

FORM 3**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF
SECURITIES****OMB APPROVAL**

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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* <u>Hamalainen James Louis</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY</u> (Street) <u>WEST DES MOINES IA 50266</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/01/2020</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [AEL]</u> 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>EVP & CCSO, AEILIC</u> 5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person	
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Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	13,920	D	
Series A Preferred Stock	2,000	D	

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Options - Right to Buy	07/07/2023	07/07/2030	Common Stock	36,249	21.98	D	
Options - Right to Buy	11/19/2021 ⁽¹⁾	11/19/2030	Common Stock	99,129	27.05	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Fifty percent (50%) of the Option Award granted vests upon the later of: (i) the Company attaining a \$37.00 per share common stock price (based on a 30-day trading average); and (ii) the one year anniversary of the Grant Date. The remaining fifty percent (50%) of the Option Award vests on the one year anniversary of the vesting of the initial fifty percent (50%) of the Option Award. If the Company does not achieve the \$37 per share common stock price on or before the fifth anniversary of the Grant Date, the Option Award shall be forfeited.

Remarks:

Renee D. Montz, by Power of Attorney 12/03/2020

** 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 5 (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.