



2024 State Legislative Roundup

Tracking Legislation Affecting State Arts Agencies

NASAA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY of
STATE ARTS AGENCIES

Knowledge ▲ Representation ▲ Community

Every year, state legislatures around the country consider hundreds of bills relevant to state and jurisdictional arts agencies (SAAs) and the cultural sector. Many legislatures are considering the cross-sector role of arts and culture in bolstering economic development, improving educational outcomes, and supporting health and well-being. For these reasons, the amount of legislation tracked by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) has significantly increased: we tracked 412 impactful arts and culture bills in 2024.

Contents

[Bill Status by Category](#) (graph)3

[Bill Status by State](#) (graph) 4

[Highlights of Individual Bills](#)4

[SAA Structure and Governance](#) 4

[SAA Dedicated Revenue](#) 5

[Public Art and Public Space](#) 7

[Cultural Districts and Creative Economy](#).....10

[Arts Education](#)13

[Other SAA Policy Directives](#).....15

[Pandemic Relief and Emergency Preparedness](#)17

[Recent Trends in State Legislation](#) 19

[For More Information](#) 22

This report summarizes 73 of the most important bills considered in state legislatures in 2024. We highlight current legislative trends across seven categories of cultural policy and conclude the report with a short overview of arts and cultural legislation from the past 10 years.

NASAA's annual Legislative Roundup is designed to help SAA staff and council members, arts advocates, local arts councils, and other stakeholders understand the cultural policy landscape and inform efforts toward policy innovation and diffusion at the state level. To that end, this report considers a large volume 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 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

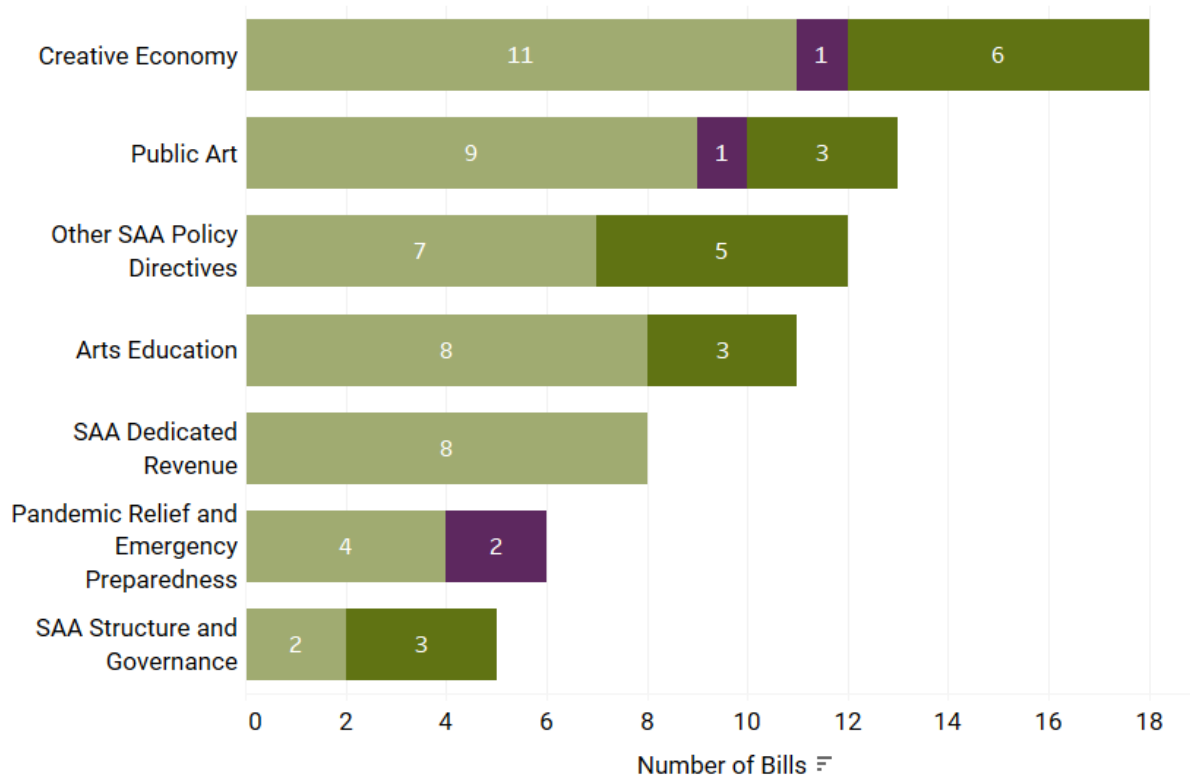
agencies and departments. If you learn of a bill that is important to your agency—or that may be informative to other SAAs—NASAA would like to know about it. You can share legislative

