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sufficient state revenues on a year-to-year basis, and recognize the authority of a local subdivision to end their program at any time. Provides a credible cooperative mechanism for the state to financially recognize the contribution made by local volunteer emergency response...responders in the protection of state property and citizens present on state facilities. That's basically what the bill does. I had a handout, I think, that one of the things, I think, in last year was that we have a report of how active, of 35 out of 80 that probably are around areas that have volunteer, have some type of state land or state highways or interstate system responded. And you can see on one of my handouts that they...the volunteer people do provide a state function as far as this legislation is concerned. So that, I guess,.... And I would...I have some committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Hartnett, you are recognized to open on your committee amendments, if you wish. (See Standing Committee amendment, AM0735, printed separately and referred to on page 1011 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR HARTNETT: First, the first change that's made is the Volunteer Service Award Benefit Review Board is changed from a permanent new commission to a board with limited, one year, existence. They will be in existence for one year to set up some type of criteria that will be...that will be used...is formed by July 15, 1999, and goes out of existence permanently on July 15, year 2000, after it has completed developing a task...of developing the standard criteria to determine whether or not individuals qualify as an active volunteer so as to participate in a service award benefit program. Second, the continuing function of that board was the responsibility for under the original bill is now transferred to the State Fire Marshall. These responsibilities primarily involve recordkeeping, reporting, and administration of the Nebraska Service Award Benefit Program, including all incidence of the state funding of the local Service Award Benefit Program. And, finally, the provision in the current bill is to authorize state funding for active individuals in a range between \$250 and \$100 per year is amended to restrict state funding to a maximum of