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## DIGEST

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Berthelot

HB No. 339

**Abstract:** Allows for the use of public funds by a fire protection district, municipal fire department, or volunteer fire department for the implementation of length of service awards program for volunteer firefighters.

Present law allows fire protection districts, municipal fire departments, and volunteer fire departments to use public funds in connection with certain activities such as the purchase of recognitions of achievement not to exceed \$100 and refreshments for firefighters while at meetings or training. Present law further specifies that public funds can be used to pay or defray reasonable travel expenses at an educational conference.

Proposed law retains present law and in addition allows for the use of public funds by fire districts, municipal fire departments, and volunteer fire departments for the implementation of length of service awards programs, which provide a monetary benefit, based on service, to eligible volunteer firefighters. Provides that the program is not a vested right and does not entitle recipients to other benefits. Provides that the award is not permanent.

(Amends R.S. 40:1510)

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the original bill.

1. Specifies that the length of service award program is not a vested right, does not entitle the recipient to any other benefits not directly related to the program, and may be discontinued at any time.