

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY

State Legislative Roundup

August 2018

Introduction

State legislatures around the country consider every year hundreds of bills relevant to state arts agencies (SAAs) and the cultural sector. The [2018 legislative session](#), which for most states was January through June, is no exception. This year, NASAA reviewed more than 570 arts related bills and closely tracked 140 of them. This roundup summarizes more than 60 of the most important bills considered in state legislatures this year and—by grouping them in [eight categories](#)—highlights current legislative trends in cultural policy.

The roundup is designed to equip cultural policy leaders—including SAA staff and council members as well as arts advocates, local arts councils, individual artists and other stakeholders—with the knowledge to advance policies that ultimately can be *beneficial* to the arts at the state level. As a result, it considers a broad cross-section of legislation, including bills that could foster the arts as well as those that could have negative, neutral or uncertain impact. Likewise, it includes enacted and failed bills as well as those at other stages of the legislative process at the time of this writing.¹

Throughout the year, NASAA tracks relevant legislation in every state, monitors news sources, and, most importantly, listens to members about legislation affecting their agencies and departments. If you learn of a bill that is important to your agency—or that may be informative to other SAAs—NASAA would like to know about it. You can share legislative information by contacting NASAA Research Manager [Paul Pietsch](#). If you are interested in initiating legislation in your own state, NASAA can help by identifying sample bills and information on similar efforts in other states.

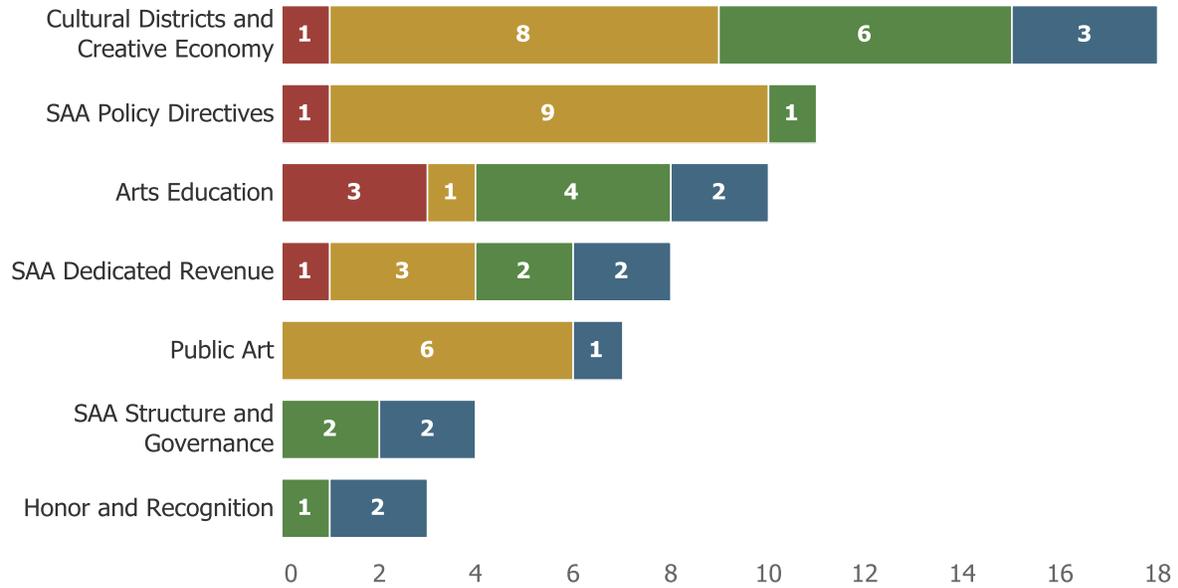
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¹ In this report, an *engrossed* bill has passed one chamber of a state legislature and been sent to the other chamber. An *enrolled* bill has passed both chambers and been sent to the governor. *Enacted* bills have been signed by the governor and become law. A *resolution* is a mechanism for legislative expression that is typically nonbinding. Resolutions aren't enacted but *passed*, as they become operative upon approval of both legislative chambers and don't require the governor's signature.

Legislative Status by Category of Bills Summarized [Return to Table of Contents](#)

