

LEGISLATIVE BILL 751

Approved by the Governor February 24, 2016

Introduced by Lindstrom, 18.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to banks and banking; to amend sections 8-115.01, 8-117, 8-157, 8-234, 8-374, 8-1510, and 21-1725.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to provide that payment of certain expenses is not a condition precedent to certain approvals by the Director of Banking and Finance; to change certain notice provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 8-115.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-115.01 When an application required by section 8-120 is made by a corporation, the following procedures shall be followed:

(1) Except as provided for in subdivision (2) of this section, when application is made for a new bank charter, a public hearing shall be held on each application. Notice of the filing of the application shall be published by the department for three weeks in a legal newspaper published in or of general circulation in the county where the applicant proposes to operate the bank. The date for hearing the application shall be not less than thirty days after the last publication of notice of hearing and not more than ninety days after the application has been accepted for filing by the director as substantially complete unless the applicant agrees to a later date. Notice of the filing of the application shall be sent by the department to all financial institutions located in the county where the applicant proposes to operate;

(2) When application is made for a new bank charter and the director determines, in his or her discretion, that the conditions of subdivision (3) of this section are met, then the public hearing requirement of subdivision (1) of this section shall only be required if, (a) after publishing a notice of the proposed application in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the main office of the applicant is to be located and (b) after giving notice to all financial institutions located within such county, the director receives a substantive objection to the application within fifteen days after the first day of publication;

(3) The director shall consider the following in each application before the public hearing requirement of subdivision (1) of this section may be waived:

(a) Whether the experience, character, and general fitness of the applicant and of the applicant's officers and directors are such as to warrant belief that the applicant will operate the business honestly, fairly, and efficiently;

(b) Whether the length of time that the applicant or a majority of the applicant's officers, directors, and shareholders have been involved in the business of banking in this state has been for a minimum of five consecutive years; and

(c) Whether the condition of financial institutions currently owned by the applicant, the applicant's holding company, if any, or the applicant's officers, directors, or shareholders is such as to indicate that a hearing on the current application would not be necessary;

(4) Except as provided in subdivision (6) of this section, when application is made for transfer of a bank charter and move of the main office of a bank to any location other than within the corporate limits of the city or village of its original charter or, if such bank charter is not located in a city or village, then for transfer outside the county in which it is located, the director shall hold a hearing on the matter if he or she determines, in his or her discretion, that the condition of the applicant warrants a hearing. If the director determines that the condition of the applicant does not warrant a hearing, the director shall (a) publish a notice of the filing of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the proposed main office and charter of the applicant would be located and (b) give notice of such application to all financial institutions located within the county where the proposed main office and charter would be located and to such other interested parties as the director may determine. If the director receives any substantive objection to the proposed relocation within fifteen days after the first day of publication, he or she shall hold a hearing on the application. Notice of a hearing held pursuant to this subdivision shall be published for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the main office would be located. The date for hearing the application shall be not less than thirty days after the last publication of notice of hearing and not more than ninety days after the application has been accepted for filing by the director as substantially complete unless the applicant agrees to a later date. When the persons making application for transfer of a main office and charter are officers or directors of the bank, there is a rebuttable presumption that such persons are parties of integrity and responsibility;

(5) Except as provided in subdivision (6) of this section, when application is made for a move of any bank's main office within the city, village, or county, if not chartered within a city or village, of its original charter, the director shall publish notice of the proposed move in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the main office of the applicant is located and shall give notice of such intended move to all financial institutions located within the county where such bank is located. If the director receives a substantive objection to such move within fifteen days after publishing such notice, he or she shall publish an additional notice and hold a hearing as provided in subdivision (1) of this section;

(6) With the approval of the director, a bank may move its main office and charter to the location of a branch of the bank without public notice or hearing as long as (a) the condition of the bank, in the discretion of the director, does not warrant a hearing and (b) the branch (i) is located in Nebraska, (ii) has been in operation for at least one year as a branch of the bank or was acquired by the bank pursuant to section 8-1506 or 8-1516, and (iii) is simultaneously relocated to the original main office location;

(7) The director shall send any notice to financial institutions required by this section by first-class mail, postage prepaid, or electronic mail. Electronic mail may be used if the financial institution agrees in advance to receive such notices by electronic mail. A financial institution may designate one office for receipt of any such notice if it has more than one office located within the county where such notice is to be sent or a main office in a county other than the county where such notice is to be sent;

(8) The expense of any publication and mailing required by this section shall be paid by the applicant but payment shall not be a condition precedent to approval by the director; and

(9) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the director shall take immediate action on any charter application or applications concerned without the benefit of a hearing in the case of an emergency so declared by the Governor, the Secretary of State, and the director.

