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FLOOR DEBATE

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year. We just simply ran out of time. It has been supported by the volunteer firemen for quite some time now, and this summer I know I was asked, what's going to happen to that bill now it was killed last year at the end of the biennium? I said, well, it will be reintroduced again and we'll come back and see if we can do something about it next year. Most of us have some forms of volunteer firefighters in our areas. Even some of the larger towns have a very active fire departments and rescue personnel. They are not paid. They are strictly volunteers and do, I would say, a pretty darn good job in protecting us, not only from disasters, fires, and so on and so forth, but also now they have gotten into the rescue business and spend many hours hauling and transporting people throughout their district to the hospital, and so and and so forth. And without them, their numbers have been declining over the past few years because people don't seem to have the time to participate in these kind of activities, and sometimes it's hard to maintain the strength in those companies. So I think this is something that we could... is long overdue and we should take a good look at it. With that, I would try to answer any questions that may become upon your mind to voice your opinion on. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. You've heard the opening on LB 167 offered by Senator Janssen. We are now open for discussion on that bill. Senator Vrtiska, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the body, Senator, could I ask you a question, Senator Janssen?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Janssen, would you yield?

SENATOR JANSSEN: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Janssen, I support what you're doing, obviously. I was a fireman for a good many years as a volunteer. But one of the questions I think needs to be answered and everybody needs to know is, and maybe you don't know, because of the financial situation in not only the state but many of the villages and cities, what's this going to cost?