

Lillis Terrance J.
 Form 4
 September 17, 2012

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
 Lillis Terrance J.

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC [PFG]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 711 HIGH STREET
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 09/14/2012

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

DES MOINES, IA 50392

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

(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	09/14/2012		M ⁽¹⁾		37,690	A	\$ 11.07
Common Stock	09/14/2012		M ⁽¹⁾		7,205	A	\$ 27.57
Common Stock	09/14/2012		S		30,211	D	\$ 29
Common Stock							38
Common Stock							303
							By 401(k) Plan
							By Spouse

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

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(9-02)

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 Share
				Code V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	
Employee Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$ 11.07	09/14/2012		M ⁽¹⁾	37,690	02/24/2012 02/24/2019	Common Stock	37,690
Employee Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$ 27.57	09/14/2012		M ⁽¹⁾	7,205	02/25/2006 02/25/2013	Common Stock	7,205

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
Lillis Terrance J. 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392	Senior Vice President & CFO

Signatures

Joyce N. Hoffman, by Power of
Attorney 09/18/2012

__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).

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- (1) Pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 plan adopted August 8, 2012.
- (2) Includes 7,039 shares acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

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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