FORM 4

## **UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**OMB APPROVAL** OMB Number: Estimated average burden hours per response: 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*  MCCAUGHAN JAMES P  (Last) (First) (Middle)  711 HIGH STREET  (Street)  DES MOINES IA 50392 |  |  |   |       |                               | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC [ PFG ]  3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/26/2007  4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) |        |  |  |   |                    |  |                               | (Chec       | X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting |  |                |   |   |
|--|--|--|---|-------|-------------------------------|--|--------|--|--|---|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------|--|--|----------------|---|---|
| (City)   | (S   | tate)                                      | (Zip)   |       |                               |  |        |  |  |   |                    |  |                               | Persor      | '  |  |                |   |   |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned   |  |  |   |       |                               |  |        |  |  |   |                    |  |                               |             |  |  |                |   |   |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transac Date (Month/Date)  |  |  |   |       |                               | Execution [  |        |  | 3.<br>Transac<br>Code (II                                    |   | Disposed           | ties Acquired (A) or<br>I Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 a  |                               | or<br>4 and | 5. Amour<br>Securitie<br>Beneficia<br>Owned F<br>Reported                  | es Forrially (D) (Following ed etion(s)  |                | : Direct<br>r Indirect<br>str. 4)                                       | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|  |  |  |   |       |                               |  |        |  | Code   | v | Amount             | (A) or<br>(D)  |                               | rice        | Transact<br>(Instr. 3 a  |  |                |   | (   |
|  | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |  |   |       |                               |  |        |  |  |   |                    |  |                               |             |  |  |                |   |   |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)  | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security  | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution I<br>if any<br>(Month/Day | Date, | 4.<br>Transa<br>Code (I<br>8) |  | of I   |  | 6. Date Exercisable a<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |   |                    | 7. Title and Amo<br>of Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Secu<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |                               |             | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5)                        | 9. Numbe<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficia<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transacti<br>(Instr. 4) | e<br>s<br>Illy | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4 | Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4)                             |
|  |  |  |   |       | Code                          | v  | (A)    |  | Date<br>Exercisabl   |   | expiration<br>pate | Title  | Amo<br>or<br>Nun<br>of<br>Sha |             |  |  |                |   |   |
| Employee<br>Stock<br>Option<br>(Right to   | \$62.63  | 02/26/2007                                 |   |       | A                             |  | 48,990 |  | (1)  | 0 | 2/26/2017          | Common<br>Stock  | 48,                           | 990         | \$0  | 48,99  | 0              | D   |   |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

1. The option vests in three equal annual installments beginning February 26, 2008.

## Remarks:

Joyce N. Hoffman, by Power of 02/28/2007 <u>Attorney</u>

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

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

- \* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.