

organized under the laws of the United States to do business in this state." Where the branch has been in existence for 18 months, that can be sold. This is a very tricky area, but we didn't want to prejudice anybody's existing rights. What the bill does is to return everybody to what we thought the rules were before these interpretations this summer. One last part of this amendment, and it's the only section, if we adopt this amendment, that's relatively new, we also close prospectively what's called the "Martell loophole". It does not undo any rights that now exist at Martell or at Bennet or Prairie Home, but we passed a bill in 1990 that created some special branching rights. We've seen since then that those branching rights have gotten us in trouble. And all parties who now have those rights are left untouched, but we also repeal that exceptional loophole to return us to straight standard branching rules for this state. I would urge first the amendment, and then the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: On the amendment, first of all. Senator Vrtiska, do you wish to address the Landis amendment? Senator Fisher, the Landis amendment.

SENATOR FISHER: I do, Mr. President and members. The Senator Landis amendment is very important to this bill. It hits at the need for it. It clears it up and urge your support and vote for the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Fisher. No further lights on the amendment. Senator Landis, do you wish to close? Closing is waived. The question is the adoption of the Landis amendment to LB 1275. All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Landis's amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The Landis amendment is adopted. Is there anything else pending?

CLERK: Nothing further, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: For discussion on the motion to advance, Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body.