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## New Hampshire governor budgets nearly \$1.5M in funding for northern border safety

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**Marissa Tansino**

News Anchor/Reporter

**CONCORD, N.H.** — A request for more money in a state budget proposal for patrols near the Canadian border in New Hampshire is being debated in Concord.

Gov. Chris Sununu, R-New Hampshire, is asking lawmakers to approve nearly \$1.5 million to create a Northern Border Alliance Program. The money would go toward state and local police in New Hampshire patrol towns near the Canadian border in hopes of making it safer.

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"We have the money. We have the ability. It's important to secure the border, as small as our border might be," Sununu said.

Chief border patrol agent Robert Garcia tweeted out a video Thursday, saying the short clip shows one of the several groups that agents encountered over the weekend.

There were 94 people from 11 different countries taken into custody across Vermont and New York.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection data shows the section of the northern border that covers New York and Vermont has seen more than 1,500 encounters between October and January, up from 160 people the year before, and a nearly 850% increase.

None were recorded in New Hampshire in that time frame.

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New Hampshire Department of Safety Commissioner Robert Quinn said this money will help prepare for any possible surge that spills over into our state.

"This is remote territory and the conditions can be very harsh and unforgiving, and we're trying to build and ensure that in the coming months that we have the resources to work together," Quinn said.

Sununu said he's pushing hard to have state and local law enforcement work as a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer. This money would help give them the resources to be able to do that.

"In the past six months, I think you've seen northern border crossings go up close to 10 times what they previously were, something like that, so that's just startling, and I think the fear is that could keep accelerating," Sununu said.

There were more than 360 arrests in that area this past January alone. U.S. Customs Border and Protection said that's more than they've seen in the past 12 Januarys combined.