

of the state would want legislators forcing a merger in a particular form upon their area by state law when they would have the ability as is currently written to make that determination themselves. But there's a number of measures in this proposed amendment...

SENATOR WILL: Time.

SENATOR WARNER: ...that I would hope would not be adopted.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Brown on your amendment.

SENATOR BROWN: Senator Warner, I'd like to ask you a couple of questions. You talked about home rule charter giving significant authority, but isn't it also a mechanism for the restructuring that might be necessary under merger or consolidation?

SENATOR WILL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Yes, it is a mechanism. My remarks generally go to the broader concept of what home rule charters mean in a variety of states which usually means, in some states at least, the ability to have their own taxes, their own system beyond what the Legislature can direct unless there can be shown it would have a statewide interest.

SENATOR BROWN: Do you believe that counties now can have home rule charter?

SENATOR WARNER: Under existing constitution?

SENATOR BROWN: Yes.

SENATOR WARNER: Not that I'm aware of.

SENATOR BROWN: Do you think that it, I mean, can we change it statutorily or do you believe that we need to...that if we wanted to give that authority we would need to do it constitutionally?

SENATOR WARNER: I would suspect that's probably the case that if you wanted to give them that authority for home rule charter,