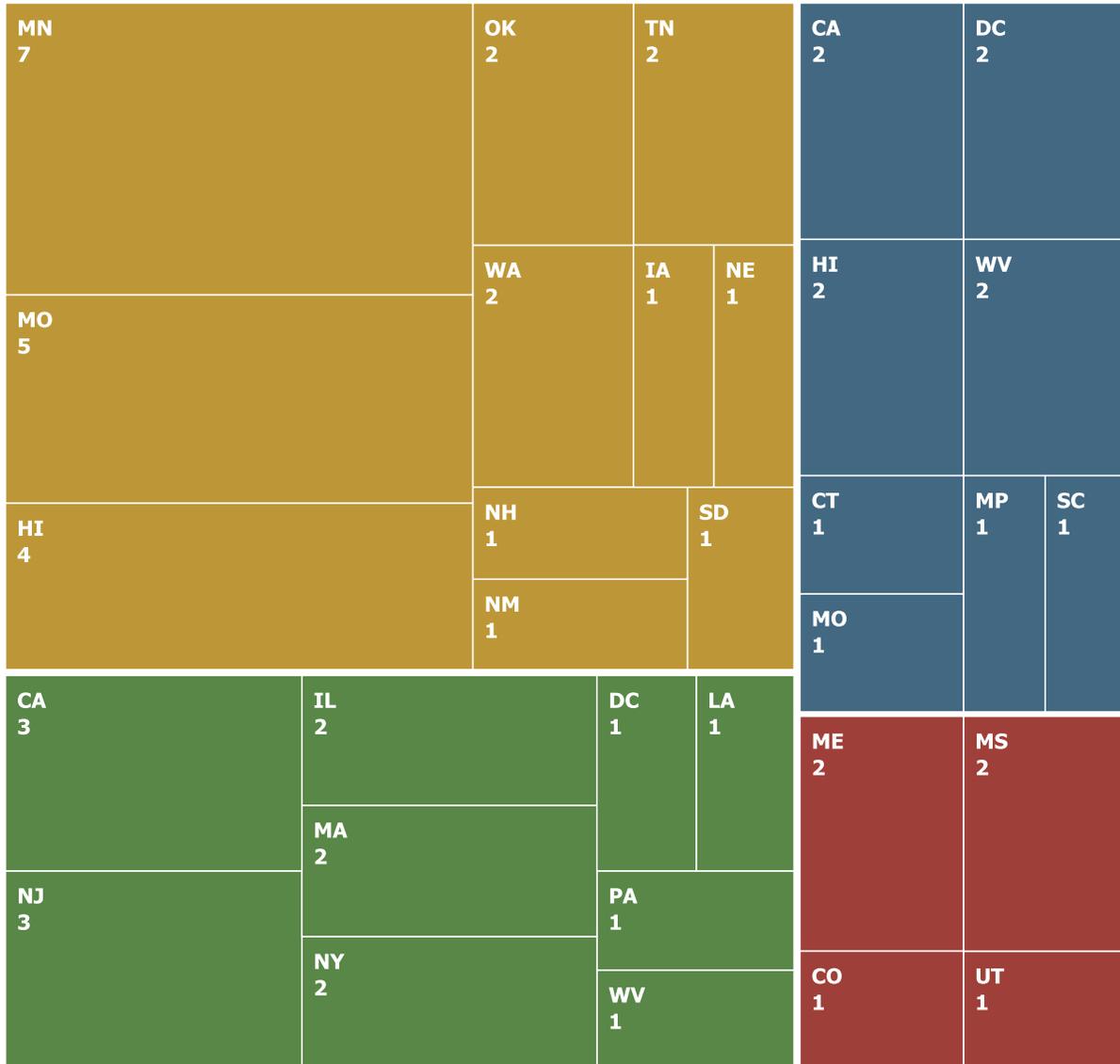
Primary Bill Category



Bill Status

- Enacted
- In progress
- Progression incomplete by session adjournment
- Died in committee

Legislative Status by State of Bills Summarized [Return to TOC](#)



Bill Status

- Enacted
- In progress
- Progression incomplete by session adjournment
- Died in committee

Highlights of Individual Bills

SAA STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE [Return to TOC](#)

As state agencies, SAAs are under the purview of state legislatures, which exposes them to structural changes driven by various political philosophies about government support for the arts. Every year, NASAA watches closely for legislation that would alter the core authority of SAAs as well as their placement within state government. This year, only one state, West Virginia, considered legislation designed to restructure state government in a way that would affect the SAA. Lawmakers also can expand SAA portfolios by creating interagency commissions and other state bodies, as is the intent of a bill under consideration in New Jersey.

New Jersey

[A. 704—Establishing the New Jersey Business and the Arts Commission](#)

Status: In committee

Summary: This bill would establish the New Jersey Business and the Arts Commission within the Department of State and task it with encouraging the public, private and nonprofit sectors to showcase the arts in public and private spaces. The commission also would assist the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA) with its percent for art program. The commission would have 11 members, including the NJSCA chair.

West Virginia

[H.B. 101](#), [H.B. 4006](#) and [S.B. 1001](#)—Creating the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History

Status: H.B. 101 enacted, H.B. 4006 enacted and S.B. 1001 in committee

Summary: These bills reconstituted the West Virginia Division of Culture and History—the parent agency of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts—as the Department of Arts, Culture and History. The new department is an independent agency within the executive branch. The former Division of Culture and History was part of the Department of Education and the Arts, which the legislation eliminated.

SAA DEDICATED REVENUE [Return to TOC](#)

Every state arts agency secures [Partnership Agreement funding](#) from the National Endowment for the Arts and [appropriations from its state legislature](#). Some SAAs, however, have additional sources of dedicated funding—such as a cultural trust or a designated stream of tax revenue—that are legislatively authorized. Examples of bills this year that would yield or continue dedicated revenue for the SAA were seen in Mississippi, Missouri and Washington, D.C. Conversely, a bill in Massachusetts would reduce the SAA's revenue from state lottery proceeds, and one in South Dakota would have reduced the rate of a tourism tax that generates substantial income for the SAA. A bill in Tennessee would have been revenue neutral but would have directed how the SAA used revenue from state sales of personalized license plates.

SAA Structure and Governance Resources

NASAA's resources on [SAA structure and governance](#) include information about SAAs' placement within state government, staffing and organizational structures, and council terms, powers and duties.



Massachusetts

[H. 4758—Reducing Allocation from State Gaming Fund to Massachusetts Cultural Council](#)

Status: In committee

Summary: This bill would reduce the amount of money allocated from the Massachusetts Gaming Revenue Fund to the Massachusetts Cultural Council from 2% to 0.28% of the fund.

