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Digest of State Humanities Programs

SENATE BILL

HOUSE BILL

Funding: 20% of total funds appropriated

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To receive this funding...

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- A State designates one of these options:
- a. an existing committee, provided it have a satisfactory grievance procedure
 - b. an existing committee, if within 3 yrs. a procedure is established so that a majority of comm. members are appt. by governor
 - c. an existing combined arts and humanities State council (as in Texas and 10 other States. The humanities part would then be funded by Berman.)
 - d. a new State entity -- just for Humanities

- The Endowment Chairman chooses one of these options:
- a. an existing committee
 - b. a State arts and humanities council
 - c. a new entity -- just for the Humanities
- (Note: Since the Chairman has sole discretion to choose here, it would seem obvious what he would choose.)

Safeguards:

Both bills provide safeguards, with respect to existing committees, if funded. These include: rotation of membership, broad public representation, proper reporting procedures, and public access to information.

We do not have this proposal (we have the above grievance procedure) * * * * *

The House bill provides that 2 members of an existing committee would be appointed by governor.

Note: Humanities committee members and chairmen come from a Washington source. A small number of people involved in the Humanities in each state were invited by the Endowment to form a committee nucleus. They in turn got others to join -- hence "a laying on of hands." Chairmen were chosen from among these members.

There is no State funding for these committees. They seek none. They don't want the Humanities in the State political process... Hence there is no Fed-State partnership as in Arts -- its major strength.

The Main Issue:

States determine what is best
Decentralization of control

Chairman decides which is best
Central control

(Safeguards are insufficient without State involvement -- i.e. memberships could be rotated among friends)
Note: Under our bill an existing committee can continue if the State thinks that is best.