

that if a county such as Banner County that contracts out to other counties, they can combine with other counties to form these teams.

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I'm keeping that concept in there. So a county or if there is a county that combines, I'm trying to keep that concept alive.

SENATOR WESELY: The only point I was trying to make is that if...you've been talking about small rural counties, but it doesn't necessarily, the amendment doesn't necessarily limit itself to that. Any county could take this option.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That is correct. And I guess you're beginning to have the same reservations about the large counties as I'm having on the small counties from the urban viewpoint. And we're both coming from the same area, we both want this to accomplish. My point again, Don, is if the Crime Commission says, no, if it's taken by any county, but if the plan proposed to the Crime Commission and they say, no, that doesn't agree to it, then this makes it very clear that they have to then do exactly what 1184 does and we give a time period to transition to accomplish that. But we'll give it at least a shot to do it another way if they think there's a better way.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, I appreciate your intent here and I just want to...I just am fearful that if we open the door some people that are simply unwilling to try to work together will find, through this amendment, a way to bypass the teamwork concept. But, you know, I'll defer to Senator Rasmussen if she feels comfortable or not with it. With the Crime Commission involved with your amendment, it looks like there is the hammer there to force cooperation if there's a problem. But I'll be interested to hear what Senator Rasmussen says. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Bernard-Stevens and I have visited with this. I had the same immediate reaction that Senator Wesely did when we first started talking about it. I did not want to negate the purpose of this by opening the door for the option of saying, well, that's a terrific idea for everybody else but I don't want to do this.