Mississippi

[H.B. 893—Reauthorizing of the Mississippi Building Fund for the Arts](#)

Status: Died in committee

Summary: This bill would have reauthorized through June 2021 the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) to draw money from the Mississippi Building Fund for the Arts. MAC would have been allowed to use the funds to award grants to nonprofit arts organizations that support the construction of new buildings and facilities—as well as the repair, renovation or expansion of existing buildings and facilities—designed for the presentation, teaching or exhibition of the arts.

Missouri

[H.B. 1897](#), [H.B. 2572](#) and [S.B. 773](#)—Extending Nonresident Entertainer and Professional Athletic Team Tax

Status: S.B. 773 enacted, and H.B. 1897 and H.B. 2572 in committee at session adjournment

Summary: The enacted law extends by 10 years to 2030 a statutory provision that directs 60% of the revenue generated by Missouri's nonresident entertainer and professional athletic team income tax to the Missouri Arts Council Trust Fund.

South Dakota

[H.B. 1206—Reducing State "Tourism" Tax](#)

Status: In committee at recess

Summary: This bill would have reduced the state's tourism tax—which is applied to tourism related goods and services such as lodging, car rentals and spectator events—from 1.5% to 1%. Such a cut would have negatively impacted the operations of the South Dakota Arts Council, as revenue from the tax accounts for a large part of its annual budget.

Washington, D.C.

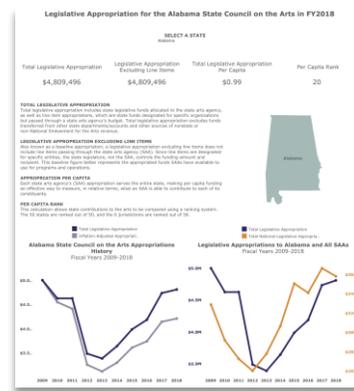
[B. 22-0737](#) and [B. 22-0901](#)—Creating Dedicated Revenue Streams

Status: B. 22-0901 enacted and B. 22-0737 in committee

Summary: The enacted law allocates 0.3% of the district's sales tax revenue to the D.C. Commission on Arts & Humanities (DCCA) as a dedicated revenue stream. It also authorizes a specialty arts license plate program to raise funds for DCCA, and a recurring annual appropriation for the agency of up to \$2.5 million to be drawn from the year-end balance of the district's Delinquent Debt Fund.

SAA Revenue Resources

NASAA's website features a number of resources for [analyzing SAA revenue](#), including dynamic data visualizations of funding trends, state-by-state funding comparisons, and reports and policy briefs about dedicated revenue strategies.



PUBLIC ART [Return to TOC](#)

States foster the exhibition of art in public spaces to generate opportunities for artists, increase access to culture, and enliven government buildings, town squares and other community spaces. In 2018, for example, the Minnesota legislature considered a bill that would have created an advisory committee charged with facilitating the exhibition of art in the state capitol. Many other SAAs support public art through a percent for art program. These programs—through which a small portion (typically 1%) of the capital costs of constructing or renovating state-owned buildings is set aside to underwrite public art—generally have statutory authorization, which makes them vulnerable to legislative challenges. This year, a bill enacted in Connecticut imposes a two-year moratorium on the state's percent for art program. A similar bill was considered but not enacted in Oklahoma. Legislation in Washington, meanwhile, strengthened ArtsWA's percent for art program by allocating more money for the upkeep of projects after their installation.

Connecticut

[S.B. 1502—Moratorium on Statewide Percent for Art Program](#)

Status: Enacted

Summary: This law places a two-year moratorium, effective 2018-2019, on Connecticut's Art in Public Spaces program.

Minnesota

[H.F. 4256](#) and [S.F. 3797](#)—Creating the Capitol Art Advisory Committee

Status: In committee at session recess

Summary: These bills would have created the Capitol Art Advisory Committee and tasked it with advising the Capitol Preservation Commission on exhibiting art in the state capitol. The committee would have included two council members of the Minnesota State Arts Board.

Oklahoma

[S.B. 884](#) and [S.B. 1317](#)—Moratorium on Statewide Percent for Art Program

Status: In committee at session adjournment

Summary: These bills would have placed a moratorium on Oklahoma's Art in Public Places program. One would have established a one-year moratorium in any fiscal year in which total state revenues decline (as certified by the Board of Equalization) and the other a two-year moratorium. (A previous three-year legislative moratorium on the program ended in 2014.) In addition, one of the bills would have made participation in the statewide percent for art program optional rather than mandatory.

Washington

[H.B. 2809](#) and [S.B. 6064](#)—Amending Statewide Percent for Art Policy

Status: H.B. 2809 engrossed (passed house) and S.B. 6064 in committee at session adjournment

Summary: These bills would have increased from \$100,000 to \$200,000 the amount ArtsWA would have been able to dedicate to conserving or maintaining pieces of art installed through its Art in Public Places program. In addition, they would have allowed state agencies receiving a percent for art installation to expend up to 10% of the projected allocation to select an artist and design the artwork.

Public Art and Percent for Art Resources

NASAA's [Percent for Art State Policy Brief](#) succinctly summarizes the benefits and components of statewide percent for art programs.