Sec. 2. Section 8-117, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-117 (1)(a) The director may grant approval for a conditional bank charter which may remain inactive for an initial period of up to eighteen months.

(b) The purpose for which a conditional bank charter may be granted is limited to the acquisition or potential acquisition of a financial institution which (i) is located in this state or which has a branch in this state and (ii) has been determined to be troubled or failing by its primary state or federal regulator.

(2) A person or persons organizing for and desiring to obtain a conditional bank charter shall make, under oath, and transmit to the department an application prescribed by the department, to include, but not be limited to:

- (a) The name of the proposed bank;
- (b) A draft copy of the articles of incorporation of the proposed bank;
- (c) The names, addresses, financial condition, and business history of the proposed stockholders, officers, and directors of the proposed bank;
- (d) The sources and amounts of capital that would be available to the proposed bank; and
- (e) A preliminary business plan describing the operations of the proposed bank.

(3) Upon receipt of a substantially completed application for a conditional bank charter and payment of the fee required by section 8-602, the director may, in his or her discretion, hold a public hearing on the application. If a hearing is to be held, notice of the filing of the application and the date of hearing thereon shall be published by the department for three weeks in a minimum of two newspapers with general circulation in Nebraska. The newspapers shall be selected at the director's discretion, except that the director shall consider the county or counties of residence of the proposed members of the board of directors of the proposed conditional bank charter in making such selection. The date for hearing the application shall be not less than thirty days after the last publication of notice of hearing. Notice shall also be sent by first-class mail to the main office of all financial institutions doing business in the state. Electronic mail may be used if a financial institution agrees in advance to receive such notice by electronic mail.

(4) If the director determines that a hearing on the application for a conditional bank charter is not necessary, then the department shall publish a notice of the proposed application in a minimum of two newspapers of general circulation in Nebraska. The newspapers shall be selected in accordance with subsection (3) of this section. The department shall send notice of the application by first-class mail to the main office of all financial institutions doing business in the state. Electronic mail may be used if a financial institution agrees in advance to receive such notice by electronic mail. If the director receives a substantive objection to the application within fifteen days after the publication or notice, whichever occurs last, a hearing shall be scheduled on the application.

(5) The expense of any publication and mailing required by this section shall be paid by the applicant but payment shall not be a condition precedent to approval by the director.

(6) If the department upon investigation and after any public hearing on the application is satisfied that (a) the stockholders, officers, and directors

of the proposed corporation applying for such conditional bank charter are parties of integrity and responsibility, (b) the applicant has sufficient sources and amounts of capital available to the proposed bank, and (c) the applicant has a business plan describing the operations of the proposed bank that indicates the proposed bank has a reasonable probability of usefulness and success, the department shall, upon the payment of any required fees and costs, grant a conditional bank charter effective for a period not to exceed eighteen months from the date of issuance.

(7) A conditional bank charter may be converted to a full bank charter upon proof satisfactory to the department that:

(a) The financial institution to be acquired is in a troubled or failing status as required by subsection (1) of this section;

(b) The requirements of section 8-110 have been met;

(c) The requirements of section 8-702 have been met;

(d) Capital stock and surplus in amounts determined pursuant to section 8-116 have been paid in;

(e) The fees required by section 8-602 have been paid to the department; and

(f) Any other conditions imposed by the director have been complied with.

(8) A conditional bank charter may be extended for successive periods of one year if the holder of the charter files a written request for an extension of such charter at least ninety days prior to the expiration date of such charter. Such request shall be accompanied by (a) any information deemed necessary by the department to assure itself that the requirements of subsection (6) of this section continue to be met and (b) the fee required by section 8-602.

(9) The department shall issue a notice of expiration of a conditional bank charter if eighteen months have passed since the issuance of such charter and the holder of such charter (a) has not converted to a full bank charter pursuant to subsection (7) of this section, (b) has not made a request for an extension pursuant to subsection (8) of this section, or (c) has made a request for an extension pursuant to subsection (8) of this section which was not approved by the department.

Sec. 3. Section 8-157, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-157 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section and section 8-2103, the general business of every bank shall be transacted at the place of business specified in its charter.

(2)(a)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(a)(ii) of this section, with the approval of the director, any bank located in this state may establish and maintain in this state an unlimited number of branches at which all banking transactions allowed by law may be made.

