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State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
33 HAZEN DR. CONCORD, NH 03305
603/271-2791

JOHN J. BARTHELMES
COMMISSIONER

October 9, 2015

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Retroactive

Requested Action

Authorize the Department of Safety, Division of State Police to **retroactively** pay annual dues of \$6,500.00 to SEARCH Group, Inc., the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, (VC#173580-B001), 7311 Greenhaven Drive, Suite 270, Sacramento, CA, for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. Effective upon Governor and Council approval. Funding source: 100% Revolving Fund.

Funds are available in the SFY 2016 operating budget as follows:

02-23-23-234010-40190000	Dept. of Safety – Division of State Police – Criminal Records	<u>SFY 2016</u>
026-500251	Organizational Dues – Membership Fees	\$6,500.00

Explanation

This request to pay annual membership dues to SEARCH Group, Inc. is **retroactive** as the invoice was received by the Division of State Police on September 29, 2015, one day prior to the beginning of the applicable period; therefore, it was not possible to submit the request to the Governor and Council any earlier.

SEARCH Group, Inc., the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, which is a non-profit membership organization created by and for the states. Founded in 1969, SEARCH's primary objective has been to identify and help solve the information management problems of state and local justice agencies, state agencies, agencies in other states, or with the federal government.

SEARCH is comprised of the one gubernatorial appointee from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as eight at-large appointees selected by SEARCH's Chair. Members are primarily state-level justice officials responsible for operational decisions and policymaking concerning the management of criminal justice information, particularly criminal history information.

In April 2005, Governor Lynch appointed Jeffrey R. Kellett, Administrator of the State Police Criminal Records Unit, to represent the State of New Hampshire as its SEARCH member. Mr. Kellett continues to serve as Administrator and his appointment enables New Hampshire to speak as a powerful collective voice of criminal justice information managers and thus play a significant role in developing national criminal justice policy and programs.

Annual fees from member states are used to support daily operations, provide funding for SEARCH activities, convene meetings, respond to federal initiatives and pursue grant-supported activities.

Please see the following questions and answers about SEARCH, Inc. which more specifically address this request.

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization? *SEARCH, the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, was formed in 1969 and the Department of Safety, Division of State Police has been a member since 2005.*
2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to? *No.*
3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member? *There is one member representing each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.*

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4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.) *SEARCH dues are a standard fee for all states.*

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership? *NH benefits from SEARCH's areas of focus such as information sharing, criminal history record systems, justice information technology planning, acquisition and management, information law and policy, cybercrime investigation, and public safety and interoperability. Also, many of the functions of SEARCH benefit NH in the areas of technical assistance, training, resource development (research, analytical and survey reports, national conferences, symposia and workshops, and on-line resources). SEARCH also serves NH well in national-scope research, policy advocacy, and model development (e.g., model legislation; model audits, standards and procedures, and best practices).*

6. Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail. *Yes, all are inclusive with the membership and a sampling of such benefits are: SEARCH members receive daily privacy alerts on topics involving privacy issues with respect to data protection, cyber security, social media, and related areas of concern on the federal, state, and international levels; members are also afforded federal legislative updates, as well as participation/access to national surveys germane to criminal history record information.*


7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain. *No.*

8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips. *Yes, there are two general Membership Group meetings held each year at varying locations across the country; although, typically one meeting is usually held in Washington D.C. to afford members direct access to their congressional delegation. The membership fee covers the travel for both of these meetings for each member. Additional purposes of these general Membership Group meetings are the presentation of topics of interest, legislative updates, plenary discussions, and conducting SEARCH business.*

9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.) *The head of the Division of State Police Criminal Records Unit is the sole state employee involved with SEARCH. He is a voting member and has served as a past director of SEARCH.*

10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization. *The state, particularly the Division of State Police, would lose the leverage it has as a SEARCH member in several areas. SEARCH advocates for the states on proposed congressional legislation- typically with respect to dissemination of criminal history record information for non-criminal justice purposes (e.g., employment, licensing, housing, etc.). As a member, NH has a strong, and many times persuasive, voice in that advocacy and how it best benefits NH. Furthermore, membership enables NH to participate in and benefit from national surveys on a range of germane topics to be used as barometer for comparison with other states' processes and procedures. In many instances, these comparisons are cost-saving by avoiding others' pitfalls or not having to build something from the ground level. Lastly, the networking relationships established through SEARCH membership has saved the State of NH immeasurable time in solving problems, seeking advice, and are an invaluable resource of contacts on the issues of public safety.*

Respectfully submitted,


John J. Barthelmes
Commissioner of Safety



SEARCH

RECEIVED

The National Consortium
for Justice Information and Statistics
NH STATE POLICE

2015 SEP 29 AM 5:00

**2016-2017 STATE DUES
INVOICE**

BRAD TRUITT Chair
SCOTT M. CAME Executive Director

Invoice Number:	NH-FY2016A
Invoice Date:	August 14, 2015

Jeffrey Kellett
New Hampshire State Police
Criminal Records Unit
33 Hazen Drive
Concord, New Hampshire 03305-0011

Via email: jeffrey.kellett@dos.nh.gov

Please remit \$6,500.00, as payment in full for New Hampshire's Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Dues for membership in SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics.

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$6,500.00

Please make check payable and remit to:

**SEARCH Group, Inc.
7311 Greenhaven Drive, Suite 270
Sacramento, CA 95831**

Thank you