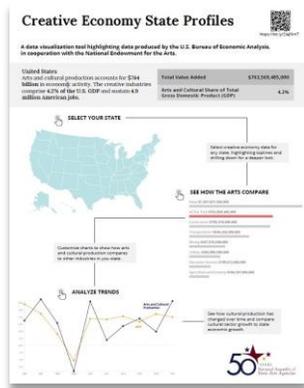
For more information about individual states' programs, see NASAA's [Public Art page](#).

CULTURAL DISTRICTS AND CREATIVE ECONOMY [Return to TOC](#)

This year, a number of state legislatures considered legislation pertaining to cultural districts and the creative economy. New York, for example, is considering a bill to establish a statewide certification program of cultural districts, which are designated geographic areas that concentrate the presence and work of artists, arts organizations and other cultural institutions. Pennsylvania and Hawai'i, meanwhile, had bills to initiate studies of cultural districts. Similarly, legislation in Nebraska, New Mexico and New Hampshire would have facilitated research of state based creative economies, while a bill in Hawai'i would have expanded the state's Creative Economy Lab. Bills in Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey and Northern Mariana Islands addressed tax incentives designed to spur creative economic development. Finally, legislation in Mississippi would have created a state commission tasked with leveraging gospel music as a cultural tourism asset.

Creative Economy Resources

NASAA has a number of [creative economy resources](#), including facts and figures, an interactive dashboard for exploring arts employment data, a database of state focused research, and a curated collection of creative placemaking literature.



Hawai'i

[H.B. 2558—Expanding Hawai'i's Creative Economy Lab](#)

Status: Engrossed (passed house) at session adjournment

Summary: This bill would have appropriated funds to match a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to Creative Lab Hawai'i—which is an effort of the Creative Industries Division of the Hawai'i State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to cultivate cultural entrepreneurship—to expand the program's geographic reach and to underwrite new staff positions.

Hawai'i

[H.B. 2699—Statewide Creative District Certification Program](#)

Status: In committee at session adjournment

Summary: This bill would have authorized and funded the creation of a statewide creative district certification program and charged the Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism with managing it. As part of that, the department would have been responsible for developing incentives to promote the establishment, designation and enhancement of creative districts and reporting on its certification efforts to the state legislature.

Hawai'i

[H.C.R. 173](#) and [H.R. 145](#)—Cost-Benefit Analysis of Creative Districts

Status: Passed

Summary: These resolutions call on the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to conduct a cost-benefit analysis for establishing a statewide creative district program and to report its findings—including the location of potential creative districts and any legislation necessary to enable a statewide program—to the state legislature prior to its 2019 session.

Louisiana

[S.B. 11—Capping Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits](#)

Status: In committee

Summary: This bill would establish an annual cap of \$110 million for the amount of tax credits available from the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation for rehabilitating historic structures in cultural districts. It also would extend the program's authorization by three years through June 2025 and would permit unused tax credits in any fiscal year to be available the following year.

Mississippi

[H.B. 1421—Creating the Mississippi Gospel Music Commission](#)

Status: Died in committee

Summary: This bill would have created the Mississippi Gospel Music Commission and charged it with studying how the state's gospel music culture could become a cultural tourism asset. The executive director of the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) would have been a member of the commission, which would have coordinated its work with MAC and assisted the Mississippi Development Authority with developing the Mississippi Gospel Music Trail.

Missouri

[H.B. 2691](#), [S.B. 611](#) and [S.B. 617](#)—Managing Revenue from Local Museum and Cultural Tax Districts

Status: In committee at session adjournment

Summary: These bills would have transferred the collection and administration of taxes levied in local museum and cultural tax districts from the governing body of the local district to the Missouri Department of Revenue.

Cultural Districts versus Cultural Tax Districts

Cultural districts are geographic concentrations of artists, arts organizations and other cultural institutions that are so designated to foster economic development and community vitality. Thirteen state arts agencies have a program to certify and support cultural districts.

Cultural tax districts are specific portions of municipalities or counties subject to a locally authorized tax levied to support arts and culture activities and investments within them.

Nebraska

[L.R. 444—Encouraging Partnerships between Nebraska's Arts Council, Tourism Commission and Department of Economic Development](#)

Status: In committee at session recess

Summary: This resolution would have directed the unicameral legislature's Appropriations Committee to study opportunities for conducting a study of the economic impact of film and media production in Nebraska as well as the potential for the Nebraska Arts Council, the Nebraska Tourism Commission and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to cooperate on developing strategies to increase film and media production in the state.

New Hampshire

[S.B. 112—New Hampshire Council on the Creative Economy](#)

Status: Engrossed (passed senate) at session adjournment

Summary: This bill would have established the New Hampshire Council on the Creative Economy and tasked it with identifying

ways to develop, strengthen and promote the creative economy through partnerships and joint programming initiatives. The council would have included the director of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts as well as the commissioner of its parent agency, the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

New Jersey

[A. 3832](#) and [S. 2459](#)—Authorizing Local Cultural Tax Districts

Status: In committee

Summary: These bills would authorize municipalities to establish, through a voter referendum, a local cultural tax district. Municipalities levying an arts and culture tax would be required to designate a local arts council to facilitate public support for the arts funded by the tax.

