Bowen William I. Jr. Form 4 May 17, 2018

FORM 4

OMB APPROVAL

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

Washington, D.C. 20549

January 31, Expires: 2005

Form 4 or Form 5

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

obligations may continue. See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person ** Bowen William I. Jr. | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | | |
|---|------------|----------|--|---|--|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) | | | Ameris Bancorp [ABCB] | (Check all applicable) | | |
| | | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction | | | |
| | | | (Month/Day/Year) | X Director 10% Owner | | |
| P.O. BOX 3668 | | | 05/16/2018 | Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) | | |
| | (Street) | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check | | |
| | | | Filed(Month/Day/Year) | Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person | | |
| MOULTRIE | , GA 31770 | 5 | | Form filed by More than One Reporting | | |

| (City) | (State) (Z | Zip) Table | e I - Non-D | erivative Secu | rities Ac | quired, Disposed | of, or Beneficia | lly Owned |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|-------------|---|------------|--|--|---|
| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | nsaction Date 2A. Deemed h/Day/Year) Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | | 3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (A) or | | 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) |
| Common Stock | 05/16/2018 | | Code V A | Amount (D 900 (1) A | Price \$ 0 | 11,415 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | 1,500 | I | Children |
| Common Stock | | | | | | 2,000 | I | Family Trust |

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

| 1. Title of | 2. | 3. Transaction Date | | 4. T | 5. | 6. Date Exer | | 7. Titl | | 8. Price of | 9. Nu |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------|------------|-------------|---------|
| Derivative | Conversion | (Month/Day/Year) | Execution Date, if | | ionNumber | Expiration D | | Amou | | Derivative | Deriv |
| Security | or Exercise | | any | Code | of | (Month/Day | (Year) | | rlying | Security | Secui |
| (Instr. 3) | Price of | | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | Derivativ | e | | Secur | ities | (Instr. 5) | Bene |
| | Derivative | | | | Securities | 3 | | (Instr. | . 3 and 4) | | Owne |
| | Security | | | | Acquired | | | | | | Follo |
| | Ť | | | | (A) or | | | | | | Repo |
| | | | | | Disposed | | | | | | Trans |
| | | | | | of (D) | | | | | | (Instr |
| | | | | | (Instr. 3, | | | | | | (211512 |
| | | | | | 4, and 5) | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 4, and 3) | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Amount | | |
| | | | | | | . | . | | or | | |
| | | | | | | Date | Expiration | Title | Number | | |
| | | | | | | Exercisable | Date | | of | | |
| | | | | Code V | (A) (D) | | | | Shares | | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|--|--|--|
| 1 | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | | |
| Bowen William I. Jr. | | | | | | | |
| P.O. BOX 3668 | X | | | | | | |
| MOULTRIE, GA 31776 | | | | | | | |

Signatures

William I. Bowen, by: Cindi H. Lewis 05/17/2018 attorney-in-fact

> **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).
- Restricted stock grant pursuant to the Ameris Bancorp 2014 Omnibus Equity Compensation Plan, vesting on the earlier of (i) May 16, 2019 and (ii) the date of the 2019 annual shareholder's meeting.

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.

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