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American
Association
of
Museums

December 5, 1985

To: Legislative Contributors

From: Ruth Hargraves, Legislative Coordinator

Reauthorization of IMS, NEA and NEH Clears Congress

Congress this week approved final passage of legislation reauthorizing the Institute of Museum Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. A conference to iron out differences between the House and Senate bills proved unnecessary when the two Houses agreed to accept amendments incorporated in both versions of the legislation. The House, which had approved only a two-year reauthorization, yielded to the 5 year extension adopted by the Senate. Other specifics include:

-authorization of FY 1986 appropriations of \$166 million for NEA, \$139.4 million for NEH, and \$21.5 million for IMS, increases of four percent in both FY '87 and FY'88 and "such sums as may be necessary" in FY'89 and FY'90;

-an increase in the aggregate level on insurance for the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program from \$400 million to \$650 million;

-an increase from \$50 million to \$75 million in the insurance for individual exhibitions covered by the Indemnity Program;

-a requirement that members of the Museum Services Board be appointed to reflect various geographical regions with no more than three members from any one state and that members be recognized "for their knowledge, expertise, experience, or commitment to museums";

-a requirement that the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities undertake a study on the nature and level of federal support to museums;

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-a mandate for annual reports by NEA and NEH on procedures used to control conflict of interest and on steps taken to eliminate or reduce the possibility of such problems;

-a requirement that the two Endowments conduct extensive post-award evaluations of projects funded; and

-a requirement that review panels be composed of persons broadly representative of aesthetic perspectives, geographical regions and cultural diversity and that panels rotate their members with no more than 20 percent serving for more than three years;

The bill has now been sent to the President for his signature and is expected to be enacted into law before the end of the month.