

Markert Thomas Edward  
 Form 4  
 May 12, 2009

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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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 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 \*  
 Markert Thomas Edward

(Last) (First) (Middle)

16204 ANDALUCIA LANE

(Street)

DELRAY BEACH, FL 33446

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

State Auto Financial CORP [STFC]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

05/08/2009

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)

Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Code V Amount (D) Price		

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

**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	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	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
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Derivative Security			(A) or Disposed of (D)		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
			(A)	(D)				
Restricted Stock Units	(1)	05/08/2009	A	1,850	(2)	(2)	Common Stock	1,850

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Markert Thomas Edward 16204 ANDALUCIA LANE DELRAY BEACH, FL 33446		X		

## Signatures

Thomas E. Markert by James A. Yano, attorney in fact pursuant to a POA filed with the Commission 5-8-07

05/12/2009

\_\_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) Each restricted share unit represents a right to receive one share of STFC common stock.
- (2) The Restricted Share Units become payable, in cash or common shares, at the election of the reporting person, upon the reporting person's termination of services as a director.
- (3) Includes restricted share units previously granted under Outside Directors Restricted Share Unit Plan and restricted share units credited with dividends, equivalent in value to those declared and paid on one share of STFC common stock; 25.045 shares acquired on 3/31/09.

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.