

CHAPTER 135 (HB 377)

AN ACT relating to branching and acquisition of banks in Kentucky.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 287.180 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Banks authorized under the laws of this state may, except as provided in subsections (2) or (3) of this section, exercise, only at their principal office, powers necessary to carry on the business of banking by discounting and negotiating notes, drafts, bills of exchange and other evidences of debt, and by purchasing bonds, receiving deposits and allowing interest on these items, buying and selling exchange, coin, and bullion, and lending money on personal or real security.
- (2) Any corporation presently or after July 13, 1990, engaged in the business of banking, and meeting the requirements of this subsection, may apply to the commissioner for permission to establish, within any *state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States*~~{county in which its principal office or an existing branch is located}~~, a branch at which all of the powers conferred in subsection (1) of this section may be exercised. Before the commissioner shall approve or disapprove any application made under this subsection he shall ascertain and determine that the public convenience and advantage will be served and promoted and that there is reasonable probability of the successful operation of the branch based upon the financial and managerial impact of the branch on the bank establishing the branch. The following conditions shall apply to applications for branches:
 - (a) The permission to open a branch shall lapse one (1) year after the commissioner has rendered a final order as defined in KRS 13B.010, unless it shall have been opened and business actually begun in good faith. If, for reasons beyond the control of the applicant, the branch is not opened within this time period, permission to open the branch may, with the approval of the commissioner, be extended for any period of time he deems to be necessary; and
 - (b) An application to establish a branch office shall be approved or disapproved by the commissioner based upon the facts existing at the date of filing of the application, except for the financial condition of the bank proposing to establish a branch office, which condition shall be subject to review until an order ruling on the application is made.
- (3) Any corporation which on January 1, 1966, was engaged in operating an agency or branch bank may continue to retain and operate the agency or branch bank under the general banking laws, and the requirements set forth in this section in respect to capital shall not apply to any existing agency or branch bank but only as to those agencies or branch banks which may be established in the future pursuant to the terms of this section.
- (4) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to prohibit the merger of banks in the same county and the operation by the merged corporation of the banks, nor to prohibit the sale of any bank to, and the purchase by, any other bank in the same county and the operation of the bank by the purchasing bank as a branch, provided the commissioner shall determine that the public convenience and necessity will be served by the operation~~[- and provided further that, at the time of the merger or purchase, each of the banks involved shall have been in operation for a period of five (5) years or more]~~. The bank which does not survive the merger shall surrender its charter.

- (5) Any national banking association or any state bank member of the Federal Reserve system whose principal office is located in this state may do all things and perform all acts which state banks are permitted to do or perform under this section, subject to the conditions and restrictions provided for banks as to exercise of these powers.
- (6) When a branch or agency bank has once been established any operation of the branch or agency bank shall not be discontinued, and the branch or agency bank shall not be closed until after ninety (90) days' notice in writing to the commissioner. In the discretion of the commissioner the branch or agency bank proposing to discontinue operation may be required to give notice of the date when its operation will cease.

Section 2. KRS 287.172 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) A national banking association may convert into or merge with a state bank under a state charter, provided that:
 - (a) ~~the action taken complies with federal law;~~
 - (b) ~~In the case of a merger, the institutions to be merged are located in the same city or county.~~
- (2) In the case of each conversion, a written plan of conversion shall be submitted, in duplicate, to the commissioner. Such plan shall be in form satisfactory to the commissioner, shall prescribe the terms and conditions of the conversion and the mode of carrying it into effect, and shall have annexed thereto and forming a part thereof the proposed articles of incorporation of the state bank which is to result from the conversion. Such articles of incorporation shall be in the form prescribed by law for the organization of state banks, with such variations, if any, as shall be satisfactory to the commissioner. With such plan of conversion there shall be submitted, in duplicate, to the commissioner a certificate of the president, secretary or cashier of the national banking association certifying that all steps have been taken which are necessary under federal law to the consummation of the conversion. The commissioner shall approve or disapprove such plan of conversion within sixty (60) days of the submission thereof to him. In considering the approval or disapproval of the conversion plan the commissioner shall take into account:
 - (a) Any pending administrative or judicial action to which the bank or any officer or director of the bank is a party;
 - (b) The performance of the converting national bank for the five (5) years preceding the application for conversion as compared to similarly situated state-chartered banks; and
 - (c) The proposed name of the bank after conversion which shall not be the same as or deceptively similar to any existing state-chartered bank.

