

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹¹

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-18451 Filed 8-11-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-50159; File No. SR-Phlx-2004-47]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Legal Fees Incurred by the Exchange

August 5, 2004.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on August 4, 2004, the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Phlx" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. Phlx filed this proposal pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder,⁴ which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission.⁵ 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 Phlx proposes to adopt new Phlx Rule 651 to require members, member organizations, foreign currency options participants, foreign currency options participant organizations, or persons associated with any of the foregoing ("member litigants") who bring legal proceedings against the Exchange to reimburse the Exchange for all costs associated with defending such proceedings, only when such persons or entities do not prevail and the Exchange's costs exceed a specified amount. The text of the proposed rule change is below. Proposed new language is in italics.

Rule 651. Exchange's Costs of Defending Legal Proceedings

Any member, member organization, foreign currency options participant, foreign currency options participant organization, or person associated with any of the foregoing who fails to prevail in a lawsuit or other legal proceeding instituted by such person or entity against the Exchange or any of its board members, officers, committee members, employees, or agents, and related to the business of the Exchange, shall pay to the Exchange all reasonable expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred by the Exchange in the defense of such proceeding, but only in the event that such expenses exceed \$50,000.00. This provision shall not apply to disciplinary actions by the Exchange, to administrative appeals of Exchange actions or in any specific instance where the Board⁶ has granted a waiver of this provision.

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 Phlx 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 Phlx 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 purpose of the proposed rule change is to enable the Exchange to obtain reimbursement of legal costs incurred to defend litigation brought against the Exchange by member litigants where such persons or entities do not prevail in the litigation.

Legal proceedings can significantly divert staff resources away from the Exchange's regulatory and business purposes. In addition, these proceedings often require the Exchange to secure outside counsel—a costly undertaking. The Exchange believes that establishing a rule that may reduce non merit-based or vexatious legal proceedings against the Exchange by member litigants will

help protect against Exchange resources being unnecessarily diverted from the Exchange's regulatory and business objectives, thus strengthening the overall organization. To this end, the Exchange is proposing to adopt a rule similar to one already in effect at the American Stock Exchange ("AMEX") and other options exchanges⁷ requiring specified persons who bring legal proceedings against the Exchange and/or persons acting on the Exchange's behalf but who do not prevail to reimburse the Exchange for all costs associated with defending such proceedings when these costs exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁸ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5), specifically,⁹ in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, and to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, by requiring member litigants to reimburse the Exchange for costs of a legal defense under specified circumstances.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any inappropriate burden on competition.

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.

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

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

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

⁵ Phlx asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay. See Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii). 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

⁶ See e-mail from Jurij Trypupenko, Counsel and Director of Litigation and Operations, Phlx, dated August 4, 2004, which clarifies that "the Board" refers to the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange.

⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 47842 (May 13, 2003), 68 FR 27114 (May 19, 2003)(SR-AMEX-2003-35); 37421 (July 11, 1996), 61 FR 37513 (July 18, 1996)(SR-CBOE-96-02); and 37563 (August 14, 1996), 61 FR 43285 (August 21, 1996)(SR-PSE-96-21).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁰ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹¹ At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate 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.

The Exchange requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay. The Commission believes waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Commission also notes that the proposed rule change is consistent with existing precedent and that there are no novel issues. For these reasons, the Commission designates the proposal to be effective and operative upon filing with the Commission.¹²

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-Phlx-2004-47 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2004-47. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail 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 Web site (<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 inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Section, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Phlx. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2004-47 and should be submitted on or before September 2, 2004.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹³

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-18422 Filed 8-11-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4800]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Request for Grant Proposals: South Asia Professional Exchanges and Training Program for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

Announcement Type: New Grant.
Funding Opportunity Number: ECA/PE/C/NEAAF-05-02.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 00.000.

Application Deadline: October 7, 2004.

Summary: The South Asia/Near East/Africa Division of the Office of Citizen Exchanges of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), in cooperation with the South Asia Bureau of the U.S. Department of State, announces an open competition for grants to support exchanges and relationship building between U.S. non-profit organizations and civil society groups in the following South Asian countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. ECA is most interested in projects which have

a regional, multi-country, or cross-border focus, but single-country proposals will also be considered. Proposals should center on groups that work with young people, and should design innovative, short-term, high impact projects that promote mutual understanding between people in the U.S. and people in South Asia and the advancement of one or more of the following themes: excellence in education, democracy enhancement, economic skills promotion, and conflict management.

In this competition, innovative design for short-term, high-impact projects to pursue these themes effectively, and to do so with South Asian partner organizations, will be important to proposal competitiveness. Up to five grants may be awarded, and no award will exceed \$200,000. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) may submit proposals for the South Asia Professional Exchanges and Training Program for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Authority: Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." The funding authority for the program above is provided through legislation. Funding for this competition is being provided from FY-2004/FY-2005 Economic Support Funds (ESF) transferred to the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for obligation.

Purpose: ECA seeks proposals that will address one or more of four pillars in the Department's strategy for working with South Asia: education, democracy, economic development, and conflict management. Proposals will be judged more competitive if they present convincingly innovative, short-term, high-impact project designs, as the Bureau seeks new, expeditious and

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹¹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹² For purposes only of accelerating the operative date of this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).