

Houston Daniel Joseph
 Form 4
 October 20, 2017

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 *
 Houston Daniel Joseph

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)
 10/19/2017

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 Chairman, President & CEO

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	10/19/2017		M ⁽¹⁾	12,103 A \$ 34.26	174,743 ⁽²⁾	D	
Common Stock	10/19/2017		S ⁽¹⁾	12,103 D \$ 68.04	162,640 ⁽²⁾	D	
Common Stock	10/19/2017		M ⁽¹⁾	81,865 A \$ 27.46	244,505 ⁽²⁾	D	
Common Stock	10/19/2017		S ⁽¹⁾	81,865 D \$ 68.04 ⁽³⁾	162,640 ⁽²⁾	D	
Common Stock					3,054	I	By 401(k) Plan

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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)		
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Share
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 34.26	10/19/2017		M ⁽¹⁾	12,103	02/28/2014	02/28/2021	Common Stock	12,103
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 27.46	10/19/2017		M ⁽¹⁾	81,865	02/27/2015	02/27/2022	Common Stock	81,865

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Houston Daniel Joseph 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392	X		Chairman, President & CEO	

Signatures

Patrick A. Kirchner, by Power of Attorney
10/20/2017

__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).

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- (1) Pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on May 3, 2017.
- (2) Includes 3,258 shares acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$68.00

- (3) - \$68.14, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to Principal Financial Group, Inc., any security holder of Principal Financial Group, Inc., or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the ranges set forth in this footnote.

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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