

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

DONEGAL GROUP INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

23-2424711
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1195 River Road
Marietta, Pennsylvania
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

17547
(Zip Code)

DONEGAL GROUP INC.
1996 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN
(Full title of the plan)

Donald H. Nikolaus, President
Donegal Group Inc.
1195 River Road
Marietta, Pennsylvania 17547
(Name and address of agent for service)

(717) 426-1931
(Telephone number, including area code,
of agent for service)

Copy to:
Kathleen M. Shay, Esquire
Duane, Morris & Heckscher
One Liberty Place
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7396

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of securities to be registered | Amount to be registered(1) | Proposed maximum offering price per share(2) | Proposed maximum aggregate offering price(2) | Amount of registration fee |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| Common Stock, par value \$1.00 | 345,850 shares | \$17.41 | \$6,021,248.50 | \$2,077 |

(1) In addition, pursuant to Rule 416(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement also covers an indeterminate amount of interests to be offered or sold pursuant to the Donegal Group Inc. 1996 Equity Incentive Plan.

(2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee based on the average of the high and low sales prices of the Common Stock of the Company on the Nasdaq Stock Market on June 17, 1996, or \$17.41 per share.

DONEGAL GROUP INC.

Cross-Reference Sheet
Pursuant to Item 501(b) of Regulation S-K

| Item Number and Caption ----- | Heading in Prospectus ----- |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Plan Information..... | * |
| 2. Registrant Information and Employee Plan Annual Information..... | * |

* Omitted because no Prospectus is being filed herewith. All information required in the Section 10(a) Prospectus will be furnished to plan participants pursuant to a memorandum or other plan documents, as supplemented or amended from time to time.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following material is incorporated herein by reference:

(a) The Annual Report on Form 10-K of Donegal Group Inc. (the "Company") for the year ended December 31, 1995 as filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission").

(b) The Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of the Company for the quarter ended March 31, 1996 as filed by the Company with the Commission.

(c) The description of the Company's Common Stock set forth in the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, (the "Act") on October 29, 1986 under the caption "Description of Capital Stock," "Dividend Policy" and "Business--Regulation," which is incorporated by reference in response to Item 1 of the Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed by the Company with the Commission on January 27, 1987 pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, (the "Exchange Act").

All reports or other documents filed pursuant to Sections 13, 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act subsequent to the date of this Registration Statement, in each case filed by the Company prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment that indicates that all securities offered have been sold or that deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such reports and documents. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated herein by reference shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for the purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document, which also is or is deemed to be incorporated herein by reference, modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

No answer to this item is required because the class of securities to be offered is registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

The consolidated financial statements and schedules of the Company as of December 31, 1995 and 1994 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 1995 have

been incorporated by reference herein and in this Registration Statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG Peat Marwick LLP, independent certified public accountants, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing. Such reports refer to a change in the Company's method of accounting for investment securities by adopting the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 115 "Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities."

The validity of the issuance of the shares of Common Stock registered hereby will be passed upon for the Company by Duane, Morris & Heckscher, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 145 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware empowers a Delaware corporation to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe such person's conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, does not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that such person's conduct was unlawful.

In the case of an action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor, Section 145 empowers a corporation to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by reason of the fact that such person is or was acting in any of the capacities set forth above against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, except that indemnification is not permitted in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person is adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought determines upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court deems proper.

Section 145 further provides: that a Delaware corporation is required to indemnify a director, officer, employee or agent against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with any action, suit or proceeding or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein as to which such person has been successful on the merits or otherwise; that indemnification provided for by Section 145 shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the indemnified party may be entitled; that indemnification provided for by Section 145 shall, unless otherwise provided when authorized or ratified, continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of such person's heirs, executors and administrators; and empowers the corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of a director or officer against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity or arising out of such person's status as such whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability under Section 145. A Delaware corporation may provide indemnification only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the director, officer, employee or agent is proper in the circumstances because such person has met the applicable standard of conduct. Such determination is to be made (i) by the board of directors by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not party to such action, suit or proceeding, or (ii) if such a quorum is not obtainable, or, even if obtainable, a quorum of disinterested directors so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion or (iii) by the stockholders.

