

prepared quite at this point to go that far. But you have a good point.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You're not sure you trust the people that much right yet?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I thought you said that we would...this petition would mandate the county board to do that. Did I misunderstand your question?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, right, and that the legislation would say that whatever is contained in the petition, if the petition says consolidate offices, consolidate counties, then if that petition is successful, then the county board shall carry out what the petition dictates and the failure to do so shall be willful neglect of office, and these board members shall be removed. Are you willing to go that far?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I would consider that, and the reason is I'm (inaudible) a petition that I'm familiar with, where we went from three to five county board members. I don't know whether they were mandated to put that.... I would look at that in a historical context of other issues. So I'll reserve judgment, to think about that a minute to see if there's petition to go from three to five, which I know happens, I don't know whether that's mandated or if they can refuse to do it. But I would look at in a similar light, what you're suggesting.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Senator Warner, I'll ask you the same question. Would you be willing to say that whatever is demanded in this petition in terms of consolidation, not just that the county board would consider it and try to enter an agreement, but that the two counties would have to do this. And if they failed to carry out the dictates of the petition, that constitutes willful neglect of duty and the county board member shall be removed from office. Then we put it in the hands of the public. Are you willing to go that far?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Chambers, what the statute says now is that this petition, which may or shall direct the board to develop a consolidation agreement pursuant to Section 22-402, which is the whole previous section, with the county or counties named in the petition. And I would argue that that's exactly what the law is now that they shall develop a consolidation