¹ A bill *in committee* has been introduced to one chamber of a state legislature and is in committee but not yet engrossed. An *engrossed* bill has passed one chamber and has been sent to the other chamber for consideration. An *enrolled* bill has passed both chambers and has been sent to the governor. An *enacted* bill has been signed by the governor and has become law. A *vetoed* bill has been rejected by the governor. A bill not enacted before a legislature's adjournment or recess is effectively dead unless the legislature reconvenes in a special session to consider it. For this reason, this report categories all bills not enacted or failed as *introduced*. 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. Other state-specific status terms are used as appropriate.

information by contacting NASAA Qualitative Research Manager [Shaun Harrison](#). Likewise, 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.

Legislative Status of Bills, Summarized by Category

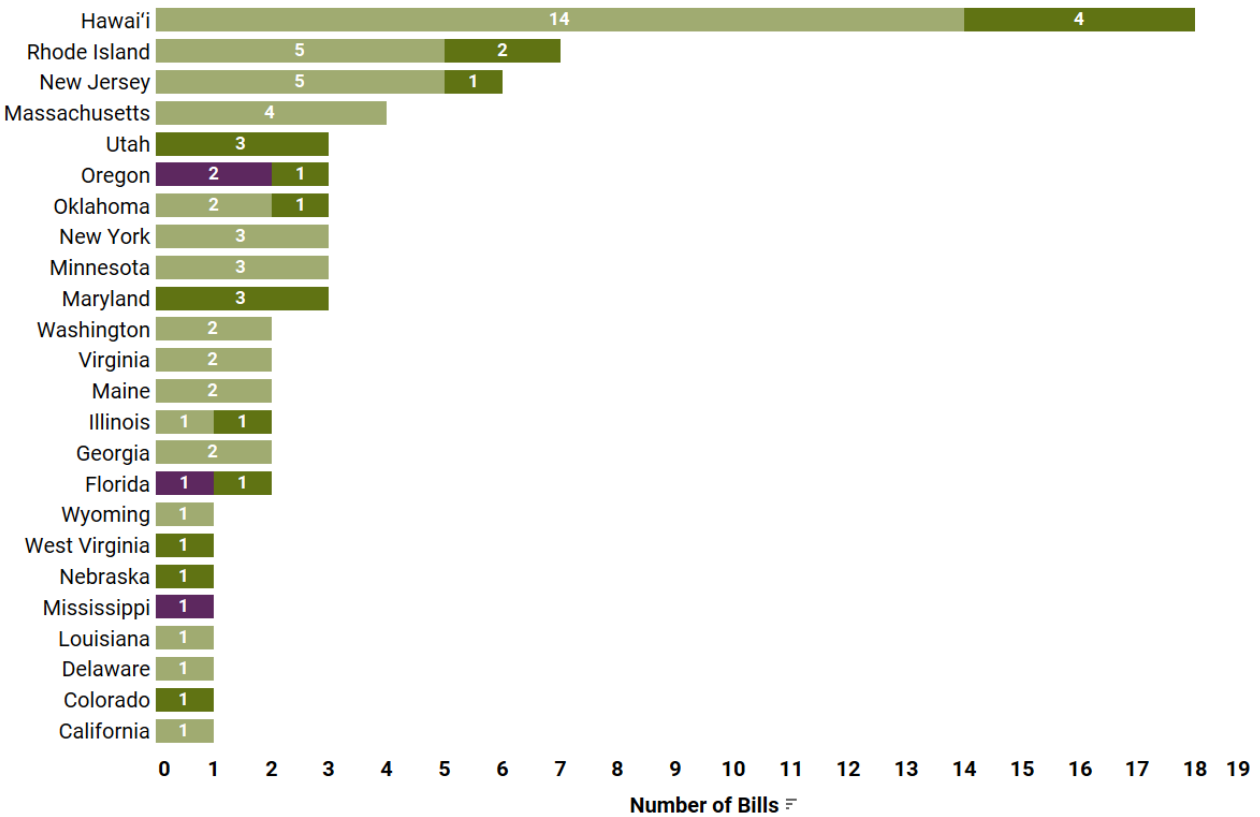
Primary Bill Category



- Bill Status
- Enacted
 - Failed
 - Introduced

Legislative Status of Bills, Summarized by State

Bills/State



Bill Status
 ■ Enacted
 ■ Failed
 ■ Introduced

Highlights of Individual Bills

State Arts Agency Structure and Governance

State arts agencies can experience structural changes driven by political philosophies, administrative reorganizations or other factors. NASAA watches closely for legislation that would alter the core authority of SAAs as well as their placement within state government.

