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FLOOR DEBATE

March 28, 2001 LB 808

they determine in the most appropriate. Take the uniform point system for determining what makes a person an active volunteer, that is...was developed by the volunteer service award benefit review board, and place it in statute. In essence, the bill takes what is intended to be a state-administered and partially state-funded incentive program, and makes it purely local program. And that's simply what the bill does, the green copy.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Hartnett, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments.

**SENATOR HARTNETT:** The committee amendments, to avoid unintended consequence, the emergency clause is added. Secondly, technical language amendment are made in Section 4, setting out the point system to determine whether a volunteer is active. The committee amendments charge the local laws to authorize a local subdivision to set up their program, to begin on any date and run in any annual basis as they choose. They don't have to follow a state fiscal year. Finally, provision of the bill in current law which establish the requirements for a local subdivision conducting a program to report to the State Fire Marshal are stricken and repealed. A new section is added to require all volunteer departments to report to the Fire Marshal on an annual basis as their active membership rolls, not just those departments conducting the retirement and retention program. The committee felt it was necessary to provide baseline data and continuing information to the Legislature and state government on the status of volunteer departments and their success or failure in recruiting and retaining volunteers. That is the committee amendments. And I'd be glad to answer any questions.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Debate on the committee amendments to LB 808? Senator Hartnett, you're recognized to close.

**SENATOR HARTNETT:** The committee amendments I think just...I think we're...we move from a state program to a local program. And it simply leaves it up. And I simply would ask the committee to...or, the body to adopt the committee amendments.