

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 9, 1999 LB 87

understanding it correctly, with respect to what duties and/or obligations they can merge. In other words, a school district, for part of its function, could merge with a county or a city, as I understand it. I don't think it was designed, and correct me, Senator, if I'm wrong, for total merger, necessarily. You could split out functions that one entity or another may have, and participate with another entity with respect to those functions, and have a separate political subdivision with separate taxing authority, albeit with some limitations on the taxing authority, I assume, Senator,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Thank you, Senator. I have two announcements that I would like to make at this time. Senator Kristensen would like to announce the following guests are visiting the Legislature, 18 Delta Kappa Gamma members, an educational group from around the state, and most significantly, Senator Kristensen's mother, Mary Lou Kristensen, is among the group. Would you please stand, under the south balcony, and be recognized by the Legislature. In addition, Senator Connealy would like to announce that there are 30 Agricultural Producers in Agri-Business from around the state, participating in the LEAD Program, in the north balcony, along with their director (introduced director). Would you please stand and be recognized by your Legislature. For further discussion on the committee amendments, the Chair recognizes Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, Senator Beutler raises a terminology of merger that is not what the bill provides for. And I'm going to use merger in a technical sense. In a merger somebody disappears. In this bill the entities that agree to work together do not disappear, they create a new organization to carry out one or more of their assigned statutory functions. So it isn't...it isn't a merger, and in fact it isn't in that respect anything different than what they can do now. They can do almost everything that is provided for in this bill now. But they do it in a way that is cumbersome and awkward, and sometimes difficult to manage because they do most of what's provided in this bill now through a private, nonprofit corporation. But when they form the private, nonprofit corporation they have to create a new retirement plan, they have to create new insurance coverage, they have to create new liability insurance coverages, they have to create a whole