New Mexico

[S.M. 120—Creative Economy Impact Study](#)

Status: In committee at session adjournment

Summary: This resolution would have called on the New Mexico Music Commission, a state agency administratively attached to New Mexico Arts, and its 501(c)(3) support organization to review existing research on the economic impact of the state's arts and music industries.

New York

[A. 392](#) and [S. 3108](#)—Establishing a Statewide Cultural District Program

Status: A. 392 in committee and S. 3108 engrossed (passed senate)

Summary: These bills would establish a statewide cultural district certification policy and charge the New York State Council on the Arts with creating a cultural district program.

Northern Mariana Islands

[H.B. 20-42—Income Tax Benefits for Artists](#)

Status: Enacted

Summary: This law exempts from income tax the first \$20,000 of original artwork sales by artists registered with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture and applies a 1% tax rate to sales over \$20,000. The preamble of the legislation enacting the new law asserts that helping "artists become self-sufficient while promoting our culture and traditions is mutually beneficial and rewarding to all."

Pennsylvania

[S.R. 383—Cultural District Study](#)

Status: In committee

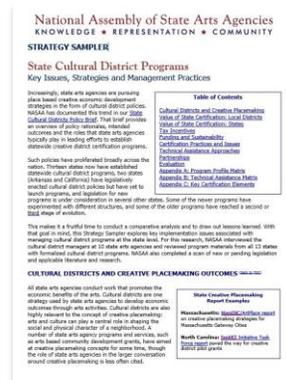
Summary: This resolution would direct the Joint State Government Commission—which serves as the bipartisan and bicameral research agency of the state legislature—to establish an advisory committee to study existing cultural and creative districts in Pennsylvania and how the state can further support them through policy, practice and procedures. The advisory committee would include the executive director of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

ARTS EDUCATION [Return to TOC](#)

While arts education policy and funding can be points of conflict in state legislatures because of differing philosophies about the government's role in education and the arts, most state legislation this year pertaining to arts education aimed to improve the quantity and quality of arts learning opportunities. California and Illinois, for example, considered bills to increase funding for arts education. Washington, D.C., passed a resolution to develop arts-integrated curricula, while legislation in Colorado would have created arts education performance indicators and a bill in Iowa would have aligned existing arts education standards with those of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. A bill in Maine sought to change graduation requirements in a way that would have reduced focus on developing skills in the arts and other content areas.

Cultural Districts Resources

NASAA's [State Cultural Districts Policy Brief](#) is a primer on the goals, challenges, evaluation practices and other key components of statewide cultural district certification programs. For a deeper dive, see NASAA's [State Cultural District Programs Strategy Sampler](#), which explores issues of and approaches to program management.



California

[A.B. 2683—Student Author Art and Literacy Project Grant](#)

Status: In committee

Summary: This bill would create the Student Author Art and Literacy Project Grant, appropriate \$1 million to underwrite the program and charge the California Arts Council with running it. The program would fund writing workshops for public school students in grades 6 through 12 who live in public housing.

California

[S.B. 840](#) and [S.B. 933](#)—Arts Education Funding for State Department of Education

Status: S.B. 840 enacted and S.B. 933 enrolled

Summary: The enacted law appropriates, on a one-time basis, \$44 million to the California State Department of Education to underwrite grants to local educational agencies and charter schools to enhance visual and performing arts education.

Colorado

[S.B. 8](#)—Arts Education Performance Metrics

Status: Died in committee

Summary: The bill would have created, for the purposes of accreditation, an arts education performance indicator to be applied annually to each public school and school district in the state as well as to the state charter school institute. The metric would have been the number of courses in dance, drama, music and visual arts offered at every grade level.

Illinois

[H.B. 5346](#) and [H.B. 4046](#)—Funding Arts Education in Low-Income Communities

Status: In committee

Summary: These bills would appropriate \$10 million to the Illinois State Board of Education to fund after-school arts programs in schools where more than 70% of students qualify as low-income according to the Illinois Department of Human Services. It also would appropriate \$10 million to the Illinois Arts Council to fund community based arts education and art therapy programs located in census tracts that are 125% below the poverty level.

Iowa

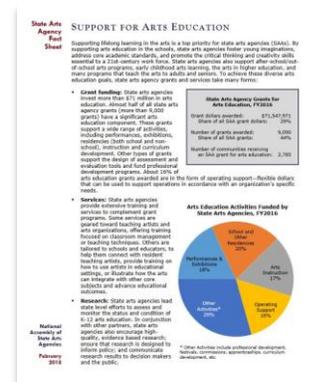
[S.R. 112](#)—Committee to Align Arts Education Standards with Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Status: In committee at session recess

Summary: This resolution would have called on the state's legislative council—which serves as the legislature's steering committee—to establish an interim committee of state senators and representatives tasked with aligning arts education in Iowa's classrooms with the fine arts standards of the Iowa State Board of Education and the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. The committee would have reviewed the availability of arts education resources and opportunities for federal funding for professional development and for expanding arts learning opportunities.

Arts Education Resources

NASAA's [Arts Education page](#) features a collection of statewide arts education assessments, professional development resources for SAA staff, links to national partners and a collection of research tools, including the Arts Education Partnership's [ArtScan](#) database of policies across all 50 states.



Maine

[H.B. 1898](#) and [H.B. 1900](#)—Changing High School Graduation Requirements

Status: Died in committee

Summary: These bills would have changed high school graduation requirements so that students would be required to demonstrate "achievement" instead of the current standard of "proficiency" in the visual and performing arts as well as in seven other content areas. The more rigorous proficiency standard, which was enacted in 2012, requires students to exhibit mastery of specific skills—including those in the arts—in addition to completing courses.

