Efird Bruce A Form 4 March 23, 2011

FORM 4

OMB APPROVAL

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

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

January 31, Expires: 2005

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Efird Bruce A

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

FREDS INC [FRED]

(Check all applicable)

(First) (Middle) (Last)

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

Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify

03/21/2011

below) below) **CEO**

4300 NEW GETWELL

4. If Amendment, Date Original

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

(Instr. 4)

Person

MEMPHIS, TN 38118

(City) (State) (Zip)

(Street)

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

3. Code

4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial Ownership (I)

(Instr. 4)

(A)

Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

Code V Amount (D) Price

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

(Month/Day/Year)

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

1. Title of Derivative Security

Conversion or Exercise

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

any

4. 5. Number of **Transaction**Derivative Code Securities

6. Date Exercisable and Expiration (Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amou Underlying Securi (Instr. 3 and 4)

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(Instr. 3) Price of Derivative Security

(Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Acquired (A)

or Disposed of

(D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)

Code V (A)

(D) Date Exercisable Expiration Date

Am or Nur of S

25.

Option on

Class A Common

Stock

\$ 13.02 03/21/2011

25,000 A

 $03/21/2014_{\underline{(1)}} \quad 04/21/2016_{\underline{(1)}}$

Class A Common

Stock

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Efird Bruce A

4300 NEW GETWELL

CEO

MEMPHIS, TN 38118

Signatures

Anita Ryan by power of attorney

03/23/2011

**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) grant vests 1/3 per year for the first three years, expiring 61 months from the grant date.

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.

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