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SENATOR JANSSEN: And this is...this is discretionary all the way.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yeah.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Only if they wish to participate, wish to participate in this. Is that right?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. This is something that I think is long overdue. I know there are some dollars involved to the state, but you look at the vast area that this state has. And, if it wasn't for the volunteer firemen in this state, we would be between a rock and a hard spot, let me tell you that. And I might add that volunteer departments are declining enrollment right now. I know...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...a lot of companies are not up to their...up to their maximum strength. Several communities are having problems. Volunteerism throughout the state is having this happen, not only in the fire service, but other volunteer groups also have trouble keeping members. And I think that this is... Minnesota, I know, has had similar legislation for a good many years, and that retains. And the bill, the way you have the bill named is absolutely true, it's a retention. You keep those people on the active rolls and not have the big turnover that a lot of companies have. It... Also in the emergency responders, you get someone who is trained in that area, and to have them...to lose those people after a few years is terrible, because you have to train someone else.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Before we go on with further debate, Senator Robak would like to announce that, from Columbus we have a unique situation there, we have a Junior City Council, and that's the only one in the state of Nebraska.