Washington, D.C.

[P.R. 22-0523](#)—[Developing Curricula that Fully Incorporates Arts and Humanities Education](#)

Status: Passed

Summary: This resolution calls on public schools and public charter schools in Washington, D.C., to facilitate the development of curricula that fully incorporate the arts and humanities.

SAA POLICY DIRECTIVES [Return to TOC](#)

State legislatures have the authority to enact arts focused policy directives and task state agencies with realizing them. Legislation, like bills in Hawai'i and Utah, can fund grant programs that enable an SAA or its parent agency to better serve constituents. Other bills, such as those in California, Iowa and Minnesota, amend the grant-making policies and practices of SAAs. Bills in Massachusetts and South Carolina address honorary positions within the state designed to celebrate and promote the arts.

California

[A.B. 2456](#)—[Authorizing Per Diems, Honorariums and Travel Reimbursement for Grant Panelists](#)

Status: Engrossed (passed assembly)

Summary: This bill would authorize the California Arts Council to offer a per diem, an honorarium and travel reimbursement to people serving on its grant-adjudication panels.

Hawai'i

[H.B. 2515](#) and [S.B. 2205](#)—Creative Artist Fellowship Grant

Status: H.B. 2515 in committee and S.B. 2205 engrossed (passed senate) by session adjournment

Summary: These bills would have appropriated funds to the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for an artist fellowship program that would have awarded fellowship grants of at least \$25,000.

Minnesota

[H.F. 3269](#), [H.F. 3421](#) and [H.F. 4167](#)—Amending Policies of Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

Status: H.F. 3269 in committee, H.F. 3421 engrossed (passed house) and H.F. 4167 engrossed (passed house) at session recess

Summary: These bills would have modified the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of Minnesota's Legacy Amendment to require that grantees of the fund must be state residents and complete their project within the state. The bills also would have prohibited grants from supporting projects that promote domestic terrorism or criminal activities.

Minnesota

[H.F. 4402](#) and [S.F. 3991](#)—State Arts Board Review of Grants Awarded by Regional Arts Councils

Status: In committee at session recess

Summary: These bills would have required the Minnesota State Arts Board, or a panel it appointed, to review and approve grants proposed by regional arts councils using money from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, which is underwritten by dedicated sales tax revenue per the state's 2008 Legacy Amendment.

Memorials, Monuments and Political Imagery in Public Space

In recent years, there have been a number of protests in support of and against public display of emblems of the Confederacy, such as flags, statues, and other objects and images. In 2018, a number of state legislatures addressed this issue, and NASAA tracked more than 30 bills pertaining to political imagery in public spaces. Many of the bills aimed either to facilitate or to restrict the removal, relocation or alteration of memorials and monuments to the Confederacy. Others took a broad approach and only addressed policies of display regarding all memorials and monuments on public property. A few addressed specific political imagery, such as a state song that is pro-secession and a state flag that incorporates the design of the Confederate battle flag. Most of these policy debates fall outside the purview of state arts agencies, but NASAA's [Communicating about Arts Controversies](#) is a practical guide and NASAA can recommend additional relevant resources upon request.

Tennessee

[H.B. 1582](#) and [S.B. 1641](#)—Stipulating Use of Proceeds from Personalized License Plates

Status: In committee at recess

Summary: These bills would have amended a state statute allocating revenue from personalized license plates to the Tennessee Arts Commission (TAC) to stipulate how TAC could use the money: TAC would be required to use half of the proceeds to award grants that underwrite the salaries of new art teachers in low-performing schools and the rest to support arts groups in urban and rural communities.

Utah

[H.B. 424](#)—Establishing the Heritage and Arts Grant

Status: Died in committee

Summary: This bill would have established the Heritage and Arts Grant within the Utah Department of Heritage and Arts, which is the parent agency of the Division of Arts & Museums. The program would have awarded grants of up to \$50,000 for heritage, arts or cultural development projects provided that grantees would not request line item funding from the state legislature for the funded effort. Projects seeking more than \$50,000 would have required line item funding.

HONOR AND RECOGNITION [Return to TOC](#)

State lawmakers honor and recognize—through both legislation and resolutions (which are typically nonbinding but are important indicators of legislative climate nonetheless)—the people, actions and ideas they see as significantly benefiting the communities they represent. This year, a bill under consideration in Massachusetts would establish an honorary state musician laureate position, while legislation enacted in South Carolina clarified the terms of service for the existing state poet laureate position. A resolution in California, meanwhile, proclaimed the state's arts education month.

California

[A.R. 87](#)—Arts Education Month

Status: Passed

Summary: This resolution proclaimed March 2018 to be California's Arts Education Month, thereby encouraging elected officials to engage with educators, students and the public in arts learning activities.

