Page 1 of * 16		SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4 Amend			File No. * SR 2021 - * 18 No. (req. for Amendments *)		
Filing by Investors' Exchange LLC							
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934							
Initial *	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(I	Section 19(b)	(3)(A) * Section 19(b)(3)(B) *		
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *	Date Expires *		Rule 19b-4(f)(1) 19b-4(f)(2)	19b-4(f)(4) 19b-4(f)(5)		
Notice of prop	posed change pursuant to the Paym	ent, Clearing, and Settlem	ent Act of 2010	19b-4(f)(3) Security-Based Swa	19b-4(f)(6) p Submission pursuant to the		
Section 806(e)(1) * Section 806(e)				Securities Exchange Section 3C(b)(2) *	Act of 1934		
	,,,						
Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document							
Description Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *). Filing to amend FINRA CRD Fees							
Contact Information 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 *	Nathaniel	Last Name *	Kolodny				
Title *	Lead Regulation Counsel						
E-mail *	nathaniel.kolodny@iextrading.com						
Telephone *	(646) 343-2034	Fax					
Signature Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange of 1934, Investors' Exchange LLC has duty caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duty authorized.							
Date -	12/17/2021			(Title *)			
_	Nathaniel Kolodny		ead Regulation Cou				
_, [(Name *)		- Cogalation Oou				
form. A digital sig	he signature block at right will initiate digitally signature is as legally binding as a physical signat form cannot be changed.		Nathaniel Kolodny	Digitally signed by Nathaniel Kolodny Date: 2021.12.17 18:36:14 -05'00'			

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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

Form 19b-4 Information *						
Add	Remove	View				
Non-Member CRD Fee Change 19b-4						

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 *

Add Remove View

Non-Member CRD Fee Change Ex. 1.

The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advanced Notice by Clearing Agencies *

Add Remove View

The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines 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

Add Remove View

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.

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire

Add Remove View

Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies

Add Remove View

The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.

Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text

Add Remove View

Non-Member CRD Fee Change Ex. 5.

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

Add Remove View

If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes 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. <u>Text of Proposed Rule Change</u>

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) under the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, Investors Exchange LLC

("IEX" or "Exchange") is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission

("Commission") a proposed rule change pursuant to IEX Rule 15.110(a) to amend its Fee

Schedule to reflect adjustments to FINRA's Registration Fees related to the Central

Registration Depository ("CRD system"), which will be collected by the Financial

Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") pursuant to IEX Rule 15.110(a). The

Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other

charge imposed by the self-regulatory organization, whether or not the person is a

member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change

effective upon filing, pursuant to Section 19(b)(3(A)(ii) of the Act.¹

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit 5.

- (b) The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will have any direct effect, or any significant indirect effect, on any other Exchange rule in effect at the time of this filing.
 - (c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

Senior management has approved the proposed rule change pursuant to authority delegated to it by the Board of the Exchange. No further action is required under the Exchange's governing documents. Therefore, the Exchange's internal procedures with

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

respect to the proposed rule change are complete.

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

Claudia Crowley Chief Regulatory Officer Investors Exchange LLC 646-343-2041 Nathaniel Kolodny Lead Regulation Counsel Investors Exchange LLC 646-343-2034

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

IEX is proposing, pursuant to IEX Rule 15.110(a), to amend its Fee Schedule² to reflect adjustments to FINRA's Registration Fees related to the CRD system.³ FINRA charges a single fee to register any representative or principal of a member firm in the CRD system irrespective of if the member firm is also a member of FINRA. Because FINRA separately collects the CRD system fee for any IEX Member.⁴ that is also a FINRA member.⁵, this fee filing only applies to IEX Members who are not FINRA members.

Effective January 3, 2022, FINRA is increasing the fee it charges for each initial Form U4 filed for the registration of a representative or principal of any firm registered in

² <u>See https://exchange.iex.io/resources/trading/fee-schedule/.</u>

³ The CRD system is the central licensing and registration system for the U.S. securities industry. The CRD system enables individuals and firms seeking registration with multiple states and self-regulatory organizations to do so by submitting a single form, fingerprint card and a combined payment of fees to FINRA. Through the CRD system, FINRA maintains the qualification, employment and disciplinary histories of registered associated persons of broker dealers.

⁴ See IEX Rule 1.160(s).

