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Arts Foundation Bill Advances in Senate

Journal-Bulletin Washington Bureau

Washington — A Senate subcommittee headed by Sen. Claiborne Pell yesterday approved a bill that would extend the life of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities for two years and authorize a substantial increase in funds for its programs.

The bill approved by Senator Pell's subcommittee on the arts and humanities would authorize total appropriations of \$60,000,000 for the foundation in the 1969 fiscal year and \$90,000,000 in fiscal 1970. Since it was established three years ago, the foundation has been limited to a maximum appropriation of \$21,000,000 a year. The new act thus would authorize a three-fold expansion of the foundation program in the fiscal year that starts July 1, 1968.

Congress during the first three years has not given the foundation the full amount of money authorized appropriate-

tions have averaged about \$10,000,000 a year.

Although permitting a substantial increase in foundation operations, the new bill does not give the foundation or the Johnson administration all they requested. The administration had proposed an "open-ended" authorization bill, giving the foundation an indefinite life and setting no limit on annual appropriations.

Under the bill approved by the Pell subcommittee, the foundation would be required to return to Congress in two years for a review of its programs and another congressional determination of spending limits and continuation of the program.

The appropriations authorized by the bill are, in addition, less than foundation officials indicated they would like. The chairmen of the foundation said they could make good use of about \$170,000,000 in fiscal year 1969.

The authorization under the

Pell bill would be divided equally between the two subdivisions of the foundation. Both the endowment on the arts and the endowment on the humanities would be authorized \$30,000,000 in the first year and \$45,000,000 in the second year.

Included in the appropriation limits for the endowment on the arts are increases in the amounts authorized for match-

ing grants to the states for programs promoting the arts. This matching program, now limited to \$2,500,000, would increase to \$5,500,000 in 1969 and \$8,000,000 in 1970.

The act establishing the foundation was sponsored by Senator Pell in 1965 and will expire June 30, 1968. The new authorization must be approved by both House and Senate before it becomes effective.