Massachusetts

[S. 2225](#)—State Musician Laureate

Status: Engrossed (passed senate)

Summary: This bill would create the honorary position of state musician laureate, which would be responsible for representing Massachusetts's musical legacy, commemorating important events in song and advising the governor in musical matters. Laureates would serve two-year terms and be appointed by the governor at the recommendation of a nominating committee that would include a council member of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

South Carolina

[S. 340—Establishing Terms of Service for South Carolina Poet Laureate](#)

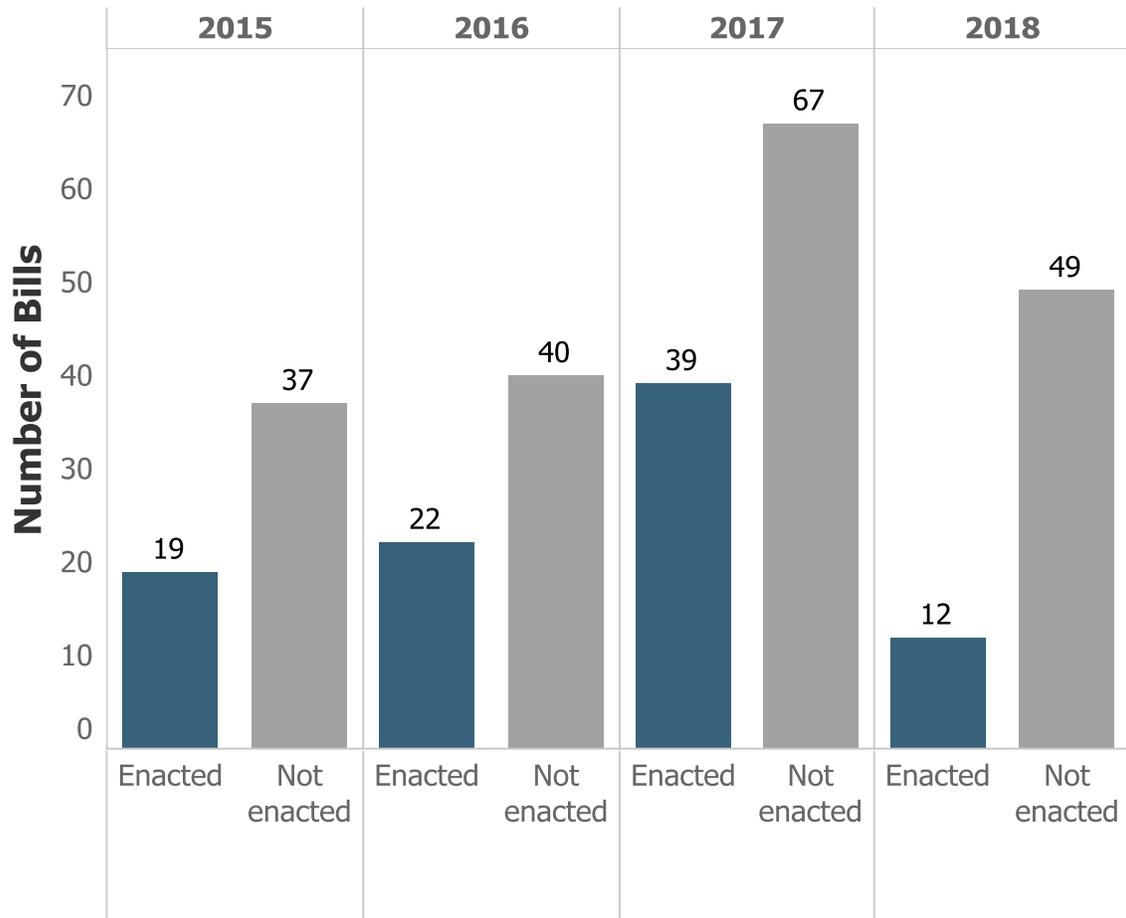
Status: Enacted

Summary: This law amends the authorizing statute of South Carolina's poet laureate program so that the South Carolina Arts Commission will advise the governor on selecting future laureates. It also sets laureates' terms of service at four years with one possible reappointment. Previously, there were no term parameters for the honorary position.

Recent Trends in State Legislation [Return to TOC](#)

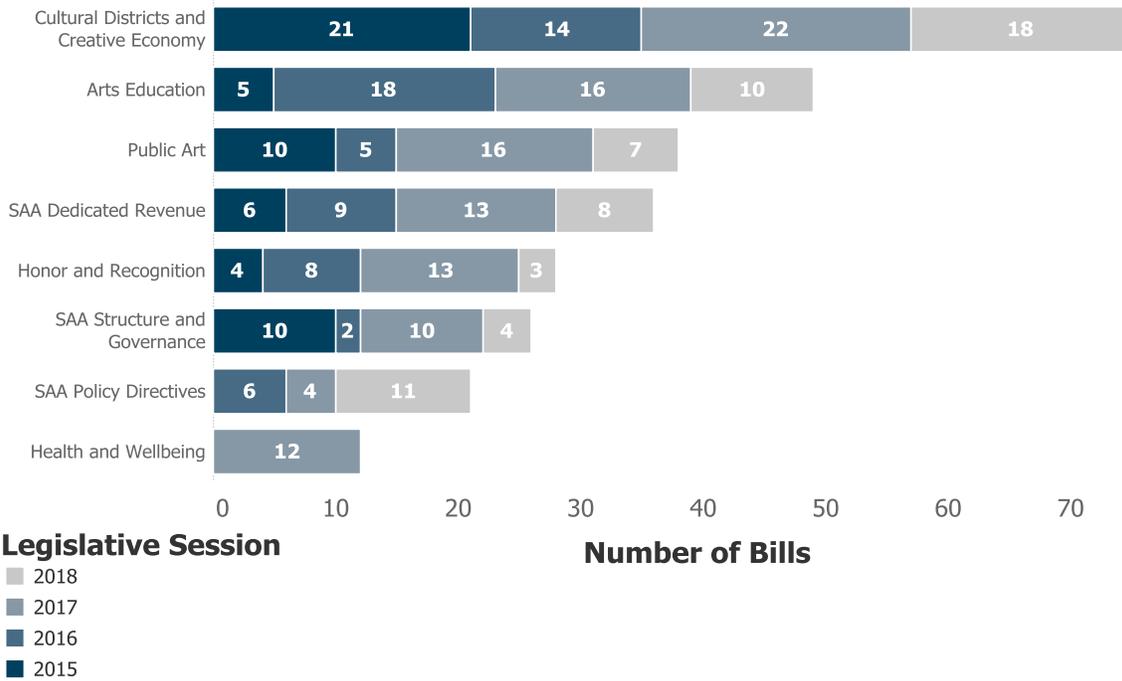
The 2018 State Legislative Roundup is the fourth edition of NASAA's annual summary of state legislation pertaining to state arts agencies and their constituencies. With this edition, there is now sufficient data for a longitudinal analysis of state legislative trends relative to the arts. Below are three visualizations of the legislation NASAA has described in its Legislative Roundup reports.