Three states addressed their state arts agency structure, with one modifying its advisory board and another integrating its Division of Culture and History within its executive branch as the Department of Arts, Culture and History. Engrossed legislation in Hawai'i would have made structural changes regarding placement.

Hawai'i

[H.B. 2565](#) and [S.B. 2764](#)—Transferring State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism

Status: Engrossed

Summary: Senate bill 2764 would have transferred the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and the King Kamehameha celebration commission to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism for administrative purposes. The SFCA executive director would have been appointed by the governor rather than the SFCA commission. House Bill 2565 would have further repealed the agency's governing commission.

State Arts Agency Placement

State arts agencies occupy a variety of structural positions within state government, ranging from cultural resource departments to the office of the governor. For more information, see NASAA's research on [state arts agency structure](#).

Utah

[H.B. 0532](#)—State Boards and Commissions Modifications

Status: Enacted

Summary: This bill repeals the Utah Museums Advisory Board effective October 1, 2024, and renames and modifies the Utah Arts Advisory Board as the Utah Arts and Museums Advisory Board. The bill also repeals the Utah Arts and Museums Advisory Board with review effective July 1, 2029.

Utah

[H.B. 0115](#)—Cultural and Community Engagement Amendments

Status: Enacted

Summary: The bill provides several modifications to how the state addresses culture, arts and community engagement, including establishing the Utah Arts and Museums Advisory Board and additional duties related to museums for the Division of Arts & Museums.

West Virginia

[S.B. 865](#)—Changing Curator of Department of Arts, Culture and History to Cabinet Secretary

Status: Enacted

Summary: This bill changes the designation of the Division of Arts, Culture and History from being a separate independent agency to being housed within the executive branch. It also changes the title of the department head from curator to cabinet secretary. The bill adds the Educational Broadcasting Authority as a separate but not independent agency within the department.

State Arts Agency Dedicated Revenue

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. In 2024, one state enacted a modification to a historical trust, permitting grants from the trust to be awarded to SAA grantees. Two states introduced legislation that would

have increased funding sources, and one state introduced legislation to authorize a new cultural trust. States also considered, but did not ultimately pass, redirecting appropriations to specific art programs and projects.

Maine

[L.D. 1163](#)—\$50 Million in New Bonds for Capital Construction

Status: Introduced

Summary: This legislation would authorize the issuance of \$50 million in bonds to provide grants for capital improvements to nonprofit arts and cultural affairs facilities. The bonds would be contingent on voter ratification at the November election.

Minnesota

[H.F. 3756](#)—Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

Status: Died in committee

Summary: This bill would have appropriated money from the arts and cultural heritage fund to the commissioner of administration to award grants to nonprofit organizations to provide supportive arts programs to incarcerated persons and persons on supervised release.

New Jersey

[A. 3051](#) and [S. 1349](#)—Allocates All Revenue from Occupancy Fees for Arts, Historical Heritage and Tourism Purposes

Status: Introduced

Summary: This act would change the allocation of hotel and motel occupancy fees for arts, historical heritage and tourism purposes from 40% to 100%: 56.7% would go to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts for cultural projects as long as the dollar amount allocated is at least \$31.9 million; 9.6% would go to the New Jersey Historical Commission for historical heritage purposes, as long as at least \$5.5 million is allocated; 31.9% would go to the Division of Travel and Tourism in the Department of State for tourism as long as at least \$17.6 million is allocated; and 1.8% would go to the New Jersey Cultural Trust as long as the amount is not less than \$720,000.

New Jersey

[A. 3474](#)—Authorizes "We Support the Arts" License Plates with Proceeds to New Jersey State Council on the Arts

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would authorize a "We Support the Arts" license plate, with proceeds dedicated to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. The design of the license plate would be chosen by the chief administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission after conducting a statewide contest. Its design would include the slogan, "We Support the Arts."

