1973

Museum Services Act (1973): Report 01

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Mr. PELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

A BILL

To improve museum services.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That this Act may be cited as the "Museum Services Act".

PURPOSE

Sec. 2. It is the purpose of this Act to encourage and assist museums in their educational role, in conjunction with formal systems of elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education and with programs of nonformal education for all age groups; to assist museums in modernizing their methods and facilities so that they may better be able to conserve our cultural, historic, and scientific heritage;
and to ease the financial burden borne by museums as a result of their increasing use by the public.

INSTITUTE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF MUSEUM SERVICES

SEC. 3. There is hereby established, within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, an Institute for the Improvement of Museum Services (hereinafter referred to as the "Institute"). The Institute shall consist of a National Museum Services Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") and a Director of the Institute (hereinafter referred to as the "Director").

NATIONAL MUSEUM SERVICES BOARD

SEC. 4. (a) The Board shall consist of fifteen members appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and the following ex officio members:

(1) the Director;

(2) the Librarian of Congress;

(3) the Archivist of the United States;

(4) the Commissioner of Education;

(5) the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution;

(6) the Director of the National Gallery of Art;

(7) the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts; and

(8) the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The appointed members of the Board shall be broadly repre-
sentative of the curatorial, educational, and cultural resources of the United States and of the general public.

(b) The term of office of appointed members of the Board shall be five years, except that—

(1) any such member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only such portion of a term as shall not have been expired at the time of such appointment; and

(2) in the case of initial members, three shall serve for terms of four years, three shall serve terms of three years, three shall serve terms of two years, and three shall serve terms of one year.

Any appointed member who has been a member of the Board for more than seven consecutive years shall thereafter be ineligible for reappointment to the Board during the three-year period following the expiration of the last such consecutive year.

(e) The Chairman of the Board shall be designated by the President from among the appointed members of the Board. Eight appointed members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

(d) The Board shall meet at the call of the Chairman, except that—

(1) it shall meet not less than four times each year;

and

(2) in cases where the Director determines that a
meeting of the Board is necessary, it shall meet whenever one-third of the total number of members request a meeting in writing, in which event one-half of the total number of members shall constitute a quorum; and

(3) whenever one-third of the appointed members request a meeting in writing, it shall meet, in which event one-third of the appointed members shall constitute a quorum.

Ex officio members of the Board shall not have a vote on the Board.

(e) Members of the Board who are not in the regular full-time employ of the United States shall receive, while engaged in the business of the Board, compensation for service at a rate to be fixed by the President, except that such rate shall not exceed the rate specified at the time of such service for grade GS-18 in section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, including traveltime, and, while so serving away from their homes or regular places of business, they may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons employed in Government service.

(f) The Board shall have the responsibility for the general policies with respect to the powers, duties, and authorities vested in the Institute under this Act. The Director shall make available to the Board such information and assistance
as may be necessary to enable the Board to carry out its
functions.

DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE

SEC. 5. (a) The Director of the Institute shall be ap-
pointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent
of the Senate, and shall serve at the pleasure of the President.
The Director shall be compensated at the rate provided for
level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of
title V, United States Code, and shall perform such duties
and exercise such powers as the Board may prescribe.

(b) There shall be a Deputy Director of the Institu-
tute who shall be appointed by the President and shall
serve at the pleasure of the President. The Deputy Direc-
tor shall be compensated at the rate provided for grade
18 of the General Schedule set forth in section 5332 of
title 5, United States Code. The Deputy Director shall
exercise such powers as the Director may prescribe, and
the Deputy Director shall serve as Director during the
absence or disability of the Director, or in the event of a
vacancy in the Office of Director. The position created by
this paragraph shall be in addition to the number of posi-
tions placed in grade 18 of the General Schedule under
section 5108 of title 5, United States Code.

ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE

SEC. 6. (a) The Director, subject to the management
of the Board, is authorized to make grants to museums to increase and improve museum services, through such activities as—

1. projects to enable museums to construct or install displays, interpretations, and exhibitions in order to improve their services to the public;

2. assisting them in developing and maintaining professionally trained or otherwise experienced staff to meet their needs;

3. assisting them to meet their administrative costs in preserving and maintaining their collections, exhibiting them to the public, and providing educational programs to the public through the use of their collections;

4. assisting museums in cooperation with each other in the development of traveling exhibitions, meeting transportation costs, and identifying and locating collections available for loan;

5. assisting them in conservation of artifacts and art objects; and

6. developing and carrying out specialized programs for specific segments of the public such as programs for urban neighborhoods, rural areas, Indian reservations, penal and other State institutions.

(b) Grants under this section may not exceed 75 per
7 centum of the cost of the program for which the grant is
made.

CONTRIBUTIONS

SEC. 7. The Institute shall have authority to accept in
the name of the United States grants, gifts, or bequests of
money for immediate disbursement in furtherance of the
functions of the Institute. Such grants, gifts, or bequests,
after acceptance by the Institute, shall be paid by the donor
or his representative to the Treasurer of the United States
whose receipts shall be their acquittance. The Treasurer of
the United States shall enter them in a special account to
the credit of the Institute for the purposes in each case
specified.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 8. (a) For the purpose of making grants under
section 6 (a), there are hereby authorized to be appropriated
$25,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1974, and
$30,000,000 for each of the succeeding fiscal years ending
prior to July 1, 1977.

(b) For the purpose of enabling the Institute to carry
out its functions under this Act, during the period beginning
on the date of enactment of this Act and ending July 1, 1977,
there is authorized to be appropriated an amount equal to the
amount contributed during such period to the Institute under section 7.

DEFINITION

Sec. 9. For purposes of this Act, the term “museum” means a public or private nonprofit agency or institution organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational or esthetic purposes, which, utilizing a professional staff, owns and utilizes tangible objects, cares for them, and exhibits them to the public on a regular basis.
A BILL

To improve museum services.

By Mr. Pell.

February 7, 1973
Read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare