

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

( ) Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person

MURPHY, MICHAEL E  
20 SOUTH CLARK STREET SUITE 2222  
CHICAGO, IL 60603  
USA

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INC.  
BSET

3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)

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4. Statement for Month/Year

MAY 26, 1999

5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)

6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)

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

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

(X) 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	2. Transaction Date	3. Transaction Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6. Director (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership	
			Amount	A/D	Price			Indir	Direct
COMMON STOCK	5-17-99	J*	V	216	A	20.25	2,907	D	
*STOCK AWARDED IN LIEU OF CASH--BOARD OF DIRECTORS FEE									

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	10. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership	
									Indir	Direct
*OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)	27.75				5-07-98	11-06-07	COMMON	2,500	2,500	D
*OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)	30.75				10-01-98	3-31-08	COMMON	1,000	1,000	D
*OPTION (RIGHT TO BUY)	23.00				10-01-99	3-31-09	COMMON	1000	1000	D

Explanation of Responses:

\*GRANTED UNDER THE 1993 STOCK PLAN FOR NON-EMPLOYEE

DIRECTORS.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

MICHAEL E MURPHY

DATE

MAY 26, 1999