

State Auto Financial CORP
 Form 4
 March 09, 2009

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 DUEMEY JAMES E

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 518 E. BROAD STREET
 (Street)

COLUMBUS, OH 43215

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 State Auto Financial CORP [STFC]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 12/15/2008

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Vice President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price
Common Shares without par value	12/15/2008		A ⁽⁴⁾	5 ⁽⁴⁾	A	\$ 0	15,760.032 ⁽¹⁾ D

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

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 (9-02)

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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. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) NQ	\$ 14.49	03/05/2009		A	4,900	03/05/2010 ⁽³⁾ 03/04/2019	Common Shares	4,900

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
DUEMEY JAMES E 518 E. BROAD STREET COLUMBUS, OH 43215			Vice President	

Signatures

James E. Duemey by James A. Yano, attorney in fact pursuant to POA filed with Commission 8-17-07. 03/09/2009

**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).
- (1) Includes indirect holdings by spouse of 1,840 shares. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of shares held by spouse. Also includes 500 shares jointly owned with spouse. Also includes the following acquisitions: 12.659 shares acquired in December 2008 under State Auto Financial CAP Reinvestment; and 10.771 shares acquired in December 2008 under the STFC Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
 - (2) Field should be left blank, but due to a software defect, requires input.
 - (3) The options vest in three equal annual installments beginning on March 5, 2010.
 - (4) Transaction reflects an annual stock bonus award made to the reporting person and to all full time employees of the Issuer.

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.