(ii) Any bank that owns or controls more than twenty-two percent of the total deposits in Nebraska, as described in subdivision (2)(c) of section 8-910 and computed in accordance with subsection (3) of section 8-910, or any bank that is a subsidiary of a bank holding company that owns or controls more than twenty-two percent of the total deposits in Nebraska, as described in subdivision (2)(c) of section 8-910 and computed in accordance with subsection (3) of section 8-910, shall not establish and maintain an unlimited number of branches as provided in subdivision (2)(a)(i) of this section. With the approval of the director, a bank as described in this subdivision may establish and maintain in the county in which such bank is located an unlimited number of branches at which all banking transactions allowed by law may be made, except that if such bank is located in a Class I or Class III county, such bank may establish and maintain in Class I and Class III counties an unlimited number of branches at which all banking transactions allowed by law may be made.

(iii) Any bank which establishes and maintains branches pursuant to subdivision (2)(a)(i) of this section and which subsequently becomes a bank as described in subdivision (2)(a)(ii) of this section shall not be subject to the limitations as to location of branches contained in subdivision (2)(a)(ii) of this section with regard to any such established branch and shall continue to be entitled to maintain any such established branch as if such bank had not become a bank as described in subdivision (2)(a)(ii) of this section.

(b) With the approval of the director, any bank or any branch may establish and maintain a mobile branch at which all banking transactions allowed by law may be made. Such mobile branch may consist of one or more vehicles which may transact business only within the county in which such bank or such branch is located and within counties in this state which adjoin such county.

(c) For purposes of this subsection:

(i) Class I county means a county in this state with a population of three hundred thousand or more as determined by the most recent federal decennial census;

(ii) Class II county means a county in this state with a population of at least two hundred thousand and less than three hundred thousand as determined by the most recent federal decennial census;

(iii) Class III county means a county in this state with a population of at least one hundred thousand and less than two hundred thousand as determined by the most recent federal decennial census; and

(iv) Class IV county means a county in this state with a population of less than one hundred thousand as determined by the most recent federal decennial census.

(3) With the approval of the director, a bank may establish and maintain

branches acquired pursuant to section 8-1506 or 8-1516. All banking transactions allowed by law may be made at such branches.

(4) With the approval of the director, a bank may acquire the assets and assume the deposits of a branch of another financial institution in Nebraska if the acquired branch is converted to a branch of the acquiring bank. All banking transactions allowed by law may be made at a branch acquired pursuant to this subsection.

(5) With the approval of the director, a bank may establish a branch pursuant to subdivision (6) of section 8-115.01. All banking transactions allowed by law may be made at such branch.

(6) The name given to any branch established and maintained pursuant to this section shall not be substantially similar to the name of any existing bank or branch which is unaffiliated with the newly created branch and is located in the same city, village, or county. The name of such newly created branch shall be approved by the director.

(7) A bank which has a main chartered office or an approved branch located in the State of Nebraska may, through any of its executive officers, including executive officers licensed as such pursuant to section 8-139, or designated agents, conduct a loan closing at a location other than the place of business specified in the bank's charter or any branch thereof.

(8) A bank which has a main chartered office or approved branch located in the State of Nebraska may, upon notification to the department, establish savings account programs at any elementary or secondary school, whether public or private, that has students who reside in the same city or village as the main chartered office or branch of the bank, or, if the main office of the bank is located in an unincorporated area of a county, at any school that has students who reside in the same unincorporated area. The savings account programs shall be limited to the establishment of individual student accounts and the receipt of deposits for such accounts.

(9) Upon receiving an application for a branch to be established pursuant to subdivision (2)(a) of this section, to establish a mobile branch pursuant to subdivision (2)(b) of this section, to acquire a branch of another financial institution pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, to establish or acquire a branch pursuant to subsection (1) of section 8-2103, or to move the location of an established branch other than a move made pursuant to subdivision (6) of section 8-115.01, the director shall hold a public hearing on the matter if he or she determines, in his or her discretion, that the condition of the applicant bank warrants a hearing. If the director determines that the condition of the bank does not warrant a hearing, the director shall ~~(a) publish a notice of the filing of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the proposed branch or mobile branch would be located, the expense of which shall be paid by the applicant bank, and (b) give notice of such application to all financial institutions located within the county where the proposed branch or mobile branch would be located and to such other interested parties as the director may determine. The director shall send the notice to financial institutions by first-class mail, postage prepaid, or electronic mail. Electronic mail may be used if the financial institution agrees in advance to receive such notices by electronic mail. A financial institution may designate one office for receipt of any such notice if it has more than one office located within the county where such notice is to be sent or a main office in a county other than the county where such notice is to be sent.~~ If the director receives any substantive objection to the proposed branch or mobile branch within fifteen days after publication of such notice, he or she shall hold a hearing on the application. Notice of a hearing held pursuant to this subsection shall be published for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the proposed branch or mobile branch would be located. The date for hearing the application shall not be more than ninety days after the filing of the application and not less than thirty days after the last publication of notice of hearing. The expense of any publication ~~and mailing~~ required by this section shall be paid by the applicant but payment shall not be a condition precedent to approval by the director.

