

One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB424

Chairperson: Senator Heath Mello

Committee: Appropriations

Date of Hearing: March 06, 2013

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The Nebraska Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force was established by the Nebraska State Patrol in 2000. Nebraska's ICAC Task Force is one of 61 task forces in the United States Department of Justice ICAC Task Force program, which were developed in response to the increasing number of children using the Internet, the proliferation of unlawful images, images depicting the sexual exploitation of minors, and the heightened online activity by predators searching for unsupervised contact with underage victims.

Unfortunately more affordable technology such as smart phones, tablets, computers, and wider access to the Internet have led to an increase in the number of Nebraska's children who are vulnerable to predators that use that technology to exploit them.

Today, under the direction of the Nebraska State Patrol's Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, the Nebraska ICAC task force is comprised of fifty-two state, county, and local law enforcement agencies and county attorney offices across Nebraska, and two federal law enforcement agencies and prosecutor's offices, who work together to combat the growing problem of Internet and/or technology related child exploitation. The task force has implemented innovative ways to utilize technology to stay one-step ahead of the criminal, from investigative techniques to evidence collection and criminal investigations.

This bill appropriates funds to the NE State Patrol's Internet Crimes Against Children Commission as follows:

- \$250,000 from General Funds in FY 13-14
- \$250,000 from General Funds in FY 14-15

In federal fiscal year FY 09, from the time period of April, 2009 to December 31, 2011, the State Patrol received \$481,092 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). This funding ended on December 31, 2011. This bill restores that funding via a State appropriation.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Colby Coash