Rhode Island

[H.B. 7919](#) and [S. 2579](#)—Capital Development Program

Status: Died in committee

Summary: This bill would have authorized the submission of proposals for several bonds related to capital development and cultural economy initiatives, including funding for 1:1 matching of

grants to continue the Cultural Arts and the Economy Grant Program administered by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

Wyoming

[S.F. 0070](#)—Investment Modernization-State Nonpermanent Funds

Status: Engrossed

Summary: This bill would have provided revenue fund changes for the Wyoming Arts Council and created the Wyoming cultural trust fund income account. The trust fund board would have been authorized to award grants from the income account to promote, preserve and enhance the cultural heritage of Wyoming and its people, subject to approval of applications from nonprofit and governmental cultural, historical and arts organizations.

Dedicated Revenue

NASAA's [SAA Dedicated Revenue Strategies Policy Brief](#) offers an overview of the multiple state funding mechanisms that support SAAs. NASAA also provides a state-by-state overview of the following strategies:

- [Specialty Arts License Plates](#)
- [Special Taxes and Fees](#)
- [Lottery and Gaming Taxes](#)

Public Art and Public Space

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. Many state arts agencies support public art through a percent for art program, through which a small portion (typically one percent) of the capital costs of constructing or renovating state-owned buildings is set aside to underwrite public art. These programs generally have statutory authorization, which makes them vulnerable to legislative challenges. In 2024, one state passed a resolution to develop opportunities for artists to showcase their art publicly, while another passed a public art matching program. States also debated various funding legislation for public art. One state considered restricting arts, culture and historic preservation funding from localities that remove or relocate statues unless otherwise authorized in certain circumstances.

Delaware

[H.B. 410](#)—Legislative Hall Art and History Advisory Commission

Status: Enacted

Summary: This legislation creates the Legislative Hall Art and History Advisory Commission within the general assembly. The commission will advise the legislative council on the purchase and display of art, monuments and historical exhibits to be displayed in in the Legislative Hall or grounds. The director of the Delaware Division of the Arts has a seat on the commission.

Florida

[H. 0395](#)—Restricting State Arts Funding for the Removal of Historic Monuments and Memorials

Status: Failed

Summary: This legislation would have created new restrictions on the removal of historic monuments and memorials, including the requirement for cities to pay for the restoration or

relocation of monuments that were removed by the local government in violation of this legislation. The state would have withheld all arts, cultural and historic preservation funding necessary to recoup the costs if the local government was unable to finance restoration after three years.

Hawai‘i

[S.R. 174](#) and [S.C.R. 198](#)—Showcasing Artists on Public Platform

Status: Passed and engrossed

Summary: This resolution urges the Capitol Modern Museum and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) to develop new collaborations with art-focused entities and public and private schools to exemplify Hawaiian culture. The museum and SFCA also are encouraged to increase opportunities for artists to share their talent on a public platform.

Hawai‘i

[H.B. 1938](#)—Authorizing the Sales of Art Purchased through the Works of Art Special Fund

Status: Introduced

Summary: The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts would be authorized to sell artwork purchased through the Works of Art Special Fund if the artist had passed away and the proceeds would have been deposited in the Works of Art Special Fund.

Hawai‘i

[H.B. 1940](#)—Appropriating Funds from the Works of Art Special Fund

Status: Engrossed

Summary: House Bill 1940 would have appropriated an undefined sum from the Works of Art Special Fund to incorporate works of art projects into planned major capital improvement projects. The Works of Art Special Fund currently mandates that one percent of the renovation costs to state capital improvement projects be used for art acquisition and maintenance.

Hawai‘i

[S.B. 3312](#)—State Gesture and Public Art

Status: Enacted

Summary: Senate Bill 3312 adopts the shaka as the state gesture and authorizes the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to develop a public work of art related to the shaka and its history for display in a prominent location.

Hawai‘i

[H.B. 1807](#)—Changes to the Percent of Art Appropriation

Status: Engrossed

Summary: House Bill 1807 would have restricted the one-percent-for-art appropriation to only original construction, excluding the currently included appropriations for renovation. It also would have appropriated funds for performing arts initiatives and expanded arts programming in schools.

Maine

[L.D. 669](#)—Public Art Fund

Status: Enrolled

Summary: House Bill 669 would create a Public Art Fund to be administered by the Maine Arts Commission, with an initial appropriation of \$6 million. The fund would be used to provide grants to public entities for the installation or performance of art for the public. The legislation has been carried over into the 131st legislature for consideration.

