

**HB 3139 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Riley

**Senate Committee On Business and Transportation**

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**Action Date:** 05/17/17

**Action:** Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

**Vote:** 5-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Adds museum-related activities to the definition of "arts." Requires Oregon Arts Commission, 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. Directs Commission to suggest rules to Director of Oregon Business Development Department for grant programs.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Importance of Native American art in Oregon history
- Museums that are no longer eligible under program
- Educational role of museums

**EFFECT OF 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.

**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. Grants 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 up to a maximum of \$15,000. No Arts Learning grants were awarded to Central Oregon organizations in 2016.