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## National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities: S. 1386 (1979): Report 08

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success demonstrated by state humanities committees to date. The legislation should, therefore, provide the means whereby those states that wish to become involved in the program may do so, while preserving the present structure where such involvement is not desired.

Beyond this, should there be considerable pressure on the part of the Congress to move state committees to state agency status, an acceptable compromise, involving the two emphases mentioned above, would have to be sought. The legislation would need to provide several options that would, on the one hand, protect the citizens committees as they are now constituted in those states where state government does not wish to be involved while, on the other hand, grant an increasingly important role to state government where such governments are willing to undertake substantial financial support of the program.

In the event that the Congress moves strongly in the direction of state agency status, one kind of compromise that would undoubtedly be acceptable would be as follows:

- 1) That the chief executive officer of a state be granted authority to appoint four members of the governing body of the humanities entity in the state, should the state not wish to contribute financially to the program.
- 2) That the chief executive officer of a state be granted authority to appoint one-half of the membership of the governing body of the humanities entity in the state, should the state wish to match the minimum annual federal allocation granted to the state (currently \$200,000).
- 3) In the event that a state is willing to match dollar for dollar federal allocations to the state, the state be given the authority to designate or create an agency of the state to administer these funds, in accordance with the application and plan submitted.

Compromise legislation as outlined above would 1) encourage additional conversations between state committees and state governments on the nature and structure of the program, 2) meet the challenge of those members of Congress favoring state agency status, 3) ensure the continuation of private humanities entities in those states that do not wish to match dollar for dollar state funds with federal funds, 4) provide a means whereby state involvement in the majority of state programs would be increased without changing the private organizational nature of those state committees.

It is our feeling that few states would be willing over the next several years to match on an even basis federal dollars with state dollars. In the event that a few states would move in this direction, the strengths of most of the state programs are such that these states would probably designate the existing humanities entity as the state agency and that, in the interests of good government and good humanities programs, the transition from private entity to state agency would be orderly.