

HEALTH CARE REIT INC /DE/  
Form 8-K  
October 30, 2009

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 8-K  
CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of  
The Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) October 29, 2009  
Health Care REIT, Inc.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**1-8923**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**34-1096634**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**One SeaGate, Suite 1500, Toledo, Ohio**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**43604**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (419) 247-2800

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
-

**Item 5.02 *Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.***

On October 29, 2009, George L. Chapman, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Health Care REIT, Inc. (the Company), exercised his option to extend the term of his employment agreement with the Company for an additional year. The agreement will now expire on January 31, 2011.

The foregoing description of certain terms of the agreement does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the agreement, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 10.6 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and is incorporated in this Item 5.02 by reference.

---

**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

HEALTH CARE REIT, INC.

By: /s/ GEORGE L. CHAPMAN

George L. Chapman

Its: Chairman of the Board, Chief

Executive Officer and President

Dated: October 30, 2009