⁵ IEX Members that are also FINRA members are charged CRD system fees according to Section (4) of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws.

the CRD system from \$100 to \$125.6 Accordingly, IEX is proposing to update its Fee Schedule to reflect the new \$125 CRD system fee that will take effect starting January 3, 2022. Because these costs are borne by FINRA when a non-FINRA member uses the CRD system, FINRA will continue to collect and retain these fees for the registration of associated persons of IEX Members that are not also FINRA members.

b. Statutory Basis

IEX believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6(b) of the Act,⁷ of the Act in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁸ in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable fees and other charges among its members, and does not unfairly discriminate between customers, issuers, brokers and dealers. All similarly situated Members are subject to the same fee structure, and every Member firm must use the CRD system for registration and disclosure.

The proposed fee is reasonable because it is identical to the fee adopted by FINRA for use of the CRD system for disclosure and the registration of associated persons of FINRA members. Thus, the Exchange's Fee Schedule will reflect the current registration rate that will be assessed by FINRA as of January 3, 2022 for any IEX Members that are not also FINRA members. IEX also believes the proposed fee change is reasonable, because, as noted in the FINRA Fee Filing, FINRA is increasing the CRD system fees to provide enough revenue to support its regulatory mission. Notably,

⁶ <u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 90176 (October 14, 2020), 85 FR 66592 (October 20, 2020) (SR-FINRA-2020-032) ("FINRA Fee Filing").

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

⁹ See supra note 6.

¹⁰ See supra note 6.

FINRA has not increased CRD system fees since 2012..11

The Exchange believes that its proposal to increase the \$100 fee for each initial Form U4 filed for the registration of a representative or principal to \$125 is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the equivalent fees will be charged by FINRA of all users of the CRD system, whether or not they are FINRA members. Therefore, all users of the CRD system will equally bear the cost of maintaining the system.¹²

FINRA further noted its belief that the proposed fees are reasonable because they help to ensure the integrity of the information in the CRD system, which is important because the Commission, FINRA, other self-regulatory organizations and state securities regulators use the CRD system to make licensing and registration decisions, among other things...¹³

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

IEX does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the proposed fees will result in the same regulatory fees being charged to all Members required to report information to the CRD system and for services performed by FINRA, regardless of whether or not such Members are FINRA members.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

¹² See supra note 6.

¹¹ See supra note 6.

¹³ See supra note 6.

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.¹⁴ and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4.¹⁵ thereunder, IEX has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-regulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings under Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved. ¹⁶

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

The proposed rule change is based on fees charged by FINRA pursuant to Section 4(b) of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws.

- Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section3 C of the Act
 Not applicable.
- 10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

Not applicable.

11. <u>Exhibits</u>

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

Exhibit 5 – Text of Proposed Rule Change/Amendment to the Exchange's Fee Schedule.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34 -); File No. SR-IEX-2021-18)

Self-Regulatory Organizations: Investors Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend the FINRA Registration Fees on the Fee Schedule.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1). of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act")² and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that, on (date), the Investors Exchange LLC ("IEX" or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) under the Act, and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, IEX is filing with the Commission a proposed rule change pursuant to IEX Rule 15.110(a) to amend its Fee Schedule to reflect adjustments to FINRA's Registration Fees related to the Central Registration Depository ("CRD system"), which will be collected by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") pursuant to IEX Rule 15.110(a). The Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the self-regulatory organization, whether

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 15 U.S.C. 78a.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing, pursuant to Section 19(b)(3(A)(ii) of the Act..⁴

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange's website at www.iextrading.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization 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 self-regulatory organization has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

IEX is proposing, pursuant to IEX Rule 15.110(a), to amend its Fee Schedule.⁵ to reflect adjustments to FINRA's Registration Fees related to the CRD system.⁶ FINRA charges a single fee to register any representative or principal of a member firm in the CRD system irrespective of if the member firm is also a member of FINRA. Because

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

⁵ <u>See https://exchange.iex.io/resources</u>/trading/fee-schedule/.

⁶ The CRD system is the central licensing and registration system for the U.S. securities industry. The CRD system enables individuals and firms seeking registration with multiple states and self-regulatory organizations to do so by submitting a single form, fingerprint card and a combined payment of fees to FINRA. Through the CRD system, FINRA maintains the qualification, employment and disciplinary histories of registered associated persons of broker dealers.

FINRA separately collects the CRD system fee for any IEX Member.⁷ that is also a FINRA member.⁸, this fee filing only applies to IEX Members who are not FINRA members.