Oklahoma

[H.B. 3424](#)—Community Quality of Life

Enhancement Act

Status: Engrossed

Summary: This act would have established the Community Quality of Life Enhancement Revolving Fund, which could be utilized by eligible communities for a range of quality of life improvements, including cultural and community centers, public art and beautification.

Public Art Resources

For more information on state arts agency public art and percent for art programs, refer to NASAA's [Percent for Art Policy Brief](#). For individual state programs, see NASAA's [Public Art Resources](#).

Oklahoma

[H.B. 4021](#)—Establishing Provisions for State Capitol Preservation

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would modify certain duties related to the state capitol preservation and safety, including the approval of public art. While the Oklahoma Arts Council would be responsible for acquiring and maintaining any state-owned art in the State Art Collection or Capitol Art Collection that is in storage or on display in the Oklahoma State Capitol and grounds, the State Capitol Preservation Commission would have final approval. The Oklahoma Arts Council would be authorized to hold exhibitions and commissions to display art to the public. In collaboration with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, the Oklahoma Arts Council also would be responsible for operating the visitor center, visitor relations activities and tours in the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Utah

[S.B. 0144](#)—Public Art Funding Amendments

Status: Enacted

Summary: This bill creates a state matching program, the Public Art Installation Initiative, for local installation of public art and authorizes the Utah Division of Arts & Museums to administer the program. The program is a dollar-for-dollar state match on local funds, such as money in the possession of a county, municipality or metro township through local revenue generation, private donation, federal grant or philanthropic grant.

Washington

[S.B. 5346](#)—Encouraging the Use of Student Art in School Construction

Status: Died in committee

Summary: This amendment would have modified an existing act related to encouraging the use of student art in school construction; namely, that a school board of directors may elect through resolution to acquire works of art directly from the school district's students. The amendment specifies it would not have prevented the school board of directors from consulting the Washington State Arts Commission.

Cultural Districts and Creative Economy

The 16 bills affecting cultural districts and the creative economy included a range of policy decisions that sought to promote the arts as a tool for economic development, job creation or creative placemaking. Enacted legislation addresses tax credits, grants for cultural districts and a creative economy task force that one state authorized. Other legislation contemplated new tourism and arts programming and grant making to support economic development.

Colorado

[H.B. 1295](#)—Community Revitalization Tax Credit

Status: Enacted

Summary: This legislation provides tax credits to assist in revitalizing communities by supporting capital improvements in creative districts, historic districts, neighborhood commercial districts and Main Streets. The improvements must provide affordable housing and live-work spaces for creative industry workers and the public. The tax credits must not exceed \$10 million in any given year. The legislation also provides increased flexibility to the Colorado Educational and Cultural Facilities Authority. This includes authorizing additional loans and grants for capital projects, allowing the direct or indirect operation of an educational or cultural facility, and extending the community revitalization grant program.

Georgia

[H.R. 1563](#) and [S.R. 727](#)—Creative Economy Study Committee

Status: Introduced

Summary: Senate Resolution 727 and House Resolution 1563 would create a Georgia Creative Economy Study Committee within both respective chambers. The committee would report any findings or recommendations, including legislative proposals, by its sunset date of December 1, 2024.

Hawai'i

[S.R. 126](#)—Task Force on Art, Branding and Narrative for Hawai'i

Status: Passed

Summary: The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts is charged with convening a new task force to develop art, branding and narratives for Hawai'i's communities, landmarks, parks and other similar areas.

Illinois

[H.B. 4261](#)—Creative Economy Task Force

Status: Enacted

Summary: House Bill 4261 establishes a Creative Economy Task Force within the Department of Commerce, subject to appropriation. The executive director of the Illinois Arts Council or their designee will sit on the task force. The task force is charged with collecting and analyzing data as well as developing a strategic plan to improve the state's creative economy. The plan should include incremental steps to reach economic, social justice and business development goals; ensure the state is economically competitive in attracting and retaining creative economy business; and support creative community within historically marginalized communities and at large. Additional requirements outline practices for research, such as analyzing tax policy, providing a comparative analysis with other jurisdictions and conducting interviews.

Maryland

[H.B. 1451](#) and [S.B. 764](#)—Arts Incubator Workgroup

Status: Enacted

Summary: The Maryland General Assembly has created an Arts Incubator Workgroup to study how arts and cultural institutions can support local artists. One member of the Maryland State Arts Council sits on the work group alongside members of the public, artists, arts districts and appointees. A [preliminary report](#) was issued in December 2024, and a final report is due in October 2025.

