

on their own, fine. If they need to get someone to help them, fine. But the point is they're not taking a serious look at consolidation if they're not willing to do a real cost estimate. I mean...

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I just want to tell you that in my district they have done some...they've done...we've done...we've had several schools who have gotten together and done these kinds of studies. There was some savings, but they weren't the amount that they anticipated so the consolidation didn't go through based on the fact they didn't think there was going to be enough savings. Maybe things have changed. I guess my point is that there...some people, I think some of those professionals came in, charged us 20 to 30 thousand dollars to do a complete study of the...because if you don't do a complete study to determine all of the ramifications that are going to be involved you're just not going to...you're not going to get anywhere. And when you say that, and I don't agree that you ought to mandate that they have to hire a professional to do it simply because on the one hand we're telling people to cut down spending and reduce their expenses. on the other hand if we come back and say, you're going to have to hire somebody to do this, so we're really flying in the face of what we're saying on the reduction of expenditures. But then taking the other side of the argument, if they just get together and decide that, oh, we'll have some savings but they're not worth enough to do anything, then you really haven't accomplished anything either. To me, the whole thing doesn't...really doesn't do very much. So I, you know, I'm going to have a hard time supporting it simply because I can't envision what the value is going to be. I agree that districts need to get together and talk about consolidation and, frankly, I think they've been doing that. Many schools that I am aware of have been doing that, but they have not come to the final decision, that is, yeah, we should move ahead with some type of a consolidation. Now in this whole process you're also...you're not talking about consolidation of services as much as you are as consolidations of schools. Is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right.

SENATOR VRTISKA: That's what ..

SENATOR BEUTLER: (inaudible).