

AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO  
 Form 4  
 January 12, 2006

**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 \*  
 MORRIS BENJAMIN T

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [AEL]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 600 TRAVIS, SUITE 3100  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 01/06/2006

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

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

HOUSTON, TX 77002  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

**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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Stock	01/06/2006		M		1,000	A	\$ 9 69,019
Common Stock	01/06/2006		M		1,000	A	\$ 11 70,019
Common Stock	01/06/2006		M		1,000	A	\$ 10.77 71,019
Common Stock	01/11/2006		S		49,269	D	\$ 13.3409 21,750

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



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