SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C.

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) December 2, 2002

The Allstate Corporation

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Delaware(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

1-11840 (Commission File Number)

36-3871531 (IRS Employer Identification Number)

2775 Sanders Road, Northbrook, Illinois (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

60062 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (847) 402-5000

Item 5. Other Events

On December 2, 2002, the Chicago Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) dismissed the petition of the United Exclusive Allstate Agents, Office and Professional Employees International Union in which the union had sought to be certified as the collective bargaining representative of all Allstate agents in the United States. The Regional Director agreed with The Allstate Corporation's position that the agents are independent contractors, not employees, and that, consequently, the NLRB lacks jurisdiction over the issue. The dismissal is subject to appeal to the NLRB in Washington, DC.

2

SIGNATURES

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

THE ALLSTATE CORPORATION

By /s/ SAMUEL H. PILCH

Name: Samuel H. Pilch

Title: Controller, Acting Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

December 2, 2002

3

QuickLinks