappropriate intra-market burden on competition because the ORF will apply to all customer activity, and is designed to enable the Exchange to recover a material portion of the Exchange's cost related to its regulatory activities. This proposal will not create an unnecessary or inappropriate inter-market burden on competition

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Schedule, Section 2(b), which provides an ORF rate of \$0.0016 per contract; and the MEMX Fee Schedule which provides an ORF rate of \$0.0015.

because it will be a regulatory fee that supports regulation in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange is obligated to ensure that the amount of regulatory revenue collected from the ORF, in combination with its other regulatory fees and fines, does not exceed regulatory costs. MIAX Sapphire's ORF, is lower than, or comparable to, fees charged by other options exchanges for the same or similar services.

The Exchange notes that while it does not believe that its proposed ORF will impose any burden on inter-market competition, the Exchange not charging an ORF or being precluded from charging an ORF after December 31, 2025 but prior to the proposed sunset date of June 30, 2026 would, in-fact, represent a significant burden on the Exchange's ability to assure adequate funding of its regulatory program. As noted above, the Exchange is a new entrant in the highly competitive environment for equity options trading. Also, as noted above, all registered options exchanges currently impose the ORF on their members, and such ORF fees imposed by other options exchanges currently do and will continue to extend to executions occurring on the Exchange. The Exchange believes that in order to compete with these existing options exchanges, it must, in fact, impose an ORF on its Members during this additional sunset period, and that the inability to do so would result in an unfair competitive disadvantage to the Exchange.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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>14</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)<sup>15</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 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-SAPPHIRE-2025-46 on the subject line.

##### Paper comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Vanessa Countryman, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR-SAPPHIRE-2025-46. 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

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<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

all comments on the Commission's internet website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>).

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-SAPPHIRE-2025-46 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>16</sup>

**Sherry R. Haywood,**  
*Assistant Secretary*

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<sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

**Exhibit 5**

New text is underlined;  
Deleted text is in [brackets]

**MIAX Sapphire Options Exchange Fee Schedule**

\* \* \* \* \*

**2) Regulatory Fees**

- a) No change.
- b) Options Regulatory Fee

The per-contract Options Regulatory Fee (“ORF”) is assessed by MIAX Sapphire to each MIAX Sapphire Member for all options transactions, including Mini Options, cleared or ultimately cleared by the Member that are cleared by OCC in the “customer” range, regardless of the exchange on which the transaction occurs. The ORF is not assessed on outbound linkage trades. The ORF is collected by OCC on behalf of MIAX Sapphire from either (1) a Member that was the ultimate clearing firm for the transaction or (2) a non-Member that was the ultimate clearing firm where a Member was the executing clearing firm for the transaction. The Exchange uses reports from OCC to determine the identity of the executing clearing firm and ultimate clearing firm.

<b>Options Regulatory Fee (ORF)</b>	<b>Per Executed Contract side</b>
All Classes	\$0.0013

The ORF will automatically sunset on [December 31, 2025]June 30, 2026.

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