Massachusetts

[H. 4804](#)—Strengthening Economic Leadership

Status: Engrossed

Summary: This legislation would have provided a comprehensive economic development plan for the state. As part of this plan, \$100 million would have been appropriated to cities, towns and regional organizations to support workforce development, higher education, tourism, and arts and culture.

Event Ticketing Regulations

Although not typically under the purview of state arts agencies, legislation that regulates the sale of event tickets impacts the larger arts and culture sector. Recent events have encouraged action to limit fraud and protect consumers while dealing with advances in technology that enable ticket reselling on a massive scale. Legislation also has been introduced that impacts venues for arts and culture events. In 2024, over 20 states and jurisdictions introduced event ticket legislation, approaching 100 individual proposed bills in total. In the coming years it is expected that event ticket and venue legislation will continue to increase. For more information, see the [Event Ticket Sales Legislation tracker](#) from the National Conference of State Legislatures, or contact [NASAA](#).

Massachusetts

[S. 530](#)—Municipal Creative Space

Status: Introduced

Summary: This legislation would allow municipalities to establish a Municipal Creative Space Trust Fund to assist with the creation and preservation of creative and presentation space. The legislation outlines the ability of the trust to receive, purchase, sell, lease and/or otherwise transfer property, as well as the requisite board structure and administration rules.

Massachusetts

[S. 2617](#), [S. 2194](#)—Study Order for Cultural Tourism and Artistic Representation

Status: Introduced

Summary: Senate Bill 2617 would provide a study order for multiple pieces of legislation, including bills 2194 and 2187. Senate Bill 2194 would establish a new Cultural Tourism Marketing Fund program to provide assistance to arts, cultural, and historic sites and organizations for tourism marketing and promotion. The program would be administered by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism in consultation with Mass Cultural Council. Grants would be used to strengthen cultural, geographic and creative diversity with criteria that include amplifying the stories of historically marginalized or underrepresented cultures. Senate Bill 2187, featured in NASAA's 2023 Legislative Roundup, would create a new commission on artistic representation.

Minnesota

[S.F. 2187](#)—Arts and Cultural Economy Capital Grants and Accessibility Compliance

Status: Died in committee

Summary: This legislation would have appropriated \$50 million in fiscal year 2024 to establish an arts and cultural economy capital grant program, with the goal of making grants available to fund (1) necessary accessibility renovations at arts and cultural facilities, to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, and (2) capital projects at an arts or cultural facility. The commissioner of employment and economic development would make a grant to at least one intermediary organization, such as a community development financial institution, foundation, regional development agency or tribal government. The intermediary organization, in turn, would award grants to eligible grantees that own or operate an arts or cultural facility. This would have been a one-time appropriation available until December 31, 2026.

State Creative Economy Data

State arts agencies actively measure and support creative workers and creative industries in their states. See NASAA's [Creative Economy](#) resources for more information on the economic value of the arts and creativity by state.

Mississippi

[H.B. 1308](#)—Mississippi Gospel Music Trail

Status: Failed

Summary: This bill would have established a Mississippi gospel music commission to develop a plan to promote Mississippi gospel music, culture and infrastructure for a dedicated gospel music trail for purposes of economic development. Among other agencies and organizations, the

Mississippi Arts Commission would have helped coordinate and share information and resources related to the Mississippi gospel music trail program.

Nebraska

[L. B. 1197](#)—Allowable Uses of Competitive Grants Awarded by the Nebraska Arts Council

Status: Enacted

Summary: This bill amends technical aspects related to a competitive grants award for creative districts. Changes include expanding the use of grant funds for planning expenses, architectural expenses, engineering expenses, live performances, and promotional or marketing efforts of the creative district.

New York

[A. 06797](#)—History, Arts and Culture Levy

Status: Died in committee

Summary: This bill would have authorized a municipality to impose a levy to support local artists, art programming or local organizations focused on history, arts and culture. A municipality that establishes a levy could have designated a local arts council to appropriate funds.

Rhode Island

[S. 2931](#)—Sales and Use Tax

Status: Engrossed

Summary: This act would have provided a four-year expiration period on any certificate of tax exemption for writers, composers and artists.

