

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31, 2005
Estimated average burden
hours per response.....0.5

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Check this box if no longer
subject to Section 16. Form 4 or
Form 5 obligations may continue.
See Instruction 1(b).

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. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Richard F. LaRoche, Jr. 2103 Shannon Drive Murfreesboro TN 37129 | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol National Health Investors, Inc. [NHI] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) Secretary |
| | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction Required to be Reported (Month/Day/Year) 12/28/2004 | |
| | 4. If amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> 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 (mm/dd/yy) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (mm/dd/yy) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, & 5) | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3, & 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|------------------|---------|--|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock in my name and my wife's name | | | | | | | | 900 | D | |
| Common Stock by LaRoche Family L.P. | | | | | | | | 54,898 | I | Family Partnership |
| Common Stock by Trustee of G.R.A.T. | | | | | | | | 32,951 | I | Trustee |
| Common Stock by LaRoche Enterprises | 12/28/2004 | | M | | 6,895 | A | \$14.50 | 449,414 | D | |
| Common Stock by IRA | | | | | | | | 8,208 | D | |

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).

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 control number.

Form 4 (cont.)
 Name and Address of Reporting Person
 Richard F. LaRoche, Jr.
 2103 Shannon Drive
 Murfreesboro TN 37129

Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 National Health Investors, Inc. [NHI]

Period Of Report
 12/28/2004

**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 Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (mm/dd/yy) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (mm/dd/yy) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 5. No. of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, & 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (mm/dd/yy) | | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 & 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. No. of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3, & 4) | 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Securities: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|-------|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$14.50 | 12/28/2004 | | M | | | 6,895 | 10/27/1999 | 10/26/2005 | Common Stock | 20,000 | \$14.50 | 13,105 | D | |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$16.35 | | | | | | | 04/24/2003 | 04/23/2008 | Common Stock | 15,000 | | 15,000 | D | |
| Option to Purchase Common Stock | \$23.90 | | | | | | | 04/20/2004 | 04/19/2009 | Common Stock | 15,000 | | 15,000 | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

By: Richard F. LaRoche, Jr.
 **Signature of Reporting Person

12/28/2004
 Date

**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 control number.