

office or something like that? Because that's...I think that's part of the problem as, you know, maybe you are addressing with this amendment. I haven't had a chance to study and analyze it, but I see that as the problem is that they seem to be islands unto themselves and kind of do their own thing. So if you or Brashear would answer that question. How are you, you know, how are you going to control this?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, maybe there's a two-part response to your question, Senator Hartnett. One, clerks of the county court are state employees. Those are hired through the Court Administrator's Office, so if a clerk of the county court is not performing their duties properly, theoretically, they could be discharged by the Court Administrator's Office. Clerks of the district court are elected officials in all of the counties. In some counties, that individual is also the clerk of the...county clerk, maybe also the Register of Deeds, may hold a number of other offices as well. I believe that one of the expectations in the Court Administrator's office is that once the computer project, the automation project is completed that that will enable the Court Administrator's Office to perform a better analysis of the filing statistics from any court and to perhaps, through that statistical analysis, be able to detect variations in filing that aren't related to the same kind of activity as in another district. Now can I tell you that that's going to happen for certain? I don't know, but I think the Court Administrator's Office has some hope that that will occur.

SENATOR HARTNETT: So we may be visiting this issue again, do you think?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, Senator, I don't know if you will ever get 49 members of the Legislature to agree that the statistics we get from the Court Administrator's Office are completely valid. That may be asking...

SENATOR HARTNETT: So...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...that may be asking a bit much, but I think that the process will result in better statistics than we have now. And, in fact, if you review the last four or five years, that has been the progression of events. I know that there are some members of the body who are frustrated that it