Virginia

[H.B. 412](#) and [H.B. 642](#)—Virginia Creative Economy Grant Fund and Program

Status: Died in committee

Summary: The Virginia Creative Economy Grant Program would have awarded grants on a competitive basis for independent content creators and creative entrepreneurs for the purpose of developing and expanding the creative economy in Virginia. Grants would not have exceeded \$20,000.

Arts Education

Legislative action on arts education in 2024 typically supported increased opportunities and accessibility for students, with one notable exception. As states continue to recognize the [value of a strong arts education](#), legislatures continue to codify the educational merit of arts and culture. Multiple states considered increasing appropriations for arts education programming and requiring elementary school music and visual art instruction. One state added media arts to its arts education curriculum.

California

[S.B. 1341](#)—Adding Media Arts to the Fine Arts Curriculum

Status: Engrossed

Summary: Senate Bill 1341 would have added media arts as an available subject under visual and performing arts curricula for grades 1-12.

Hawai'i

[H. R. 28](#), [H.C.R. 39](#), [S.R. 182](#) and [S.C.R. 206](#)—Arts and Cultural Instruction in Public Schools

Status: Introduced

Summary: Senate Resolution 182 would encourage Hawai'i's department of education to increase access to arts and cultural instruction in public schools and provide a report to the legislature on the current amount of arts and cultural instruction and access in underserved areas.

Louisiana

[H.B. 266](#)—Arts Curriculum Update to Include Heritage Connections

Status: Engrossed

Summary: This legislation would have added Louisiana Heritage Connections, Lâche Pas Vermilion, to the list of units that would satisfy an arts credit.

New Jersey

[A. 2825](#)—Arts Education Pilot Program for Juvenile Offenders

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would direct the Juvenile Justice Commission to establish an arts education pilot program for juvenile offenders. It also would require the commission to consult with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to oversee the development, operation, administration and evaluation of the program. The pilot program would develop three model arts education programs to deliver innovative arts based programming for juvenile offenders in detention and correctional facilities during a five-year period. The model programs would be developed through organizational partnerships including, but not limited to, state and local arts organizations, community based agencies, philanthropic entities, and the private sector and would be self-funded.

Oklahoma

[H.B. 3278](#)

Status: Enacted

Summary: This bill removes the arts education requirement for public high school graduation, starting with students entering the 8th grade in 2025-2026 school year. The bill requires students to complete an additional unit of math instead. Students must also complete six Individualized Career and Academic Plan pathway units that can span a range of subjects and career paths selected by the district board of education in order to graduate.

Rhode Island

[H.B. 7020](#) and [S. 2042](#)—Transparency in Arts Education Access and Proficiency Act

Status: Enacted

Summary: This act will promote education in the arts at middle and high schools by requiring each to provide annual reports on the availability and percentage of students enrolled in arts education courses.

Washington

[H.B. 1819](#)—Providing Music Instruction in Public Schools

Status: Died in committee

Summary: This bill would have modified current music instruction legislation to require that daily music instruction be equivalent to 20 minutes per day or 100 minutes per week for elementary students in grades 1 through 5.

Other State Arts Agency Policy Directives

State legislatures have the authority to enact arts focused policy directives and task state agencies with implementing them. In 2024, one state enacted a task force to develop art, branding and narratives for the state. Other legislation considered a variety of directives and task forces, including creating an arts and humanities initiative, directing an SAA to provide assistance for grants to nonprofit music organizations, and authorizing duties related to state capitol art and exhibitions.

Florida

[H. 1329](#)—Veterans' History Program

Status: Enacted

Summary: The Major John Leroy Haynes Florida Veterans' History program is created within the Division of Arts and Culture's Florida Folklife program. The new history program will collect and preserve stories from Florida's veterans and is authorized to request assistance from the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Hawai'i

[H.B. 2246](#)—Transfer Certain Grants from Hawai'i Tourism Authority to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

Status: Engrossed

Summary: House Bill 2246 would have created a standing selection committee within the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to review and award cultural grants that support unique Native Hawaiian culture and their importance to the visitor experience. The committee would have included representatives from the tourism authority and practitioners of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, among others.

Hawai'i

[S.C.R. 149](#) and [S.R. 127](#)—Chess as a Competitive Sport Task Force

Status: Engrossed

Summary: This senate resolution would have urged the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to develop a task force on researching and expanding access to chess as a competitive sport.

Hawai'i

[H.B. 1939](#)—Authorizing Additional Funding Sources

Status: Engrossed

Summary: This bill would have authorized the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to accept gifted property for the purpose of providing community venues for education, economic development, revenue generation and other supporting purposes. The legislation also would have established a new statewide arts program to provide greater arts access for children and those affected by the August 2023 Maui wildfires.

