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Senate Unit Approves Endowment Bill

By Phillip M. Kadis

Washington Star Staff Writer

A \$250 million bill to extend the arts and humanities endowments is on its way to the Senate floor with different funding levels for each of the twin grant-making agencies.

The bill, as approved yesterday by the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, would provide authority for the National Endowment for the Arts to administer programs and draw on matching funds totaling \$130 million in fiscal 1977. The total for the National Endowment for the Humanities would be \$105 million.

The parallel bill approved last month by the House would authorize \$200 million in the 1977 fiscal year and maintain funding parity between the endowments.

THE SENATE BILL, which must be reported to the Senate floor this week, is essentially the same bill

that emerged from the special subcommittee on arts and humanities last week chaired by Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I. Pell had made it clear during the subcommittee hearings that he felt the principle of equal funding for the two endowments should be re-examined.

A section of the Senate bill that would restructure state humanities councils more nearly along the lines of the state arts councils was further diluted by making a fourth option available to the states. The amendment would permit the states to accept the self-perpetuat-

ing humanities committees if a state-approved grievance procedure is established to deal with the complaints of rejected grant-seekers. Other options available under the Senate bill are to accept the current state committees with the proviso that a majority of members must be appointed by the state's governor within three years, recognize an existing dual arts and humanities council (already established in 11 states) or create a new humanities committee under the authority of the state.

THE SENATE BILL authorizes \$92.5 million in program money for the arts endowment and \$82.5 million for the humanities, and \$7.5 million in Treasury funds (available on a one-for-one matching basis with private contributions) for each endowment.

A separate museum services program is authorized \$15 million.

Each endowment would

also be authorized \$15 million in challenge grant monies (available on a three-to-one matching basis.).

But the arts endowment would get an additional \$10 million for retraining arts teachers in new educational techniques, and \$5 million would be earmarked for a program to assemble a Bicentennial photographic and film portrait of America under the leadership of the arts endowment.

Senate floor action on the bill could come within the next month. After that, House and Senate bills would go to conference.