FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| OMB APPROVAL      |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number:       | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated average | hurden    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

0.5

hours per response:

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

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

|  |   |  |                 |  |  |   | ` '                                     |      |  |         | ļ ,        |   |                        |   |   |                                   |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|-----------------|--|--|---|---|------|--|---------|------------|---|------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Name and Address of Reporting Person*     Bhalla Anant   |   |  |                 | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [ AEL ] |  |   |   |      |  |         |            | (Ch   | eck all app<br>X Direc | ationship of Reporti<br>k all applicable)<br>Director |   | 10% O                             | wner  |  |  |
| (Last)<br>6000 WI  | ,   | (First) (Middle) N PARKWAY                 |                 |  |  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 07/27/2023 |   |      |  |         |            |   |                        |   |   | Officer (give title below)  CEO & |   | Other (<br>below)<br>ident   | specify  |
| (Street) WEST I  | IA  | . 5  | 50266           |  |  | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)    |   |      |  |         |            |   |                        |   | Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicate)  X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |                                   |   |  | son  |
| (City)   | (City) (State) (Zip)  |  |                 |  | Rule   | Rule 10b5-1(c) Transaction Indication                       |   |      |  |         |            |   |                        |   |   |                                   |   |  |  |
|  |   |  |                 |  | Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10. |   |   |      |  |         |            |   |                        |   |   |                                   |   |  |  |
|  |   | Table                                      | I - No          | n-Derivat  | ive S  | ecur  | ities                                   | Acq  | uired,   | Dis     | posed of   | , or  | Ben                    | eficia  | ally Owr  | ned                               |   |  |  |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transaction Date (Month/Day)   |   |  |                 | Execution Da   |  | ate,  | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8) |      | 4. Securities Acquired (ADisposed Of (D) (Instr. 35)                                       |         |            | (A) or<br>3, 4 an   |                        | cially<br>1   | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or<br>Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 4)  | m: Direct<br>or<br>rect (I)       | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |  |  |
|  |   |  |                 |  |  |   |   | Code | v  | Amount  | ( <i>A</i> | A) or<br>D)   | Price                  |   |   |                                   |   |  |  |
| Common Stock 07/27/2   |   |  |                 | 07/27/20   | 023  |   |   |      | F  | F 65,58 |            | .)  | D                      | \$50  | 1,1   | 1,129,217                         |   | D  |  |
| Common Stock 07/27   |   |  |                 | 07/27/20   | .023   |   |   |      | D  |         | 101,083    | (2)   | D                      | \$50  | 1,0   | 1,028,134                         |   | D  |  |
| Common Stock   |   |  |                 |  |  |   |   |      |  |         |            |   | 2,                     | 2,075 <sup>(3)</sup>                                  |   |                                   | By<br>ESOP  |  |  |
| 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) | Execu<br>if any | eemed<br>Ition Date,<br>h/Day/Year)  | 4.<br>Transac<br>Code (I<br>8)   |   |   |      | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)  Date Expiration Exercisable Date |         |            | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and or Numb of Title Share |                        | d 4)  | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) Beneficia Owned Following Reported Transacti (Instr. 4)                                    |                                   | у   | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |

## Explanation of Responses:

- 1. Tax withholding on vesting of cash-payable restricted stock units.
- 2. Vesting of cash-payable restricted stock units, net of tax withholding.
- 3. Reflects ESOP allocations that have occurred since the date of the reporting person's last ownership report.

## Remarks:

/s/ Mark A. Schuman, authorized signer 08/01/2023

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

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.