

SB 232-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0944

04/08

SENATE BILL      **232-FN-A**

AN ACT            making an appropriation to support the work of the New Hampshire Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

SPONSORS:      Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24

COMMITTEE:    Finance

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ANALYSIS

This bill makes an appropriation to the internet crimes against children fund to support the work of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

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Explanation:    Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                     Matter removed from current law appears ~~in brackets and struckthrough~~.  
                     Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three*

AN ACT                    making an appropriation to support the work of the New Hampshire Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            1 Statement of Purpose.

2            I. The general court finds that the use of online platforms has led to a burgeoning of child  
3 abuse, sexual abuse exploitation, and endangerment to New Hampshire's children. The New  
4 Hampshire Internet crimes against children task force (NHICAC) has been a key component in the  
5 identification of exploited children and prosecution of the perpetrators of this particularly insidious  
6 method of abuse. Recognizing the critical work of the NHICAC, in 2017 the general court made  
7 appropriations for forensic shield for salary, benefits, training, and equipment related to the  
8 investigation of Internet crimes against children, and to expand educational efforts to interested  
9 groups, schools, and parents. Since then, the funds have been disbursed every 2 years in the amount  
10 of \$500,000.

11           II. As recently as 2018, NHICAC was receiving about 35 to 50 cybertips per month and  
12 assisted with conducting 352 total investigations. In 2021, NHICAC received 1,107 cybertips, an  
13 average of 92 per month, and assisted with investigating 848 total investigations. Currently in 2022,  
14 NHICAC has averaged 153 cybertips per month. This dramatic increase in a relative short amount  
15 of time, has put a tremendous strain on NHICAC's capabilities.

16           2 New Hampshire Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force; Appropriation. The sum of  
17 \$400,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 and the sum of \$400,000 for the fiscal year ending  
18 June 30, 2025 are hereby appropriated to the New Hampshire internet crimes against children fund  
19 established in RSA 21-M:17 for the purpose of hiring of hiring a cybertip manager, increasing hours  
20 dedicated to the task force's mission for the investigators who are also employed by affiliate  
21 agencies, adding an investigator to cover Grafton and Coos counties, and an investigator to cover  
22 Cheshire and Sullivan counties, including equipment necessary to outfit some of the added affiliate  
23 agencies with computer and software equipment so they may contribute to NHICAC's overall  
24 mission. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the  
25 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

26           3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

**SB 232-FN-A- FISCAL NOTE**  
**AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT making an appropriation to support the work of the New Hampshire Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**    ☒ State                    ☐ County                    ☒ Local                    ☐ None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Appropriation	\$0	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Up to \$400,000	Up to \$400,000	\$0
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Internet Crimes Against Children Fund			

**LOCAL:**

Revenue	\$0	Up to \$400,000	Up to \$400,000	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill makes a general fund appropriation of \$400,000 in FY 2024 and \$400,000 in FY 2025 to the nonlapsing Internet crimes against children fund to support the work of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

The Department of Justice indicates the Governor's recommended operating budget for the FY 2024-25 biennium includes an appropriation to the Internet crimes against children fund in the amount of \$250,000 for FY 2024 and \$250,000 for FY 2025. The Department assumes the bill is intended to increase the annual appropriation to the fund by \$150,000 up to \$400,000. If the amounts in the operating budget remain the same, the Department assumes the additional appropriations would only need to be \$150,000 in each year. The Department states it would not need additional administrative resources to distribute the additional funds.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Justice