Article Five of the Company's By-laws provides for indemnification of directors and officers of the Company to the fullest extent permitted by the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, as presently or hereafter in effect. The By-laws of Donegal Mutual Insurance Company also provide that Donegal Mutual Insurance Company shall indemnify to the full extent authorized by law any director or officer of Donegal Mutual Insurance Company who is made, or threatened to be made, a party to any action or proceeding, whether criminal, civil, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that he is or was serving as a director, officer or employee of the Company at the request of Donegal Mutual Insurance Company.

The Company provides liability insurance for directors and officers for certain losses arising from claims or charges made against them while acting in their capacities as directors or officers of the Company up to an aggregate of \$5,000,000 inclusive of defense costs, expenses and charges.

Additionally, as permitted by the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, Article Six of the Company's Certificate of Incorporation provides that no director of the Company shall incur personal liability to the Company or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of such person's fiduciary duty as a director; provided, however, that the provision does not eliminate or limit the liability of a director for (i) any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Company or its stockholders; (ii) acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law; (iii) the unlawful payment of dividends or unlawful purchase or redemption of stock under Section 174 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware; or (iv) any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

No answer to this item is required because no restricted securities are to be reoffered or resold pursuant to this Registration Statement.

Item 8. Exhibits.

- (4) Donegal Group Inc. 1996 Equity Incentive Plan.
- (5) Opinion of Duane, Morris & Heckscher.
- (23)(A) Consent of Duane, Morris & Heckscher (included in their opinion filed as Exhibit 5).
- (23)(B) Consent of KPMG Peat Marwick LLP.
- (24) Power of Attorney (see page II-6 of this Registration Statement).

Item 9. Undertakings.

The registrant hereby undertakes:

(a) to file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;

(b) that for the purpose of determining any liability under the Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offer thereof; and

(c) to remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

The undersigned registrant hereby further undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

The undersigned registrant hereby further undertakes that, insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such

indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in Marietta, Pennsylvania on June 20, 1996.

DONEGAL GROUP INC.

By: /s/ DONALD H. NIKOLAUS

Donald H. Nikolaus, President

Know all men by these presents, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Donald H. Nikolaus and Ralph G. Spontak, and each or either of them, as such person's true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution, for such person, and in such person's name, place and stead, in any and all capacities to sign any or all amendments or post-effective amendments to this Registration Statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as such person might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or any of them or their substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated.

| Signature ----- | Title ----- | Date ----- |
|---|--|---------------|
| /s/ C. Edwin Ireland ----- C. Edwin Ireland | Chairman of the Board and a Director | June 20, 1996 |
| /s/ Donald H. Nikolaus ----- Donald H. Nikolaus | President and a Director (principal executive officer) | June 20, 1996 |
| /s/ Ralph G. Spontak ----- Ralph G. Spontak | Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary (principal financial and accounting officer) | June 20, 1996 |
| /s/ Patricia A. Gilmartin ----- Patricia A. Gilmartin | Director | June 20, 1996 |

| Signature ----- | Title ----- | Date ----- |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| /s/ Philip H. Glatfelter, II ----- Philip H. Glatfelter, II | Director | June 20, 1996 |
| /s/ R. Richard Sherbahn ----- R. Richard Sherbahn | Director | June 20, 1996 |
| /s/ Thomas J. Finley, Jr. ----- Thomas J. Finley, Jr. | Director | June 20, 1996 |
| /s/ Robert S. Bolinger ----- Robert S. Bolinger | Director | June 20, 1996 |

EXHIBIT INDEX

(Pursuant to Item 601 of Regulation S-K)

| Exhibit No. ----- | Exhibit ----- | Reference ----- |
|----------------------|--|--------------------|
| (4) | Donegal Group Inc. 1996 Equity Incentive Plan | Filed herewith |
| (5) | Opinion of Duane, Morris & Heckscher. | Filed herewith |
| (23)(A) | Consent of Duane, Morris & Heckscher (included in their opinion filed as Exhibit 5). | |
| (23)(B) | Consent of KPMG Peat Marwick LLP. | Filed herewith |
| (24) | Power of Attorney (see Page II-6 of this Registration Statement). | |

EXHIBIT (4)

DONEGAL GROUP INC.

