

Zember Dennis J JR
 Form 4
 February 13, 2018

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 *
 Zember Dennis J JR

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)
 02/13/2018

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Bank CEO

(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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D) Code V Amount (D) Price			
Common Stock	02/13/2018		M	7,709 D \$ 14.76	156,063	D	
Common Stock	02/13/2018		M	15,421 D \$ 7.46	156,063	D	
Common Stock					2,076	I	Children

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

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number.

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 Shares
Common Stock	\$ 14.76 <u>(1)</u>	02/13/2018		M	7,709 <u>(1)</u>	02/13/2018	02/19/2018	Common	7,709
Common Stock	\$ 7.46 <u>(2)</u>	02/13/2018		M	15,421 <u>(2)</u>	02/13/2018	01/20/2019	Common	15,421

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Zember Dennis J JR PO BOX 3668 MOULTRIE, GA 31776			Bank CEO	

Signatures

Dennis J. Zember, Jr. by Angela A. Redd as attorney-in-fact
 Signature: _____ Date: 02/13/2018

**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) On February 19, 2008, the reporting person was granted an option to purchase 7,500 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$14.76. The option cliff vests over a three year period beginning on the award anniversary date, at 100% at three years, resulting in vesting of the option in the amount of 7,709 shares, which number was adjusted to reflect the stock dividends that were issued October 10, 2009, January 10, 2010, April 10, 2010 and July 10, 2010.

(2) On January 20, 2009, the reporting person was granted an option to purchase 15,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$7.46. The option vests in five equal installments of 20% per year on the anniversary date of issuance over a five year period, resulting in vesting of the option in the amount of 15,421 shares, which number was adjusted to reflect the stock dividends that were issued October 10, 2009, January 10, 2010, April 10, 2010 and July 10, 2010.

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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