

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And there is no restrictions in this bill that limits any bank from size, location or anything. If they can do it now, they can do it under this, only in this case it would be an S & L?

SENATOR LANDIS: That is right, and the S & L then is converted as to a branch of the bank, but the bank does not suffer that pill that it swallowed to count against its branch banking limitations in Nebraska law.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you. I just wanted to be sure I understood that. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch, please, Senator Schimek on deck.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President, and members, I'd just like to rise to support the recommendation by Chairman Landis of the Banking and Insurance Committee. It seems that this kind of legislation offers all of us in Nebraska an alternative to better address the issue of failing and savings and loan institutions and banking institutions in some difficulty, especially since that failure is an obvious serious problem for that community, commercially and otherwise. It gives us a chance to allow people to do business with those institutions in a meaningful way, and it opens up the opportunity for those people who would be interested but do not fall into the category of being superbig, and superpowerful. It makes a lot of sense. I hate to say this, but it is almost an issue of 300 in reverse, but that is as it should be. Maybe I shouldn't have said that but I did, and I would urge our support for it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Elmer.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President, and members of the body, I have just a quick question of Senator Landis. If I understood this correctly, Senator Landis, right now a bank is allowed to have five branches in the city, and under this bill, if they bought an S & L or a branch of an S & L and incorporated that into their bank that would not count against those five. They could have six or seven or eight, if they purchased S & Ls. Can you predict in any way what the implications of this bill are? Are we going to see bigger banks getting larger? Do you have any way of predicting?