

HB 3139 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 5/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds museum-related activities to the definition of "arts." Requires Oregon Business Development Department Director, when determining grant eligibility under the Arts Program, to 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-A3 amendment] Transfers duties for taking into account regional differences in program from Director of Oregon Business Development Department to Oregon Arts Commission and directs Commission to suggest rules to Director for grant programs.

FISCAL:

REVENUE:

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Arts 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, also known as Business Oregon. In 2003, the Legislative Assembly refined the work of the Commission and focused it toward expertise in grant-making, arts and cultural information, and community cultural development.

One of those grant programs is the Operating Support Grants program. 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.

Another grant program administered by the Oregon Arts Commission is the Arts Learning grant. The purpose of Arts Learning grants is to support high-quality projects that provide a responsive opportunity for learning in and through the arts to benefit K-12 students; foster exchange of knowledge between artists and educators; and impact the achievement, skills and attitudes of learners. Arts Learning Grants range from \$4,000 to \$15,000, with \$15,000 being the maximum request allowed. No Arts Learning grants were awarded to Central Oregon organizations in 2016.

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