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coordinates those and provides the accountability of the funds that are associated with the recruiting tool for the state. And I believe that Senator Wehrbein brings up some valid points, you know, if we're going to start something it could be...it could grow from here, but I believe that the options that might be available or we'd be forced into visiting would be far greater than the costs associated with this. I see this as being able to prevent some further problems down the road. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Stuhr, on the Hartnett amendment.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I just want to add a couple comments to this bill and also thank Senator Hartnett for his work that he has done. But I also want to state that I still have some questions, I do have some concern about what we are creating here, and I want us all to be aware of that and the fact that it looks very much like a retirement program, but we're not calling it a retirement program. I think that the amendment that we have worked out does add a great deal. But I do have a number of questions that I would like to address to Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you yield, Senator Hartnett?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes.

SENATOR STUHR: Could you, first of all, just walk...walk us through the program, just, you know, how...how would a firefighter, or how would a community get started with this type of program?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Okay. When the bill is passed, Senator Stuhr, there will be a board of nine members, and they will determine which are qualified firefighters. It will...because my fire dis...I still have a volunteer fire department in Bellevue, probably different than say Bradshaw and so forth. So they'll make it for different levels. And so then they will set up a point system as to who will...who would qualify. And so different activities--going to school, rescue squads, and the different activities of firemen will be set up, there will be at