If the commissioner shall approve such plan, he shall file one (1) duplicate thereof, together with one (1) duplicate of such certificate submitted therewith and the original of the approval of the commissioner, in the office of the commissioner, and the other duplicate of such plan, together with a duplicate of such certificate and a duplicate of the commissioner's approval, shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the county in which the principal office of the state bank is to be located. After such filing in the office of the commission, the conversion shall become effective upon the filing and recording of the articles of incorporation as provided in KRS 287.050, unless a later date is specified in the plan, in which event the conversion shall become effective upon such later date. If the commissioner shall disapprove the conversion

plan, he shall state his reasons for such disapproval in writing to which the converting national bank shall have the right of appeal as permitted by law.

- (3) In the case of each merger, a written plan of merger shall be submitted, in duplicate, to the commissioner. Such plan shall be in form satisfactory to the commissioner and shall prescribe the terms and conditions of the merger and the mode of carrying it into effect. Such plan may provide the name to be borne by the state bank, as receiving corporation, if such name is to be changed. Such plan may also name the persons who shall constitute the first board of directors of the state bank after the merger shall have been accomplished, provided that the number and qualifications of such person shall be in accordance with the provisions of KRS Chapter 287 relating to the number and qualifications of directors of a state bank; or such plan may provide for a meeting of the stockholders to elect a board of directors within sixty (60) days after such merger, and may make provision for conducting the affairs of the state bank meanwhile. With such plan of merger there shall be submitted, in duplicate, to the commissioner the following:
 - (a) By the national banking association, a certificate of the president, secretary or cashier of such association certifying that all steps have been taken which are necessary under federal law to the consummation of their merger;
 - (b) By the state bank, a certificate of the president, secretary or cashier certifying that such plan of merger has been approved by the board of directors of the state bank by a majority vote of all the members thereof, that such plan has been submitted to the stockholders of the state bank at a meeting thereof held; upon notice of at least fifteen (15) days, specifying the time, and place and object of such meeting and addressed to each stockholder at the address appearing upon the books of the state bank and published pursuant to KRS Chapter 424, and that such plan of merger has been approved at such meeting by the vote of the stockholders owning at least two-thirds (2/3) in amount of the stock of the state bank.
- (4) The commissioner shall approve or disapprove such plan of merger within sixty (60) days of such submission thereof to him. If the commissioner shall approve such plan, he shall file one (1) duplicate thereof, together with one (1) duplicate of each of such certificates and the original of the approval of the commissioner, in the office of the commissioner, and the other duplicate of such plan, together with a duplicate of each of such certificates and a duplicate of the commissioner's approval, shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the county in which the principal office of the state bank is to be located. Upon such filing in the office of the commissioner, the merger shall become effective, unless a later date is specified in the plan, in which event the merger shall become effective upon such later date.
- (5) At the time when such conversion or merger becomes effective:
 - (a) The resulting state bank shall be considered the same business and corporate entity as the national banking association, although as to rights, powers and duties, the resulting bank is a state bank;
 - (b) All of the property, rights and powers and franchises of the national banking association shall vest in the resulting state bank and the resulting state bank shall be subject to and deemed to have assumed all of the debts, liabilities, obligations and duties of the national banking association and to have succeeded to all of its relationships, fiduciary or otherwise, as fully and to the same extent as if such property, rights, powers, franchises,

debts, liabilities, obligations, duties and relationships had been originally acquired, incurred or entered into by the resulting state bank; provided, however, that the resulting state bank shall not, through such conversion or merger, acquire power to engage in any business or to exercise any right, privilege or franchise which is not conferred by the provisions of KRS Chapter 287 upon such resulting state bank;

- (e) Any reference to the national banking association in any contract, will or document, whether executed or taking effect before or after the conversion or merger, shall be considered a reference to the resulting state bank if not inconsistent with the other provisions of the contract, will or document;
- (d) A pending action or other judicial proceeding to which the national banking association is a party, shall not be deemed to have abated or to have discontinued by reason of the conversion or merger, but may be prosecuted to final judgment, order or decree in the same manner as if the conversion or merger had not been made; or the resulting state bank may be substituted as a party to such action or proceeding, and any judgment, order or decree may be rendered for or against it that might have been rendered for or against the national banking association if the conversion or merger had not occurred.

