

HB 3139 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Economic Development and Trade

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Meeting Dates: 4/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds museum exhibit design and allied fields to the definition of "arts." Requires Oregon Arts Commission to, when determining grant eligibility, take into consideration regional differences in arts and cultural development.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces measure. Adds museum-related activities to the definition of "arts." Requires Oregon Business Development Department Director to, when determining grant eligibility under the Arts Program, take into consideration regional differences in arts and cultural development as well as promote investment in communities where engagement in arts and cultural development is limited.

Fiscal: Minimal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Arts Commission (Commission) was established in 1967 to foster the arts in Oregon and ensure their excellence. Nine Commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine policies, establish long-range plans, and review applications to grants programs to determine funding levels. In 1993, the Oregon Arts Commission became a division of the Oregon Business Development Department (Business Oregon). In 2003, the legislature refined the work of the Commission and focused it towards expertise in grant-making, arts and cultural information, and community cultural development.

One of those grant programs is the Operating Support Grants program. Operating Support Grants are evaluated on a two year cycle in 2016. Awards are awarded annually, and are derived through a formula that takes into account panel score, organization size, previous awards and available funds. Operating Support grants can range from \$3,000 to \$50,000. This program gained attention in 2016 when it ceased funding the High Desert Museum, Oregon Public Broadcasting, and the Washington County Historical Museum.

House Bill 3139 would broaden the definition of art for purposes of the Commission grant making process. Also, the measure would require the Business Oregon Director to take into account regional difference in arts and cultural development when awarding grants.