1996 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

1. Purpose. The purpose of the Donegal Group Inc. 1996 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan") is to further the growth, development and financial success of Donegal Group Inc. (the "Company"), its parent and the subsidiaries of the Company and its parent by providing additional incentives to those officers and key employees who are responsible for the management of the business affairs of the Company, its parent and/or subsidiaries of the Company or its parent, which will enable them to participate directly in the growth of the capital stock of the Company. The Company intends that the Plan will facilitate securing, retaining and motivating management employees of high caliber and potential. To accomplish these purposes, the Plan provides a means whereby management employees may receive stock options ("Options") to purchase the Company's Common Stock, \$1.00 par value (the "Common Stock").

2. Administration.

(a) Composition of the Committee. The Plan shall be administered by a committee of at least three persons (the "Committee") appointed by the Company's Board of Directors. No member of the Committee shall have been, or shall be, granted Options under the Plan, or options or other awards under any other plan of the Company or any of its affiliates, in the year preceding his appointment or while serving on the Committee, except for participation in any plan in which participation would be permitted in accordance with the applicable rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to disinterested administration under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). Subject to the foregoing, from time to time the Board of Directors may increase the size of the Committee and appoint additional members thereof, remove members (with or without cause) and appoint new members in substitution therefor, fill vacancies, however caused, or remove all members of the Committee and thereafter directly administer the Plan.

(b) Authority of the Committee. The Committee shall have full and final authority, in its sole discretion, to interpret the provisions of the Plan and to decide all questions of fact arising in its application; to determine the employees to whom Options shall be granted and the type, amount, size and terms of each such grant; to determine the time when Options shall be granted; and to make all other determinations necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan. All decisions, determinations and interpretations of the Committee shall be final and binding on all optionees and all other holders of Options granted under the Plan.

3. Stock Subject to the Plan. Subject to Section 16 hereof, the shares that may be issued under the Plan shall not exceed in the aggregate 345,850 shares of Common Stock. Such shares may be authorized and unissued shares or shares issued and subsequently reacquired by the Company. Except as otherwise provided herein, any shares subject to an Option that for any reason expires or is terminated unexercised as to such shares shall again be available under the Plan.

4. Eligibility To Receive Options. Persons eligible to receive Options under the Plan shall be limited to those officers and other key employees of the Company, its parent and any subsidiary of the Company or its parent (as defined in Section 425 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code") or any amendment or substitute thereto) who are in positions in which their decisions, actions and counsel significantly impact upon the profitability and success of the Company, its parent or any subsidiary of the Company or its parent. Directors of the Company who are not also officers or employees of the Company, its parent or any subsidiary of the Company or its parent shall not be eligible to participate in the Plan.

5. Types of Options. Grants may be made at any time and from time to time by the Committee in the form of stock options to purchase shares of Common Stock. Options granted hereunder may be Options that are intended to qualify as incentive stock options within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code or any amendment or substitute thereto ("Incentive Stock Options") or Options that are not intended to so qualify ("Nonqualified Stock Options").

6. Option Agreements. Options for the purchase of Common Stock shall be evidenced by written agreements in such form not inconsistent with the Plan as the Committee shall approve from time to time. The Options granted hereunder may be evidenced by a single agreement or by multiple agreements, as determined by the Committee in its sole discretion. Each option agreement shall contain in substance the following terms and conditions:

(a) Type of Option. Each option agreement shall identify the Options represented thereby either as Incentive Stock Options or Nonqualified Stock Options, as the case may be.

(b) Option Price. Each option agreement shall set forth the purchase price of the Common Stock purchasable upon the exercise of the Option evidenced thereby. Subject to the limitation set forth in Section 6(d)(ii) of the Plan, the purchase price of the Common Stock subject to an Incentive Stock Option shall be not less than 100% of the fair market value of such stock on the date the Option is granted, as determined by the Committee, but in no event less than the par value of such stock. The purchase price of the Common Stock subject to a Nonqualified Stock Option shall be not less than 100% of the fair market value of such stock on the date the Option is granted, as determined by the Committee. For this purpose, fair market value on any date shall mean the closing price of the Common Stock, as reported in The Wall Street Journal (or if not so reported, as otherwise reported by the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation ("Nasdaq") System), or if the Common Stock is not reported by Nasdaq, the fair market value shall be as determined by the Committee pursuant to Section 422 of the Code.

