

county boards. Is that correct?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator, if you have a merger of counties, that results in a merger of the county boards.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well what does the language on page 5 say? And I'll start...starting...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator, in the context that you're reading, that is correct, that is a specific office that could not be merged independent of a merger of the counties themselves. But I would suggest to you that that is appropriate because that is the governing board for the political subdivision. You couldn't.... It is unrealistic to have a merger of governing boards without a merger of the underlying political subdivisions themselves.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Could you have a merg...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Does that distinction...do you understand the distinction I'm making?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Let me take it the other way and see if we're saying the same thing.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Okay.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You could have a consolidation of counties, but still keep two county boards. That is correct, isn't it?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: No, no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well the consolidation may only last for a couple of years. Isn't that true? Or is that false?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Conceivably, counties that consolidated and formed one county could later divide, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Could the agreement set a time limit for the duration of this consolidation?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I don't recall specifically, but I believe so, yes.