

however, it would become a state cost in the event that it would be...an agreement would be reached and then that too, of course, would be subject to a legislative appropriation to implement that in the event that any of those provisions should come about. But this is a bill which is important to start the process of looking for ways to make some levels of government more responsive and more cost effective, again, by and large, with approval by voters if it is to be done and I would urge the body might adopt it. I would, if there's any time left, I would relinquish it to Senator Wickersham, who...one of the provisions for merging of county offices in counties is...reflects legislation he had introduced earlier and he can explain some of the details and why that legislation is needed and what is short about the current provisions in state law.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Warner. You have...there are two minutes left, Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, thank you, Mr. President. If I could explain all of the contents of what was LB 212 that were incorporated into 1085 in two minutes I'm sure you'd all be grateful. I don't think I'm going to be able to do that, but let me refer you to the contents of LB 212 if you want to read the committee statement for that bill. If you want to review the provisions that would give you a good benchmark. There have been a couple of changes made. They're not material, I think, to the general scope of the bill and its incorporation into 1085. Let me tell you that in broad scope that what the merger or consolidation or joint operations functions, however you want to characterize it, in 1085 does is provide for those activities both on an intercounty basis and also on an intracounty basis.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: So both...both are covered. There are existing statutes for the consolidation of counties, but if you examine those statutes you'll see that for the most part they are unworkable as not providing schedules for the adoption of budgets, for the election of officers to fill consolidated offices, a number of other practical difficulties that can arise if anyone attempted to use them. The provisions of 1085 I believe solve those difficulties putting in place a process that can be used at the local level to accomplish those purposes. Now one other...a couple of other points should be made that the