

1998 and then it expands it to include not just the big consolidation, whole counties with whole counties, but also the other kinds of consolidations envisioned in the bill generally, that is the consolidation of offices and/or the consolidation of particular work functions. So it curtails it in the sense that it sets a time line, it expands it in the sense that it asks them to look at everything and the entire amendment then is contained in that one subsection, in that subsection (1) of the amendment before you. I hope that explains what it does.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler, your light is next. Would you wish to be recognized? Senator Chambers, your light is next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this is something that I haven't had a chance to really grasp yet in terms of what it means, so I want to ask Senator Beutler, if I can, what his amendment does.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And, Senator Beutler, I have been reading the committee amendment to see how yours fits in, so could you tell me, if what Senator Wickersham has said is true, that we're only dealing with the first provision of the amendment you handed out?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's correct, subsection (1). It says Section 9, subsection (1). That's the only thing before you now, Senator,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, then...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ..as modified as I described it a minute ago.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, so here's what I'm going to ask, and maybe you touched on these, but during this discussion I'm going to probably have to question whoever speaks when I get up again. Now, when you say each county board shall thoroughly examine and thereafter hold a public meeting, the meeting is not a hearing, is it?

SENATOR BEUTLER: It's not formally structured like a hearing. It's a public meeting. I assume, Senator, they can structure it