

☐ 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

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>COOPER JOE R</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>300 PHILLIPI ROAD</u> (Street) <u>COLUMBUS OH 43228</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>BIG LOTS INC [BLI]</u> 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>02/19/2004</u> 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) <u>02/20/2004</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>Senior Vice President & CFO</u> 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
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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	02/19/2004 ⁽¹⁾		A ⁽¹⁾		289 ⁽¹⁾	A	\$0 ⁽¹⁾	518 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	I	By 401(k) Plan

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	Amount or Number of Shares				
Phantom Stock Units	⁽³⁾	02/19/2004		A		236 ⁽⁴⁾		⁽⁵⁾	⁽⁶⁾	Common Stock	236	\$15.06 ⁽⁷⁾	1,156	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. On February 19, 2004, the reporting person acquired 289 shares of common stock under the Big Lots, Inc. Savings Plan and Trust (the "401(k) Plan") as a result of the matching contribution by Big Lots, Inc. in the form of shares contemplated by the terms of the 401(k) Plan.
2. The reporting person also holds 1,000 shares of common stock directly.
3. One-for-one
4. The reported phantom stock units were acquired under the Big Lots, Inc. Supplemental Savings Plan as a result of the matching contribution by Big Lots, Inc. in the form of shares as contemplated by the terms of the Supplemental Savings Plan.
5. Immediately
6. Not applicable.
7. Represents market value per share of Big Lots, Inc.'s common stock on the date the matching contribution was calculated.

Remarks:

Charles W. Haubiel II, attorney 03/04/2004
in fact for Joe R. Cooper

** 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.

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 Number.