(c) Exercise Term. Each option agreement shall state the period or periods of time within which the Option may be exercised, in whole or in part, as determined by the Committee, provided that no Option shall be exercisable after ten years from the date of grant thereof. The Committee shall have the power to permit an acceleration of previously established exercise terms, subject to the requirements set forth herein, upon such circumstances and subject to such terms and conditions as the Committee deems appropriate.

(d) Incentive Stock Options. In the case of an Incentive Stock Option, each option agreement shall contain such other terms, conditions and provisions as the Committee determines to be necessary or desirable in order to qualify such Option as a tax-favored Option (within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code or any amendment or substitute thereto or regulation thereunder) including without limitation, each of the following, except that any of these provisions may be omitted or modified if it is no longer required in order to have an Option qualify as a tax-favored Option within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code or any amendment or substitute therefor:

(i) The aggregate fair market value (determined as of the date the Option is granted) of the Common Stock with respect to which Incentive Stock Options are first exercisable by any employee during any calendar year (under all plans of the Company) shall not exceed \$100,000.

(ii) No Incentive Stock Options shall be granted to any employee if at the time the Option is granted such employee owns stock possessing more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or its subsidiaries unless at the time such Option is granted the Option price is at least 110% of the fair market value of the stock subject to the Option and, by its terms, the Option is not exercisable after the expiration of five years from the date of grant.

(iii) No Incentive Stock Options shall be exercisable more than three months (or one year, in the case of an employee who dies or becomes disabled within the meaning of Section 22(e)(3) of the Code or any amendment or substitute therefor) after termination of employment.

(e) Substitution of Options. Options may be granted under the Plan from time to time in substitution for stock options held by employees of other corporations who are about to become, and who do concurrently with the grant of such options become, employees of the Company, its parent or a subsidiary of the Company or its parent as a result of a merger or consolidation of the employing corporation with the Company, its parent or a subsidiary of the Company or its parent, or the acquisition by the Company, its parent or a subsidiary of the Company or its parent of the assets of the employing corporation, or the acquisition by the Company, its parent or a subsidiary of the Company or its parent of stock of the employing corporation. The terms and conditions of the substitute options so granted may vary from the terms and conditions set forth in this Section 6 to such extent as the Committee at the time of grant may deem appropriate to conform, in whole or in part, to the provisions of the stock options in substitution for which they are granted.

7. Date of Grant. The date on which an Option shall be deemed to have been granted under the Plan shall be the date of the Committee's authorization of the Option or such later date as may be determined by the Committee at the time the Option is authorized. Notice of the determination shall be given to each individual to whom an Option is so granted within a reasonable time after the date of such grant.

8. Exercise and Payment for Shares. Options may be exercised in whole or in part, from time to time, by giving written notice of exercise to the Secretary of the Company, specifying the number of shares to be purchased, except that no Option may be exercised in whole or in part during the first six months after such Option is granted unless expressly permitted by the Committee. The purchase price of the shares with respect to which an Option is exercised shall be payable in full with the notice of exercise in cash, Common Stock at fair market value, or a combination thereof, as the Committee may determine from time to time and subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Committee for such purpose. The Committee may also, in its discretion and subject to prior notification to the Company by an optionee, permit an optionee to enter into an agreement with the Company's transfer agent or a brokerage firm of national standing whereby the optionee will simultaneously exercise the option and sell the shares acquired thereby through the Company's transfer agent or such a brokerage firm and either the Company's transfer agent or the brokerage firm executing the sale will remit to the Company from the proceeds of sale the exercise price of the shares as to which the option has been exercised.

