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LB 414

whether they're clerk of the district court or in charge of the county court clerk's office. The Supreme Court must initiate the merger by requesting a merger plan. All local parties are...have an invitation to participate, and then we'll talk about that aspect of it a little bit more with the committee amendments and an amendment to the committee amendments, where there was a little discussion as between certain groups as to how that should work. The third thing that the bill does, the third way that it would improve the system is by making all of the employees of the clerk of the district court's office and a few ancillary employees, they would become a part of the state system; they would be paid by the state instead of the county, and for the first time in the history of the state our entire court system would be integrated. This is going to be helpful in a number of ways, including the fact that there is...there are discrepancies all over the place with regard to how much somebody might be paid in a county, in one county, and in another as...and then as compared to the state system. If we do this, we not only relieve the counties of a financial burden, but we allow the Supreme Court to start setting up a pay and salary system that will be equitable as among all of the employees doing similar work across the state in the judicial branch of government. The...the other thing that I wanted to be sure to mention off of the top is that no employee will receive less, by virtue of this merger, no compensation will be taken away from any employee, they're protected, and no employee will lose a job under the bill. The only conceivable condition where that could happen, we had to build in something in the event that the Centralized Child Support System takes...takes effect, and there will be more discussion of that this session, a lot more, but it's possible that the number of employees would have to be cut down relative to that at some point in time. Having said those things, there should be passed out to you several handouts that I just wanted to go over quickly and orient you to the handouts and then move to Senator Brashear and the committee amendments. And I really am grateful for the patience and the work that the Judiciary Committee has put in on this bill. But you should have a number of handouts now in front of you. One of them says "LB 414" at the top, including AM2008 and AM2565. This is a concept sheet that describes for you, as clearly as I could, what the bill does in some pretty good detail. Now the two amendments that are talked about, one is the committee