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FLOOR DEBATE

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can to recruit and to retain volunteer firefighters and emergency responders. Over the years, we have had the opportunity or the occasion or the bad fortune to have to call the fire department three separate times. And they always were there, they...four times, actually. They always were there, they did their job, and they did it proficiently, and they left and no...no thanks were asked. This is a way that we can thank them for making sure that they are not taxed unfairly for these benefits. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Senator Beutler, on advancement of LB 268.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, Senator Friend, just a couple of questions, if I might.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Friend, will you yield?

SENATOR FRIEND: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I want to direct your attention to the new language at the bottom of page 4 of the bill. And actually both the questions that I'm...that I'd like to ask are based on my own ignorance, so please don't take them as critical in any sense. On page 4, it says: Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing a city, village or rural or suburban fire protection district from establishing a vesting schedule under which a stated proportion of the participant's interest in his or her annual accounts become nonforfeitable upon completion of a specified number of years of service, subject to three different sections of statute. If you just read that provision, without going back and looking at those three subdivisions of statute, it would seem to indicate that it's at the complete discretion of those governmental subdivisions to say when year one, year two, year five, up to year ten, that the right of the participants to have vested is his or her contribution. First of all, since I haven't read the sections it references, I assume those references don't change that prerogative on the part of the political subdivision. Is the fact of the matter that, under the green copy of the bill, a political subdivision can have the "vestiture" take place at any point in time