9. Rights upon Termination of Employment. In the event that an optionee ceases to be an employee of the Company, its parent or any subsidiary of the Company or its parent for any reason other than death, retirement, as hereinafter defined, or disability (within the meaning of Section 22(e)(3) of the Code or any substitute therefor), the optionee shall have the right to exercise the Option during its term within a period of three months after such termination to the extent that the Option was exercisable at the time of termination, or within such other period, and subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified by the Committee. In the event that an optionee dies, retires or becomes disabled prior to the expiration of his Option and without having fully exercised his Option, the optionee or his successor shall have the right to exercise the Option during its term within a period of one year after termination of employment due to death, retirement or disability to the extent that the Option was exercisable at the time of termination, or within such other period, and subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified by the Committee. As used in this Section 9, "retirement" means a termination of employment by reason of an optionee's retirement at or after his earliest permissible retirement date pursuant to and in accordance with his employer's regular retirement plan or personnel practices. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6(d)(iii) hereof, if the term of an Incentive Stock Option continues for more than three months after termination of employment due to retirement or more than one year after termination of employment due to death or disability, such Option shall thereupon lose its status as an Incentive Stock Option and shall be treated as a Nonqualified Stock Option.

10. General Restrictions. Each Option granted under the Plan shall be subject to the requirement that if at any time the Committee shall determine that (i) the listing, registration or qualification of the shares of Common Stock subject or related thereto upon any securities exchange or under any state or federal law, or (ii) the consent or approval of any government regulatory body, or (iii) an agreement by the recipient of an Option with respect to the disposition of shares of Common Stock is necessary or desirable as a condition of or in connection with the granting of such Option or the issuance or purchase of shares of Common Stock thereunder, such Option shall not be consummated in whole or in part unless such listing, registration, qualification,

consent, approval or agreement shall have been effected or obtained free of any conditions not acceptable to the Committee.

11. Rights of a Stockholder. The recipient of any Option under the Plan, unless otherwise provided by the Plan, shall have no rights as a stockholder unless and until certificates for shares of Common Stock are issued and delivered to him.

12. Right to Terminate Employment. Nothing contained in the Plan or in any option agreement entered into pursuant to the Plan shall confer upon any optionee the right to continue in the employment of the Company, its parent or any subsidiary of the Company or its parent or affect any right that the Company, its parent or any subsidiary of the Company or its parent may have to terminate the employment of such optionee.

13. Withholding. Whenever the Company proposes or is required to issue or transfer shares of Common Stock under the Plan, the Company shall have the right to require the recipient to remit to the Company an amount sufficient to satisfy any federal, state or local withholding tax requirements prior to the delivery of any certificate or certificates for such shares. If and to the extent authorized by the Committee, in its sole discretion, an optionee may make an election, by means of a form of election to be prescribed by the Committee, to have shares of Common Stock that are acquired upon exercise of an Option withheld by the Company or to tender other shares of Common Stock or other securities of the Company owned by the optionee to the Company at the time of exercise of an Option to pay the amount of tax that would otherwise be required by law to be withheld by the Company as a result of any exercise of an Option. Any such election shall be irrevocable and shall be subject to termination by the Committee, in its sole discretion, at any time. Any securities so withheld or tendered will be valued by the Committee as of the date of exercise.

14. Non-Assignability. No Option under the Plan shall be assignable or transferable by the recipient thereof except by will or by the laws of descent and distribution or by such other means as the Committee may approve. During the life of the recipient, such Option shall be exercisable only by such person or by such person's guardian or legal representative.

15. Non-Uniform Determinations. The Committee's determinations under the Plan (including without limitation determinations of the persons to receive Options, the form, amount and timing of such grants, the terms and provisions of Options, and the agreements evidencing same) need not be uniform and may be made selectively among persons who receive, or are eligible to receive, grants of Options under the Plan whether or not such persons are similarly situated.

16. Adjustments.

(a) Changes in Capitalization. Subject to any required action by the stockholders of the Company, the number of shares of Common Stock covered by each outstanding Option and the number of shares of Common Stock that have been authorized for issuance under the Plan but as to which no Options have yet been granted or which have been returned to the Plan upon

cancellation or expiration of an Option, as well as the price per share of Common Stock covered by each such outstanding Option, shall be proportionately adjusted for any increase or decrease in the number of issued shares of Common Stock resulting from a stock split, reverse stock split, stock dividend, combination or reclassification of the Common Stock, or any other increase or decrease in the number of issued shares of Common Stock effected without receipt of consideration by the Company; provided, however, that conversion of any convertible securities of the Company shall not be deemed to have been "effected without receipt of consideration." Such adjustment shall be made by the Committee, whose determination in that respect shall be final, binding and conclusive. Except as expressly provided herein, no issuance by the Company of shares of stock of any class, or securities convertible into shares of stock of any class, shall affect, and no adjustment by reason thereof shall be made with respect to, the number or price of shares of Common Stock subject to an Option.