Sec. 4. Section 8-234, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-234 (1) With the approval of the Director of Banking and Finance, a corporation organized to do business as a trust company under the Nebraska Trust Company Act may establish and maintain branch trust offices within this state and in any other state pursuant to section 8-2303.

(2) A corporation organized to do business as a trust company under the Nebraska Trust Company Act, in order to establish a branch trust office in Nebraska pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, shall apply to the Director of Banking and Finance on a form prescribed by the director. Upon receipt of a substantially complete application, the director shall hold a public hearing on the matter if he or she determines, in his or her discretion, that the condition of the corporation organized to do business as a trust company warrants a hearing. If the director determines that the condition of the corporation organized to do business as a trust company does not warrant a hearing, the director shall (a) publish a notice of the filing of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the proposed branch trust office would be located and (b) give notice of such application for a branch trust office to all financial institutions within the county where the proposed branch trust office would be located and to such other interested parties as the director may determine. The director shall send the notice to financial institutions by first-class mail, postage prepaid, or

electronic mail. Electronic mail may be used if the financial institution agrees in advance to receive such notices by electronic mail. A financial institution may designate one office for receipt of any such notice if it has more than one office located within the county where such notice is to be sent or a main office in a county other than the county where such notice is to be sent. If the director receives a substantive objection to the proposed branch trust office within fifteen days after publication of such notice, he or she shall hold a hearing on the application. Notice of a hearing held pursuant to this subsection shall be published for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the proposed branch trust office would be located. The expense of any publication and mailing required by this section shall be paid by the applicant but payment shall not be a condition precedent to approval by the director. The date for hearing the application shall not be more than ninety days after the filing of the application and not less than thirty-one days after the last publication of notice of hearing. The costs of the hearing shall be assessed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department of Banking and Finance.

(3) The director shall approve the application for a branch trust office if he or she finds that (a) the establishment of the branch trust office would not adversely affect the financial condition of the corporation organized to do business as a trust company, (b) there is a need in the community for the branch trust office, and (c) establishment of the branch trust office would be in the public interest.

(4) With the approval of the director, a state-chartered bank authorized to conduct a trust business pursuant to sections 8-159 to 8-162 may establish and maintain branch trust offices within this state and in any other state pursuant to section 8-2303. The procedure for the establishment of any branch trust office under this subsection shall be the same as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section. The activities at the branch trust office shall be limited to the activities permitted by the Nebraska Trust Company Act, and the general business of banking shall not be conducted at the branch trust office. Nothing in this subsection is intended to prohibit the establishment of a branch pursuant to section 8-157 at which trust business may be conducted.

(5) A branch trust office of a corporation organized to do business as a trust company or of a state-chartered bank shall not be closed without the prior written approval of the director.

Sec. 5. Section 8-374, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-374 (1) Prior to issuing a certificate of approval, the department, upon receiving an application for a stock savings and loan association, shall (a) publish notice of filing of the application for a period of three weeks in a legal newspaper published in or of general circulation in the county where the applicant proposes to operate the savings and loan association and (b) give notice of such application for a stock savings and loan association to all financial institutions within the county where the proposed main office of the stock savings and loan would be located and to such other interested parties as the director may determine. The director shall send the notice to financial institutions by first-class mail, postage prepaid, or electronic mail. Electronic mail may be used if the financial institution agrees in advance to receive such notices by electronic mail. A financial institution may designate one office for receipt of any such notice if it has more than one office located within the county where such notice is to be sent or a main office in a county other than the county where such notice is to be sent.

(2) A public hearing shall be held on each application. The date for hearing the application shall be not more than ninety days after filing the application and not less than thirty days after the last publication of notice. Such hearing shall be held to determine:

(a) Whether the articles of incorporation and bylaws conform to the requirements of sections 8-356 to 8-384 and contain a just and equitable plan for the management of the association's business;

(b) Whether the persons organizing such association are of good character and responsibility;

(c) Whether in the department's judgment a need exists for such an institution in the community to be served;

(d) Whether there is a reasonable probability of its usefulness and success; and

(e) Whether the same can be established without undue injury to properly conducted existing local savings and loan associations, whether mutual or capital stock in formation.

