

**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): April 29, 2015

The Hillman Companies, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-13293
(Commission File No.)

23-2874736
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

10590 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231
(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(513) 851-4900**

Not Applicable
(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))
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Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On April 29, 2015, The Hillman Group, Inc. (“Group”) and The Hillman Companies, Inc. (the “Registrant”, and together with Group, “Hillman”) and James P. Waters, the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Hillman, agreed that, after a transition period, Mr. Waters would resign from his positions with Hillman to allow him to spend more time with his family (the “Transition”).

In connection with the Transition, Hillman appointed Doug Cahill, its current nonexecutive chairman, as executive chairman, effective April 29, 2015. The Company’s senior management team, led by Mr. Cahill and Mr. Waters, will work with Hillman’s Board of Directors to ensure a smooth transition and to continue to execute on Hillman’s existing business strategy. Hillman’s Board of Directors is actively seeking a qualified replacement for a new Chief Executive Officer.

A copy of the press release announcing Mr. Waters’ resignation is attached to this Current Report on Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated by reference herein.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release, dated April 29, 2015.

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release, dated as of April 29, 2015

HILLMAN ANNOUNCES KEY MANAGEMENT CHANGES

JAMES P. WATERS TO RESIGN AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CINCINNATI, April 29, 2015 -- The Hillman Companies, Inc. (NYSE-AMEX: HLM.PR) and The Hillman Group, Inc. (collectively, the “Company” or “Hillman”) today announced that, following a transition period, James P. Waters will retire as Chief Executive Officer and as a member of the Board of Directors after nearly 16 years of service to the Company. In connection with the transition, the Company appointed Doug Cahill, its current nonexecutive chairman, as executive chairman.

“On behalf of the Board, I sincerely thank Jim for his valuable contributions and outstanding service throughout his career at Hillman.” said Mr. Cahill, Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors. “We wish Jim and his family the very best.”

“I’ve worked at Hillman for 16 incredible years,” said Mr. Waters. “I am extremely proud of where we are today as a Company. Over the past two years, I have guided the Company through its largest acquisition and the CCMP transaction and the Company is now launching its next growth phase. For me, the decision to step down was difficult, but with the Company performing well, on strong footing, and well-positioned for the future, I must now focus on my family. I believe that making this decision at this time is optimal for the Company and my vision of my future. I am sincerely grateful for the support I’ve received from CCMP and have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with them. I will miss working with the talented team at Hillman and firmly believe that the Company’s best days lie ahead.”

The Company’s Board of Directors is actively seeking a qualified replacement for a new Chief Executive Officer.

About Hillman

Founded in 1964 and headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, Hillman is a leading distributor of fasteners, key duplication systems, engraved tags, and related hardware items to over 26,000 retail customers in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, South America, and Australia, including home improvement centers, mass merchants, national and regional hardware stores, pet supply stores, and other retailers. Hillman provides a comprehensive solution to its retail customers for managing SKU intensive, complex home improvement categories.

*For more information on the Company, please visit our website at <http://www.hillmangroup.com>
or call Investor Relations at (513) 851-4900, ext. 60292*