

constitution a prohibition as we are going to be with the language that no merger shall take place without a vote of the people, a prohibition from the Legislature ever being involved in directing mergers. And so those are my arguments for the amendment. I think it's pretty clear that the Revenue Committee has been very thoughtful in their approach and they've tried to answer a lot of the questions and there's not going to be a lot of support for this amendment in the same way there wasn't a lot of support for the previous amendment. Part of why I introduced these amendments is to have the discussion, but there are provisions, especially in this amendment, that I think are absolutely essential; and I think the home rule charter provision is one that I feel very strongly about. And I'm really afraid that if we leave a constitutional amendment without some of the necessary flexibility that we're going to regret it in the future. And I think certainly that the local subdivisions are going to feel that they haven't been given enough flexibility are also going to regret it and so I would urge the adoption of the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Brown. You've heard the closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the Brown amendment to the committee amendments on LR 292. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Have you all voted? Mr. Clerk, please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 4 ayes, 13 nays on the adoption of Senator Brown's amendment, Mr. President.

SENATOR WILL: The amendment is not adopted. Next item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend the committee amendments.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Bernard-Stevens, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Lindsay (sic), members of the body. This amendment, if you're looking at the committee amendment, I'm not going to give you the page of the actual...if you look on the first page, actually there are two pages. But if you just turn to page 3 which would actually be page 5 of the committee amendments, but on the white copy that you have before you if you just go to the third page, the