HILTON ROBERT L

Check this box

if no longer

subject to

Section 16.

Form 4 April 03, 2013

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL OMB

Number:

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section

SECURITIES

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1(b).

(Last)

Common

Stock

04/02/2013

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person	**
HII TON ROBERT I	

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING

CO [AEL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

_X__ Director Officer (give title

Issuer

10% Owner

Other (specify

6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY

(First)

04/02/2013

(Month/Day/Year)

(Street)

(Middle)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person

Form filed by More than One Reporting

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

(Check all applicable)

Person

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tab	le I - Non-I	Derivative	Secur	ities Acqui	red, Disposed of,	or Beneficiall	y Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. 4. Securities Acquired Transactiomr Disposed of (D) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)			D)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Transaction(s) (Instr. (Instr. 3 and 4)	(Instr. 4)	
Common Stock	04/02/2013		M	1,000	A	\$9	37,000	D	
Common Stock	04/02/2013		M	1,000	A	\$ 11	38,000	D	
Common Stock	04/02/2013		M	1,000	A	\$ 10.77	39,000	D	
Common Stock	04/02/2013		M	10,000	A	\$ 10.85	49,000	D	
_									

10,000 A

\$ 5.85

59,000

D

M

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Common Stock	04/02/2013	S	22,800	D	\$ 14.735	36,200	D
Common Stock	04/02/2013	S	200	D	\$ 14.73	36,000	D

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of ctionDerivative Securities (b) Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		dDerivative Expiration Date Securities (Month/Day/Year) Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4,		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9	04/02/2013		M		1,000	06/30/2004	12/04/2013	Common Stock	1,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 11	04/02/2013		M		1,000	06/10/2004	06/10/2014	Common Stock	1,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.77	04/02/2013		M		1,000	06/30/2005	12/31/2014	Common Stock	1,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.85	04/02/2013		M		10,000	06/11/2011	06/11/2018	Common Stock	10,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 5.85	04/02/2013		M		10,000	06/04/2012	06/04/2019	Common Stock	10,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships							
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other				
	\mathbf{v}							

Reporting Owners 2 HILTON ROBERT L 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney

04/03/2013

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

Signatures 3