(3) The expense of any publication and mailing required by this section shall be paid by the applicant but payment shall not be a condition precedent to approval by the director.

Sec. 6. Section 8-1510, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

8-1510 (1) The Director of Banking and Finance may permit cross-industry acquisition or merger of one or more financial institutions under its supervision upon the application of such institutions to the Department of Banking and Finance. The application shall be made on forms prescribed by the department.

(2) Except as provided for in subsection (3) of this section, when an application is made for such an acquisition or merger, notice of the filing of the application shall be published by the department three weeks in a legal newspaper in or of general circulation in the county where the applicant

proposes to operate the acquired or merged financial institution. A public hearing shall be held on each application. The date for hearing the application shall be not more than ninety days after the filing of the application and not less than thirty days after the last publication of notice after the examination and approval by the department of the application. If the department, upon investigation and after public hearing on the application, is satisfied that the stockholders and officers of the financial institution applying for such acquisition or merger are parties of integrity and responsibility, that the requirements of section 8-702 have been met or some alternate form of protection for depositors has been met, and that the public necessity, convenience, and advantage will be promoted by permitting such acquisition or merger, the department shall, upon payment of the required fees, issue to such institution an order of approval for the acquisition or merger.

(3) When application is made for cross-industry acquisition or merger and the director determines, in his or her discretion, that the financial condition of the financial institution surviving the acquisition or merger is such as to indicate that a hearing on the application would not be necessary, then the hearing requirement of subsection (2) of this section shall only be required if, (a) after publishing a notice of the proposed application in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties where the offices of the financial institution to be merged or acquired are located and (b) after giving notice to all financial institutions located within such county or counties, the director receives a substantive objection to the application within fifteen days after the first day of publication. The director shall send the notice to financial institutions by first-class mail, postage prepaid, or electronic mail. Electronic mail may be used if the financial institution agrees in advance to receive such notices by electronic mail. A financial institution may designate one office for receipt of any such notice if it has more than one office located within the county where such notice is to be sent or a main office in a county other than the county where such notice is to be sent.

(4) The expense of any publication and mailing required by this section shall be paid by the applicant but payment shall not be a condition precedent to approval by the director.

Sec. 7. Section 21-1725.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

21-1725.01 (1) Upon receiving an application to establish a new credit union, a public hearing shall be held on each application. Notice of the filing of the application shall be published by the department for three weeks in a legal newspaper published in or of general circulation in the county where the applicant proposes to operate the credit union. The date for hearing the application shall be not less than thirty days after the last publication of notice of hearing and not more than ninety days after filing the application unless the applicant agrees to a later date. Notice of the filing of the application shall be sent by the department to all financial institutions located in the county where the applicant proposes to operate.

(2) When application is made to establish a branch of a credit union, the director shall hold a hearing on the matter if he or she determines, in his or her discretion, that the condition of the applicant credit union warrants a hearing. If the director determines that the condition of the credit union does not warrant a hearing, the director shall ~~(a) publish a notice of the filing of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the proposed branch would be located and (b) give notice of such application to all financial institutions located within the county where the proposed credit union branch would be located and to such other interested parties as the director may determine.~~ If the director receives any substantive objection to the proposed credit union branch within fifteen days after publication of such notice, he or she shall hold a hearing on the application. Notice of a hearing held pursuant to this subsection shall be published for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the proposed branch would be located. The date for hearing the application shall be not less than thirty days after the last publication of notice of hearing and not more than ninety days after the filing of the application unless the applicant agrees to a later date.

(3) The director may, in his or her discretion, hold a public hearing on amendments to a credit union's articles of association or bylaws which are brought before the department.

~~(4) The director shall send any notice to financial institutions required by this section by first class mail, postage prepaid, or electronic mail. Electronic mail may be used if the financial institution agrees in advance to receive such notices by electronic mail. A financial institution may designate one office for receipt of any such notice if it has more than one office located within the county where such notice is to be sent or a main office in a county other than the county where such notice is to be sent.~~

~~(4 5) The expense of any publication and mailing required by this section shall be paid by the applicant but payment shall not be a condition precedent to approval by the director.~~

Sec. 8. Original sections 8-115.01, 8-117, 8-157, 8-234, 8-374, 8-1510, and 21-1725.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

Sec. 9. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.