

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Kristensen, do you wish to speak to the amendment?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President and members, as one of the sponsors of this bill we did originally, as Senator Landis indicated, ask for eight, figuring that this would be something that we wouldn't have to come back year after year with additional branches. However, I think giving the situation at the federal level and their decisions that they are facing right now with unlimited branch banking across the country that this is a reasonable committee amendment and I, too, would support this committee change down from eight to six.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Is there anyone else who wishes to debate the committee amendments? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Landis? Closing is waived. We will proceed to vote on the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 782. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendments are adopted. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature, LB 782 does relate to branch banking although on the one-line title you will see that it talks about a detached auxiliary office that is a branch bank. The need was brought to me from a number of people but primarily it's the growing areas of branches and the growing area of banking in a lot of communities that are up against their limit. Currently a bank is allowed a branch bank and is allowed five within the city limits of a community. When the communities expand rapidly and grow, the need then becomes to have an additional branch or branches to meet the demand in the services for the people in that community. In the past there has always been arguments about structure. Should you allow branch banking, should there be unlimited branch banking, should banks from larger communities be able to come out into smaller communities and open up branches without chartering a new bank or without acquiring a bank or an existing savings and loan? My approach is a conservative approach of not changing structure. This is not a structure bill, this does not open up the old arguments of