

SENATOR LANDIS: ...because the business is now operating. It's operating in a number of locations in Lincoln and Omaha. It is operating around the country. The trend around the country is to regulate this industry and it works with something different than other financial institutions. Rather than a promissory note, rather than with a loan payment, the way that this...that somebody gets a loan under this mechanism is to walk in, prove that they have a job, write a check for which there is no money in the bank. It's a bad check at that moment but it's not intended to be cashed. So it's not a violation of the law because there's no intention to pass the check for the purposes of getting money as if it was a good check. Both parties know that at that moment it's a bad check because the person doesn't have any money. Now, ask yourself, what's a person without money going to do? It's a person without money who needs money so they write what they know is a check for which there isn't money in the bank but the person who takes the check will say, look, when will there be money in the bank, two weeks, a month, a day? And the person says, look, I'm getting paid on Friday, it will be good on Monday. Okay, write the check for next Monday or two Mondays hence. I'll give you the money today that you need. Write the check for the amount that you're borrowing, plus the amount of the interest that's being charged, or the fee, it's not called interest, it's a fee, otherwise it would run afoul of our usury law. Here's the fee and then when the check is good I will cash it two weeks from hence. Now, you ask me any other lender who takes something they know is without value at the moment they take it. It's not a secured loan. It's not a promissory note. It's not like anything else. And what you're doing is you are...you are...you are dealing with people, that's true, who are very much in the margin here, but understand that this is a person, this merchant who does this has a very high loss ratio. If you don't allow that merchant to recover for their bad debt, they can't offer it to the people that, in fact, do pay these off. The bad debt ratio here is someplace between 15 and 30 percent. Now, that means that you have to recover your costs to operate business. What I don't think Senator Chambers has indicated here is that there are people who use this process and skip town, for which there is very little form of recovery. When you go to the county attorney, as any other merchant would, and say, look, here's a bad check, it's not a bad check. Why? Because they took it knowing there wasn't money. They don't have access and recourse like other merchants do...