

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

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>Port Barry</u> _____ (Last) (First) (Middle) 27101 PUERTA REAL, SUITE 450 _____ (Street) MISSION VIEJO CA 92691 _____ (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>ENSIGN GROUP, INC [ENSG]</u>	5. 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>Vice President</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>02/15/2018</u>	
		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 (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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	02/15/2018		M		1,510	A	\$7.96	122,467	D	
Common Stock	02/15/2018		S ⁽¹⁾		1,510	D	\$26.0218 ⁽²⁾	120,957	D	
Common Stock	02/15/2018		M		15,445	A	\$7.86	136,402	D	
Common Stock	02/15/2018		S ⁽¹⁾		15,445	D	\$26.1004 ⁽³⁾	120,957	D	
Common Stock	02/16/2018		M		2,885	A	\$7.86	123,842	D	
Common Stock	02/16/2018		S ⁽¹⁾		2,885	D	\$26.211 ⁽⁴⁾	120,957	D	

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 (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$7.96	02/15/2018		M			1,510	10/31/2013 ⁽⁵⁾	10/31/2022	Common Stock	1,510	\$0	0	D	
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$7.86	02/15/2018		M			15,445	07/26/2013 ⁽⁶⁾	07/26/2022	Common Stock	15,445	\$0	2,885	D	
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$7.86	02/16/2018		M			2,885	07/26/2013 ⁽⁶⁾	07/26/2022	Common Stock	2,885	\$0	0	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- The transactions reported in this Form 4 were effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted on December 11, 2017.
- This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$26.00 to \$26.09. The price above reflects the weighted average sale price. The reporting person hereby undertakes to provide upon request by the commission staff, the issuer, or a security holder of the issuer, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price.
- This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$26.00 to 26.22. The price above reflects the weighted average sale price. The reporting person hereby undertakes to provide upon request by the commission staff, the issuer, or a security holder of the issuer, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price.

4. This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$26.00 to \$26.45. The price above reflects the weighted average sale price. The reporting person hereby undertakes to provide upon request by the commission staff, the issuer, or a security holder of the issuer, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price.
5. The option, representing a right to purchase a total of 7,332 shares, was granted on October 31, 2012 and became exercisable in five equal annual installments beginning on October 31, 2013, which was the first anniversary of the date on which the option was granted.
6. The option, representing a right to purchase a total of 18,330 shares, was granted on July 26, 2012 and became exercisable in five equal annual installments beginning on July 26, 2013, which was the first anniversary of the date on which the option was granted.

Remarks:

/s/ Chad A. Keetch, as power 02/20/2018
of attorney

** 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.

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