Effective January 3, 2022, FINRA is increasing the fee it charges for each initial Form U4 filed for the registration of a representative or principal of any firm registered in the CRD system from \$100 to \$125.9 Accordingly, IEX is proposing to update its Fee Schedule to reflect the new \$125 CRD system fee that will take effect starting January 3, 2022. Because these costs are borne by FINRA when a non-FINRA member uses the CRD system, FINRA will continue to collect and retain these fees for the registration of associated persons of IEX Members that are not also FINRA members.

2. Statutory Basis

IEX believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6(b) of the Act, ¹⁰ of the Act in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act, ¹¹ in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable fees and other charges among its members, and does not unfairly discriminate between customers, issuers, brokers and dealers. All similarly situated Members are subject to the same fee structure, and every Member firm must use the CRD system for registration and disclosure.

The proposed fee is reasonable because it is identical to the fee adopted by FINRA for use of the CRD system for disclosure and the registration of associated

⁷ <u>See</u> IEX Rule 1.160(s).

⁸ IEX Members that are also FINRA members are charged CRD system fees according to Section (4) of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws.

⁹ <u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 90176 (October 14, 2020), 85 FR 66592 (October 20, 2020) (SR-FINRA-2020-032) ("FINRA Fee Filing").

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

persons of FINRA members. ¹² Thus, the Exchange's Fee Schedule will reflect the current registration rate that will be assessed by FINRA as of January 3, 2022 for any IEX Members that are not also FINRA members. IEX also believes the proposed fee change is reasonable, because, as noted in the FINRA Fee Filing, FINRA is increasing the CRD system fees to provide enough revenue to support its regulatory mission. ¹³ Notably, FINRA has not increased CRD system fees since 2012. ¹⁴

The Exchange believes that its proposal to increase the \$100 fee for each initial Form U4 filed for the registration of a representative or principal to \$125 is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the equivalent fees will be charged by FINRA of all users of the CRD system, whether or not they are FINRA members. Therefore, all users of the CRD system will equally bear the cost of maintaining the system. ¹⁵

FINRA further noted its belief that the proposed fees are reasonable because they help to ensure the integrity of the information in the CRD system, which is important because the Commission, FINRA, other self-regulatory organizations and state securities regulators use the CRD system to make licensing and registration decisions, among other things. ¹⁶

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

IEX does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the proposed fees will result in the same regulatory fees being charged to all Members required to report information to the

¹² See supra note 9.

 $[\]overline{\text{See supra}}$ note 9.

¹⁴ See supra note 9.

¹⁵ See supra note 9.

¹⁶ See supra note 9.

CRD system and for services performed by FINRA, regardless of whether or not such Members are FINRA members.

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 $19(b)(3)(A)(ii)^{.17}$ of the Act.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings under Section 19(b)(2)(B). 18 of the Act to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

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

Electronic Comments:

• Use the Commission's Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or

¹⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii). ¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

 Send an email to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-IEX-2021-18 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-IEX-2021-18. This file number should be included in 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 Section, 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 will also be available for inspection and copying at the IEX's principal office and on its Internet website at www.iextrading.com. 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-IEX-2021-18 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. ¹⁹

¹⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Exhibit 5 – Text of Proposed Rule Change

Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.

Investors Exchange Fee Schedule

Effective [April 1, 2021] January 3, 2022

Registration and Processing Fees

The following fees will be collected and retained by FINRA via the CRD registration system for the registration of associated persons of IEX Members that are not also FINRA Members:

- 1. \$[100]125 for each initial Form U4 filed for the registration of a representative or principal;
- 2. \$110 for the additional processing of each initial or amended Form U4, Form U5 or Form BD that includes the initial reporting, amendment, or certification of one or more disclosure events or proceedings;
- 3. \$45 annual for each of the Member's registered representatives and principals for system processing;
- 4. \$15 for processing and posting to the CRD system each set of fingerprint cards submitted electronically by the Member, plus a pass-through of any other charge imposed by the United States Department of Justice for processing each set of fingerprints;
- 5. \$30 for processing and posting to the CRD system each set of fingerprint cards submitted in non-electronic format by the Member, plus a pass-through of any other charge imposed by the United States Department of Justice for processing each set of fingerprints; and
- 6. \$30 for processing and posting to the CRD system each set of fingerprint results and identifying information that has been processed through a self-regulatory organization other than FINRA.
