Efird Bruce A Form 4 August 27, 2012

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 *

(First)

(Street)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

Efird Bruce A

Symbol FREDS INC [FRED]

(Check all applicable)

(Last)

(Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

Director 10% Owner

4300 NEW GETWELL ROAD

(Month/Day/Year) 08/23/2012

X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) below)

CEO

4. If Amendment, Date Original

(Instr. 8)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person

Form filed by More than One Reporting

(Instr. 4)

Person

MEMPHIS, TN 38118

(City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)

(Month/Day/Year)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned

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

(Instr. 4)

(A)

(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

Following 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.

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 Date** (Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amoun Underlying Securiti (Instr. 3 and 4)

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(Instr. 3) Price of (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Acquired (A) or Derivative Disposed of (D) Security (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) Code V (A) (D) Date Exercisable Expiration Title Amo Date Num Share Option on Class A Class A 250,000 \$ 13.64 08/23/2012 A 08/23/2017(1) 08/23/2017 Common 250

(1)

Stock

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Efird Bruce A

Common

Stock

4300 NEW GETWELL ROAD CEO

MEMPHIS, TN 38118

Signatures

Anita Ryan by power of

attorney 08/27/2012

**Signature of Reporting Person

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

Date

- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Shares of options. If performance not met, they will expire after five years.

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.

Reporting Owners 2