

FIRST BANCSHARES INC /MS/

Form 4

February 03, 2017

**FORM 4****UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

## OMB APPROVAL

OMB  
Number: 3235-0287  
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2005  
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response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
COLE M RAY JR

(Last) (First) (Middle)

8 AUBURN LANE

(Street)

HATTIESBURG, MS 39402

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading  
Symbol  
FIRST BANCSHARES INC /MS/  
[FBMS]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
02/01/2017

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)

PRESIDENT AND CEO

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<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired<br>or Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)<br>(A)<br>or<br>(D) | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I)<br>(Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COMMON<br>STOCK <sup>(1)</sup>        | 02/01/2017                              |                                                             | A                                    | 10,717                                                                                  | A \$ 0                                                                                                             | 75,853                                                                  | D                                                                 |
| COMMON<br>STOCK                       | 02/01/2017                              |                                                             | F                                    | 2,567                                                                                   | D \$<br>27.65                                                                                                      | 73,286 <sup>(2)</sup>                                                   | D                                                                 |

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of  
information contained in this form are not  
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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

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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<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number<br>of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed<br>of (D)<br>(Instr. 3,<br>4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Underlying<br>Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Nu<br>Deriv<br>Secur<br>Benef<br>Own<br>Follo<br>Repor<br>Trans<br>(Instr |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                     |                                                                    |                                         |                                                             | Code                                 | V (A) (D)                                                                                                          | Date<br>Exercisable                                            | Expiration<br>Date                                                        | Title                                               | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares                                       |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                          | Relationships                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                                         | Director 10% Owner Officer Other |
| COLE M RAY JR<br>8 AUBURN LANE<br>HATTIESBURG, MS 39402 | X<br>PRESIDENT AND CEO           |

## Signatures

M. Ray Cole, Jr. 02/03/2017  
 \_\_Signature of Date  
 Reporting Person

## 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) Restricted stock grant, subject to forfeiture, vesting on 2-1-2022.

Includes 5,535 shares of restricted stock (remaining after 2,567 shares were surrendered for taxes) that were granted on 2-1-14 and vested on 2-1-17. Mr. Cole's shares that have vested are no longer subject to delivery restrictions that were formerly required pursuant to the company's participation in the U.S. Treasury's Troubled Asset Relief Program. As of Dec. 6, 2016, the company no longer participates in the TARP Program.

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.