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reference that was made throughout the main body of the bill. The concept is simple, the local entities would report their information to the State Fire Marshal, including the names and addresses of active volunteers, the amount of contributions on their behalf, when they cease to be active, and other necessary information. The Fire Marshal would be the link between the local entities and the state administrator of the program. The villages, cities, and fire protection districts would send all their local contributions to the State Treasurer on an annual basis. The State Investment Office would invest the funds contributed by the local entities and the state. The Public Employees Retirement Board would administer the program, this would involve keeping track of contributions, the income from investments on the contributions, coordinating that with the different programs and qualifying volunteers, keeping track of volunteers, when they enter and when they leave active service, and ultimately making the payments of the award. The administrative function could be contracted out by the Public Employees Retirement Board to a private organization, if determined to be cost-effective and more efficient. These changes would provide greater accuracy, economy and efficiency in administration, provide for more accountability, and would insure the maximum return on investment. On the state level the expenses of administering the program would be paid out of a new fund, the Nebraska Service Award Benefit Expense Fund. The money paid to the expense (sic) would come primarily from two sources--first, the Public Employees Retirement Board would be authorized to take a share of the contributions and interest earned on them and place them in the Expense Fund. Secondly, all the unallocated contributions of forfeited contributions from volunteers that fail to qualify for the award would be paid into the Expense Fund. Finally, the amendment makes it clear that any village, city, or fire protection district conducting a program could end the program at any time. That termination cannot affect any prior completion...completed year of service. The termination can operate retroactively to (inaudible) awards to volunteers who have already completed years of active service. When a program is terminated, volunteers who have not completed their ten years of active service could automatically be invested (sic) for the years they have served prior to termination. This is just a matter of fairness to the volunteers who participated in good faith and who have otherwise