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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506



MEMORANDUM

February 20, 1980

To: Members of the National Council

From: Armen Tashdinian

Subject: Reauthorization (Tab F)

On February 7 the Senate passed without debate S. 1386, the bill reported by the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources to extend the Endowment's legislative authority through FY 1985. A comparison of the major provisions of the Senate bill with those of the Administration's bill, as they affect the Humanities Endowment, is provided below, and a copy of the relevant sections of the Committee's report is attached.

1. Definition of "the humanities"

The current definition includes the phrase "the history, criticism, theory, and practice of the arts." The Senate bill deletes "practice." (The Administration bill did not propose any change.)

2. Renovation and construction

The Administration bill proposes to give the Chairman explicit authority to support renovation but not construction.

The Senate bill omits mention of this and thus maintains the current implied authority for both renovation and construction.

3. Loan authority

The Act currently authorizes the Endowment to make loans. The Senate adopted the Administration's proposal to delete this authority.

4. Interagency agreements

The Senate adopted the Administration's proposal to give the Chairman explicit authority to make interagency agreements promoting the humanities and to reimburse other Federal agencies for services provided by them.

5. Chairman's grants

The Senate adopted the Administration's proposal to raise the ceiling on Chairman's grants from \$17,500 to \$30,000.

6. Annual Report

The Senate adopted the Administration's proposal to change the due date of the Endowment's Annual Report from January 15 to April 15.

7. Representation on panels

The current Act states that NEH and NEA panels "shall have broad geographic representation." The Senate adopted the Administration's proposal to add "culturally diverse," so that panels would have "broad geographic and culturally diverse representation."

8. Representation

The Senate bill adds a new provision to the Act which would authorize appropriation of up to \$35,000 for each Endowment for "official reception and representation expenses." The Administration's bill does not contain such; rather the Administration view is that such activities should be supported only by private funds.)

9. Gift procedures

The Senate adopted the Administration's proposal to allow gift funds which are donated for NEH G&M projects to be made directly to grantees rather than routed through and regranted by the Endowment.

10. State programs

a. Structure: While the Administration proposes no significant change in the structure of the State humanities groups, the Senate bill would revise the current provisions of the Act in order to facilitate and encourage greater State government involvement in, if not direction of, the State programs. Specifically:

(1) If a State wishes to establish a State agency for the humanities,

--it would designate as the state agency the state humanities committees "or other entity" already in existence;

--as the terms of the present members expire, new committee members would be replaced by persons appointed by the governor;

--the State would have to appropriate new funds matching \$100,000 or 25 percent of the total Federal grant, whichever is greater; and

--all funds must be used for programs "designed to bring the humanities to the public."

- (2) If a State does not choose to convert the state committee into a State agency, the governor may appoint 4 members of the committee, provided that these not constitute more than 20 percent of the total committee membership.

b. Chairman's discretionary funding

The Act currently provides that while each state group is to receive a minimum of \$200,000, up to 25 percent of the total funding allocated to state programs may be distributed at the Chairman's discretion.

The Administration's bill proposes to increase the discretionary amount so that it reaches 50 percent by 1985 and to have these funds awarded by the Chairman using as criteria state population, program quality, and state appropriations.

The Senate bill would keep the current provisions unchanged.

c. Territories' funding

Currently the territories are entitled to the same amount of funding as the states and are required to meet the same matching requirements stipulated in the law.

The Administration's bill proposes to give the Chairman authority to establish lower funding levels for the territories which have population under 200,000 (Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Marianas); normally they would each receive no more than \$200,000, but matching could be partially waived.

The Senate bill would establish \$200,000 as the maximum and continue the current matching requirements.

11. Authorized appropriations

The Administration bill proposes to continue the present open-ended authorization, i.e., "such sums as necessary."

The Senate bill contains specific appropriation ceilings for each of the major appropriation categories, including for the first time, Administrative Funds. The ceilings provide a 15 percent increase annually in each category. The sums stipulated in the bill are shown in the attached table.

Attachments

Senate Reauthorization Bill--Authorized Appropriations
(\$ in millions)

	1981 Approp. Request	Senate Bill Ceilings				
		1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
NEH - total	\$164.325	\$170.0	\$196.0	\$226.0	\$260.0	\$299.0
Definite	111.655	114.5	132.5	153.5	178.0	206.0
Treasury	13.320	12.5	14.5	17.0	19.5	22.5
Challenge	27.0	30.0	34.5	40.0	46.0	53.0
Administration	12.35	13.0	14.5	15.5	16.5	17.5
NEA - total	167.96	175.0	201.0	231.0	266.0	306.0
Definite	114.495	115.5	135.5	158.0	184.75	213.2
Treasury	18.50	18.5	18.5	18.5	20.0	22.5
Challenge	22.0	27.0	32.0	38.5	44.25	52.3
Administration	12.965	14.0	15.0	16.0	17.0	18.0
NFAH total	332.285	345.0	397.0	457.0	526.0	605.0

OPPA 2/20/80