

But if you wanted to get rid of some of the smaller things and consolidate it, if the county wanted to merge and consolidate let's say the townships of their community, you'd have to have a vote of all the townships and that isn't really good policy. That doesn't work very well. And so I appreciate...Senator Brown has really helped focus what the major debate was in committee was exactly this point. And I'll bet that there's a huge battle going on out somewhere out in the Rotunda from those people who want to make this a "may" and those that want to make it "shall." And the bottom line is that I think there's extremely good reasons and it's very dangerous for us to put "shall." And, Senator Brown, I have one last question and I'll show my ignorance here, I've read about home rule charters. I've seen them. I've seen how they operate. What is it that you do with a home rule charter that you can't do now? And this isn't a trick question, I just plain don't know. If I could ask Senator Brown a question, please.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Brown.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you.

SENATOR BROWN: The major aspect and the thing that I appreciate about it is the charter convention. It...the provisions permit the entities to create what they're going to look like by means of a charter convention or commission...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...which is either appointed or elected and which writes the charter that sets out what the structure is going to look like.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: So instead of having a county board you would have a convention of sorts that would set out the guidelines instead of having the county board do it?

SENATOR BROWN: Well, if you're looking at a merger, say, between two counties or between a city or a county, then you would have...you would either have elected or appointed representatives to the convention that would then detail the restructuring that might take place and then that restructuring could be...would be voted on by the people.