Number of Bills Featured in the State Legislative Roundup by Year (2015-2018)



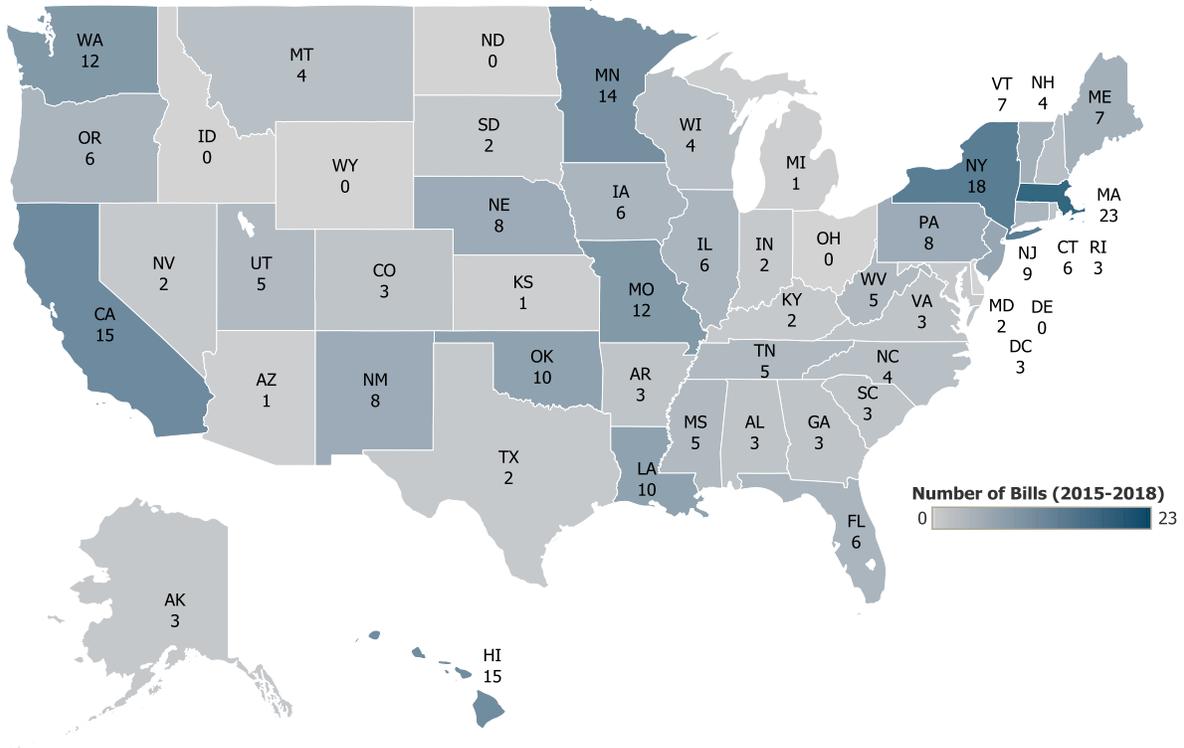
Bills Summarized in the State Legislative Roundup by Category (2015-2018)

Primary Bill Category



NOTE: The above chart reflects the bill categories NASAA used in 2018 and 2017 to track legislation. To enable a longitudinal comparison of four years of state legislative research, NASAA recategorized some bills from the 2016 and 2015 State Legislative Roundup reports as NASAA has amended some of the categories since it first published the State Legislative Roundup in 2015.

Total Bills by State Highlighted in the State Legislative Roundup (2015-2018)



For More Information [Return to TOC](#)

For more information, contact NASAA Research Manager [Paul Pietsch](#), who authored this roundup in August 2018.

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is the nonpartisan membership organization that serves the nation's state arts agencies. NASAA helps state arts agencies fulfill their many citizen service roles by providing knowledge services, representation and leadership programs that strengthen the state arts agency community. NASAA also serves as a clearinghouse for data and research about public funding and the arts. For more information on the work of state arts agencies, call 202-347-6352 or visit nasaa-arts.org.



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