(b) Dissolution or Liquidation. In the event of the proposed dissolution or liquidation of the Company, all outstanding Options will terminate immediately prior to the consummation of such proposed action, unless otherwise provided by the Committee. The Committee may, in the exercise of its sole discretion in such instances, declare that any Option shall terminate as of a date fixed by the Committee and give each Option holder the right to exercise his Option as to all or any part of the shares of Common Stock covered by the Option, including shares as to which the Option would not otherwise be exercisable.

(c) Sale or Merger. In the event of a proposed sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company, or the merger of the Company with or into another corporation, the Committee, in the exercise of its sole discretion, may take such action as it deems desirable, including, but not limited to: (i) causing an Option to be assumed or an equivalent option to be substituted by such successor corporation or a parent or subsidiary of such successor corporation, (ii) providing that each Option holder shall have the right to exercise his Option as to all of the shares of Common Stock covered by the Option, including shares as to which the Option would not otherwise be exercisable, or (iii) declare that an Option shall terminate at a date fixed by the Committee provided that the Option holder is given notice and opportunity to exercise his Option prior to such date.

17. Amendment. The Committee may terminate or amend the Plan at any time, except that without stockholder approval the Committee may not (i) materially increase the maximum number of shares that may be issued under the Plan (other than increases pursuant to Section 16 hereof), (ii) materially increase the benefits accruing to participants under the Plan or (iii) materially modify the requirements as to eligibility for participation in the Plan. The termination or any modification or amendment of the Plan shall not, without the consent of a participant, affect his rights under an Option previously granted.

18. Reservation of Shares. The Company, during the term of the Plan, will at all times reserve and keep available such number of shares as shall be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Plan. Inability of the Company to obtain authority from any regulatory body having jurisdiction, which authority is deemed by the Company's counsel to be necessary to the lawful

issuance and sale of any shares hereunder, shall relieve the Company of any liability for the failure to issue or sell such shares as to which such requisite authority shall not have been obtained.

19. Effect on Other Plans. Participation in the Plan shall not affect an employee's eligibility to participate in any other benefit or incentive plan of the Company, its parent or any subsidiary of the Company or its parent. Any Options granted pursuant to the Plan shall not be used in determining the benefits provided under any other plan of the Company, its parent or any subsidiary of the Company or its parent unless specifically provided.

20. Duration of the Plan. The Plan shall remain in effect until all Options granted under the Plan have been satisfied by the issuance of shares, but no Option shall be granted more than ten years after the earlier of the date the Plan is adopted by the Company or is approved by the Company's stockholders.

21. Forfeiture for Dishonesty. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Plan, if the Committee finds, by a majority vote, after full consideration of the facts presented on behalf of both the Company and any optionee, that the optionee has been engaged in fraud, embezzlement, theft, commission of a felony or dishonest conduct in the course of his employment or retention by the Company, its parent or any subsidiary of the Company or its parent that damaged the Company, its parent or any subsidiary of the Company or its parent or that the optionee has disclosed confidential information of the Company, its parent or any subsidiary of the Company or its parent, the optionee shall forfeit all unexercised Options and all exercised Options under which the Company has not yet delivered the certificates. The decision of the Committee in interpreting and applying the provisions of this Section 21 shall be final. No decision of the Committee, however, shall affect the finality of the discharge or termination of such optionee by the Company, its parent or any subsidiary of the Company or its parent in any manner.

22. No Prohibition on Corporate Action. No provision of the Plan shall be construed to prevent the Company or any officer or director thereof from taking any action deemed by the Company or such officer or director to be appropriate or in the Company's best interest, whether or not such action could have an adverse effect on the Plan or any Options granted hereunder, and no optionee or optionee's estate, personal representative or beneficiary shall have any claim against the Company or any officer or director thereof as a result of the taking of such action.