Section 3. KRS 287.900 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) For purposes of this section and KRS 287.905:
 - (a) "Bank" means any institution organized under this chapter, the banking laws of another state, or the National Bank Act, as amended, to do a banking business~~[- However, it shall not include an "interim bank" chartered solely for the purpose of facilitating the acquisition of an existing bank unless the existing bank has been in existence for less than five (5) years];~~
 - (b) "Bank holding company," "company," and "control" have the meanings accorded them in the Federal Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (12 U.S.C. secs. 1841 et seq.). "Control" may be acquired by acquisition of voting securities, by purchase of assets, by merger or consolidation, by contract, or otherwise;
 - (c) "Individual" means a natural person, partnership, association, business trust, voting trust, or similar organization. Individual does not include a corporation; and
 - (d) "Deposit" has the meaning accorded it in the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder; excluded, however, from deposits are all interbank deposits and all deposits in foreign branches and international banking facilities, as shown in the reports made by all federally-insured depository institutions to their respective supervisory authorities.
- (2)~~[- Any individual, or any bank holding company having its principal place of business in this state, may acquire control of one (1) or more banks or bank holding companies wherever located, except that no individual, who on July 13, 1984, controls a bank or bank holding company wherever located, and no bank holding company wherever located, may acquire, directly or indirectly, control of a bank having its principal place of business in this state if the bank was chartered after July 13, 1984, and if, at the time of the acquisition, the bank has been in existence less than five (5) years. The provisions of this subsection shall not prohibit the organization of a one (1) bank holding company for the purpose of acquiring~~

~~control of a bank even if the bank was chartered after July 13, 1984, and has been in existence less than five (5) years at the time of the acquisition.~~

- ~~(3)~~ No individual or bank holding company wherever located may acquire control of any bank or bank holding company if, upon the acquisition, the individual or bank holding company would control banks in this state holding more than fifteen percent (15%) of the total deposits and member accounts in the offices of all federally-insured depository institutions in this state as reported in the most recent year-end reports made by the institutions to their respective supervisory authorities which are available at the time of the acquisition.
- ~~(3)~~~~(4)~~ The limitations set forth in this section or any other provision of this chapter or any regulation promulgated thereunder, as now in effect or amended after July 13, 1984, shall not apply to the acquisition of a bank if, in his discretion, the commissioner, if the bank is organized under the laws of this state, or the comptroller of the currency, if the bank is a national bank, determines that an emergency exists and the acquisition is appropriate in order to prevent the probable failure of the bank which is closed or is in danger of closing.
- ~~(4)~~~~(5)~~ The provisions of this section shall not be construed to prohibit or restrict the merger or consolidation of banks or bank holding companies having their principal places of business in the same county and the operation by the merged or consolidated corporation of the banks, nor to prohibit the sale of any bank or bank holding company to, and the purchase thereof by, any other bank or bank holding company with its principal place of business in the same county and the operation of the bank as a branch so long as the provisions of KRS 287.180(4) have been satisfied.

Section 4. KRS 287.915 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of KRS Chapter 287:
- (a) An individual or bank holding company that controls two (2) or more banks having their principal offices in this Commonwealth may, from time to time, combine any or all of the commonly controlled banks in this Commonwealth into and with any one (1) of the banks, and thereafter the surviving bank, which shall have its principal office in this Commonwealth, shall continue to operate its principal office and may operate the other authorized offices of the banks so combined as branches of the surviving bank; and
 - (b) Any combination authorized by this section shall not require the approval of the commissioner of financial institutions, but on or before thirty (30) days prior to consummation of any combination, the proposed surviving bank shall notify the commissioner of the combination, and on the effective date of any such combination the charter of any combined bank organized under the laws of this Commonwealth shall be surrendered.
- (2) Following any combination authorized by this section:
- (a) The surviving bank may, subject to the approval of the commissioner as provided in KRS 287.180(2), establish and operate additional branches in any county where any bank involved in the combination had established a branch or main office;
 - (b) Any combined bank which is being operated as a branch of the surviving bank shall have a board of directors, a majority of which shall be residents of the combined bank's community, which shall meet not less often than quarterly to advise the branch in a

nonfiduciary capacity with respect to the branch's community activities and affairs, customer relations, and local charitable activities;

