

Lincoln, under its independent charter.

SENATOR CROSBY: So if they merge with Omaha, they want to retain...or what would make the difference? Go through that once more.

SENATOR LANDIS: Okay.

SENATOR CROSBY: I want to hear you, because you said it very, very well.

SENATOR LANDIS: Okay.

SENATOR CROSBY: You explained it.

SENATOR LANDIS: Omaha has a charter, that's for the statewide system, and Lincoln has a charter. Each of those two charters has the right to have six branches in their...the town that they are operating in.

SENATOR CROSBY: Um-huh.

SENATOR LANDIS: Now they also have the right to merge. The Lincoln bank may merge into the Omaha bank, that's existing law. So the six branches is existing law in both communities, the merging power is existing law. What the new part of this bill says is if you merge and lose your independent status, you still retain, for the mother ship, that six branching rights of the community where there was an independent charter that got merged out of it and into the...

SENATOR CROSBY: And you can't do that now?

SENATOR LANDIS: You can't do that now.

SENATOR CROSBY: Okay. Then the other...see, when I first started with this bill, the other thing, I had letters from a lot of small banks who liked the way it was originally, except for one. And I can't find him today, so I don't know how he feels about it now. And also then I had other bankers and other employees of banks and so on who thought it was a good bill. It isn't that I have anything against it, as it's going here now, but I think we passed another bill earlier about branches that confused me. It confused me just a little when we started talking about merging and branching. So thank you, Senator