

Buss Jessica Elizabeth  
 Form 4  
 December 20, 2011

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 \*  
 Buss Jessica Elizabeth

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

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

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/16/2011

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 Vice President

COLUMBUS, OH 43215  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

**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 | 12/16/2011                           |                                                    | A <sup>(1)</sup>               | 5                                                                 | (1)                                                                                           | A                                                        | \$ 0 236.381                      | D |

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

SEC 1474 (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) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Own Follo Repo Trans (Instr |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
|                                            |                                                        |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                                         | Date Exercisable                                         | Expiration Date                                               | Title                                      | Amount or Number of Shares                         |
|                                            |                                                        |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                                         | Code                                                     | V (A) (D)                                                     |                                            |                                                    |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                      | Relationships |           |                |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|-------|
|                                                                     | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer        | Other |
| Buss Jessica Elizabeth<br>518 E. BROAD STREET<br>COLUMBUS, OH 43215 |               |           | Vice President |       |

## Signatures

/s/Jessica E. Buss by James A. Yano, attorney in fact pursuant to POA filed with the Commission 3/7/11.

12/20/2011

\_\_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) Transaction reflects an Annual Stock 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.

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