- (c) The surviving bank shall maintain a record of the deposits in each of its offices resulting from such combination or thereafter established as provided in paragraph (a) of this subsection; and
 - (d) With the approval of the commissioner, all of a bank's offices in a county may be transferred, by a purchase and assumption or other transaction, by the bank to a newly chartered bank having its principal office in the same county, or to an existing bank. ~~If transferred to a newly chartered bank, the years in existence of the newly chartered bank shall be deemed to be in excess of five (5) years.~~
- (3) For purposes of this section:
- (a) The term "combine" or "combination" includes a merger or the acquisition of all or substantially all of the assets of a bank already controlled by an individual or bank holding company;
 - (b) An individual or bank holding company "controls" a bank if that individual or company, directly or indirectly, owns, controls, or has the power to vote at least eighty percent (80%) of the issued and outstanding voting securities of the bank;
 - (c) "Combined bank" means any bank participating in a combination authorized by this section other than the surviving bank;
 - (d) "Surviving bank" means a bank into which a combined bank has been combined;
 - (e) "Bank" includes a national bank, savings and loan association, and federal savings bank ~~but does not include a bank which has been in existence less than five (5) years~~; and
 - (f) "Individual", "bank holding company" and "deposit" shall have the same meanings attributed to them in KRS 287.900(1).

Section 5. KRS 287.920 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) As used in this section, unless the context requires otherwise:
 - (a) "Interstate merger transaction" means the merger or consolidation of banks with different home states, and the conversion of branches of any bank involved in the merger or consolidation into branches of the resulting bank; and
 - (b) "Resulting bank" means a bank that has resulted from an interstate merger transaction under this section.
- (2) A Kentucky state bank may establish, maintain, and operate one (1) or more branches in a state other than Kentucky pursuant to an interstate merger transaction in which the Kentucky state bank is the resulting bank, or if the other state permits, by acquisition of a branch or branches in the other state. Not later than the date on which the required application for the interstate merger transaction or branch acquisition is filed with the responsible federal bank supervisory agency, the applicant shall file an application on a form prescribed by the commissioner and pay the fee prescribed by KRS 287.480. The applicant shall also comply with the applicable provisions of KRS 287.180(2) and the commissioner shall base his approval or disapproval in the same manner as prescribed in KRS 287.180(2).

- (3) An out-of-state state bank may establish, maintain, and operate one (1) or more branches in Kentucky pursuant to an interstate merger transaction in which the out-of-state state bank is the resulting bank. Not later than the date on which the required application for the interstate merger transaction is filed with the responsible federal bank supervisory agency, the applicant shall file an application on a form prescribed by the commissioner, pay the fee prescribed by KRS 287.480, and agree in writing to comply with the laws of this state applicable to its operation of branches in Kentucky. The applicant shall also comply with the applicable provisions of KRS 287.180(2) and the commissioner shall base his approval or disapproval in the same manner as prescribed in KRS 287.180(2).
- (4) ~~{The bank to be acquired in an interstate merger transaction under the provisions of subsection (3) of this section shall have been involved in operation for a period of five (5) years or more.}~~ No interstate merger transaction under subsections (2) or (3) of this section shall be approved if the transaction would result in a bank holding company having control of banks or branches in this state holding more than fifteen percent (15%) of the total deposits and member accounts in the offices of all federally-insured depository institutions in this state as reported in the most recent year-end reports made by the institutions to their respective supervisory authorities which are available at the time of the transaction.
- (5) An individual or bank holding company that controls two (2) or more banks may, from time to time, combine any or all of the commonly controlled banks in this Commonwealth into and with any one (1) of the banks, and thereafter the surviving bank shall continue to operate its principal office and may operate the other authorized offices of the banks so combined as branches of the surviving bank.
- (6) A branch of an out-of-state state bank may conduct any activities that are authorized under the laws of this state for state banks. Additionally, the branch of an out-of-state state bank is authorized to conduct any activities relating to the administration of trusts that are authorized under the laws of its home state, if the activities are conducted in conformity with the laws of its home state.
- (7) A branch of a Kentucky state bank located in a host state may conduct any activities that are:
 - (a) Authorized under the laws of the host state for banks chartered by the host state; or
 - (b) Authorized for branches of national banks located in the host state, but whose principal location is in a state other than the host state.

Approved March 17, 2000