23. Indemnification. With respect to the administration of the Plan, the Company shall indemnify each present and future member of the Committee and the Board of Directors against, and each member of the Committee and the Board of Directors shall be entitled without further action on his part to indemnity from the Company for, all expenses (including the amount of judgments and the amount of approved settlements made with a view to the curtailment of costs of litigation, other than amounts paid to the Company itself) reasonably incurred by him in connection with or arising out of, any action, suit or proceeding in which he may be involved by reason of his being or having been a member of the Committee or the Board of Directors, whether or not he continues to be such member at the time of incurring such expenses; provided, however, that such indemnity shall not include any expenses incurred by any such member of the Committee or the Board of Directors (i) in respect of matters as to which he shall be finally

adjudged in any such action, suit or proceeding to have been guilty of gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of his duty as such member of the Committee or the Board of Directors; or (ii) in respect of any matter in which any settlement is effected for an amount in excess of the amount approved by the Company on the advice of its legal counsel; and provided further that no right of indemnification under the provisions set forth herein shall be available to or enforceable by any such member of the Committee or the Board of Directors unless, within 60 days after institution of any such action, suit or proceeding, he shall have offered the Company in writing the opportunity to handle and defend same at its own expense. The foregoing right of indemnification shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors or administrators of each such member of the Committee or the Board of Directors and shall be in addition to all other rights to which such member may be entitled as a matter of law, contract or otherwise.

24. Miscellaneous Provisions.

(a) Compliance with Plan Provisions. No optionee or other person shall have any right with respect to the Plan, the Common Stock reserved for issuance under the Plan or in any Option until a written option agreement shall have been executed by the Company and the optionee and all the terms, conditions and provisions of the Plan and the Option applicable to such optionee (and each person claiming under or through him) have been met.

(b) Approval of Counsel. In the discretion of the Committee, no shares of Common Stock, other securities or property of the Company or other forms of payment shall be issued hereunder with respect to any Option unless counsel for the Company shall be satisfied that such issuance will be in compliance with applicable federal, state, local and foreign legal, securities exchange and other applicable requirements.

(c) Compliance with Rule 16b-3. To the extent that Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act applies to Options granted under the Plan, it is the intent of the Company that the Plan comply in all respects with the requirements of Rule 16b-3, that any ambiguities or inconsistencies in construction of the Plan be interpreted to give effect to such intention and that if the Plan shall not so comply, whether on the date of adoption or by reason of any later amendment to or interpretation of Rule 16b-3, the provisions of the Plan shall be deemed to be automatically amended so as to bring them into full compliance with such rule.

(d) Effects of Acceptance of Option. By accepting any Option or other benefit under the Plan, each optionee and each person claiming under or through him shall be conclusively deemed to have indicated his acceptance and ratification of, and consent to, any action taken under the Plan by the Company, the Board of Directors and/or the Committee or its delegates.

(e) Construction. The masculine pronoun shall include the feminine and neuter, and the singular shall include the plural, where the context so indicates.

25. Stockholder Approval. The exercise of any Option granted under the Plan shall be subject to the approval of the Plan by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the

outstanding shares of the Common Stock present, or represented, and entitled to vote at a meeting duly held.

EXHIBIT (5)

June 20, 1996

The Board of Directors of
Donegal Group Inc.
1195 River Road
Marietta, PA 17547

Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Donegal Group Inc. (the "Company") in connection with the preparation and filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, of a registration statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") relating to the offer and sale by the Company of up to 345,850 shares (the "Shares") of Common Stock, \$1.00 par value, of the Company, pursuant to the Company's 1996 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan").

As counsel to the Company, we have supervised all corporate proceedings in connection with the preparation and filing of the Registration Statement. We have also examined the Company's Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws, as amended to date, the corporate minutes and other proceedings and the records relating to the authorization, sale and issuance of the Shares, and such other documents and matters of law as we have deemed necessary or appropriate in order to render this opinion.

Based upon the foregoing, it is our opinion that each of the Shares, when issued in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Plan, will be duly authorized, legally and validly issued and outstanding, fully paid and nonassessable.

We hereby consent to the use of this opinion in the Registration Statement.

Sincerely,

Duane, Morris & Heckscher

KMS/ccc

Independent Auditors' Consent

The Board of Directors
Donegal Group Inc.

We consent to the use of our reports incorporated herein by reference and to the reference to our firm under the heading "Experts" in the registration statement.

Our reports refer to a change in the Company's method of accounting for investment securities by adopting the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 115, "Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities".

KPMG Peat Marwick LLP

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
June 20, 1996