

LaHaise James A
 Form 4
 December 12, 2017

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 *
 LaHaise James A

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 Ameris Bancorp [ABCB]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 PO BOX 3668

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 12/06/2017

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Corporate Banking Executive

(Street)

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

MOULTRIE, GA 31776

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) Code V Amount (D) Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 12/06/2017 | | M | 18,684 A \$ 37.46 | 88,186 | D | |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

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| 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) | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|------------------|-----------------|--------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Common Stock | \$ 37.46 <u>(1)</u> | 05/17/2017 | | M | | 18,684 <u>(1)</u> | | 12/31/2007 | 12/31/2017 | Common | 18,684 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| LaHaise James A PO BOX 3668 MOULTRIE, GA 31776 | | | Corporate Banking Executive | |

Signatures

James A. LaHaise, by Angela A. Redd as attorney-in-fact 12/12/2017

**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).
- On December 31, 2007, the reporting person previously held unexercised options to purchase 40,000 shares of common stock, no par value per share, of Coastal Bankshares, Inc. at an exercise price of \$17.50 per share. AS a result of the merger of Coastal with Ameris Bancorp, which is effective as of June 30, 2014, the options to acquire Coastal shares have been automatically converted in their entirety into options to purchase 18,684 shares of the common stock, \$1.00 par value per share, of Ameris at an exercise price of \$37.46 per share. These options will expire on 12-31-2017.

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.