Hawai'i

[H.B. 2747](#)—Filmmakers Special Fund

Status: Introduced

Summary: This legislation would establish the Filmmakers Special Fund within the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Funds would be used to award grants to Hawai'i filmmakers. No initial funds were appropriated.

Illinois

[S.B. 3299](#)—Arts and Humanities Initiative

Status: Introduced

Summary: This legislation would task the Illinois Arts Council with establishing a statewide arts and humanities initiative focused on Illinois culture, values and beauty. The project would be modeled after 1930s federal arts and humanities projects, and the Arts Council would be able to work with Illinois Humanities Council, Inc. The project would be active until December 2025 and be dependent on the additional appropriation of funds.

Maryland

[S.B. 616](#)—Allowing Historical Trust Grants to Maryland State Arts Council Grant Recipients

Status: Enacted

Summary: This legislation allows the Maryland Historical Trust to provide grants to current Maryland State Arts Council grant recipients. The legislation also authorizes the governor to include an appropriation of up to \$5 million in the annual budget bill for the trust.

New Jersey

[S. 1361](#)—Redirects Funds for Arts, Cultural and Historical Organizations to Competitive Grant Program

Status: Introduced

Summary: This bill would redirect approximately \$21.7 million in state funds included in the FY2023 appropriations act for specific arts, cultural and historical organizations to a competitive

grant program in the department of state called the Arts, Cultural and Historic Organizations Fund. The bill also would redirect \$5 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to the program that are currently dedicated for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center - Community Center. The grant program would provide funds to support the missions and financial needs of qualifying arts, cultural and historical organizations. The eligibility criteria would be established by the secretary of state.

New Jersey

[A. 4708](#)—Cultural Projects Appropriations

Status: Enacted

Summary: This bill appropriates \$5 million to the department of state for unspecified cultural projects.

New York

[S. 09743](#)—New York State Music Grant Fund

Status: Engrossed

Summary: This bill would have renamed the New York state musical instrument revolving fund to the New York state music grant fund. In addition to removing certain guidelines for the grant, the bill would have directed the New York State Council on the Arts to provide assistance for grants to nonprofit symphony orchestras and/or other nonprofit musical entities in the state for the purpose of the presentation of performing arts for public benefit.

Oregon

[S.B. 1531](#)—The American Semiquincentennial

Status: Enacted

Summary: The bill establishes the America 250 Oregon Commission, which will coordinate and provide guidance for Oregon's official observance of the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the United States. The Oregon Arts Commission is a voting member on the commission.

Pandemic Relief and Emergency Preparedness

While most states have obligated the majority of federal COVID-19 pandemic recovery funds, legislatures and executive branches continue to address the long-term impact of the pandemic. Alongside federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, which were required to be obligated by December 31, 2024, states have tapped into supplemental funding sources and bolstered innovative recovery and relief programs to energize the creative economy and mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

Minnesota

[H.F. 2844](#)—Cultural Community Rescue Restart Grants

Status: Introduced

Summary: This legislation would create a new grant program within the Minnesota State Arts Board to support arts and culture organizations that had experienced financial hardship from the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizations would have to prove a 25% reduction in gross receipts between

comparable quarters in 2019 and 2020 while also having recently received funding from the Minnesota State Arts Board, a regional arts council, the Minnesota Humanities Center, the Minnesota Historical Society, or the Minnesota arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The bill would appropriate \$9 million in FY024 to support the new grant program. An additional \$3 million would be appropriated to the Arts Board for pass-through grants to support tourism promotion, regional arts council outreach in underserved communities, and statewide research on underserved arts and cultural organizations.

New York

[S. 07249](#)—Emergency Preparedness Plans

Status: Died in committee

Summary: This bill would have required any place of entertainment that can hold at least 1,000 people to submit an emergency preparedness plan to the municipality in which it is located.

Oregon

[H.B. 4124](#), [S.B. 1582](#)—Funding for Oregon Cultural Organizations

Status: Failed

Summary: This bill would have appropriated funds to the Oregon Business Development Department to distribute to Oregon cultural organizations in response to the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on organization finances. It would have declared an emergency upon passage, thereby making certain resources immediately available.

Rhode Island

[H.B. 8098](#) and [S. 2985](#)—Rhode Island Creative Futures Fund

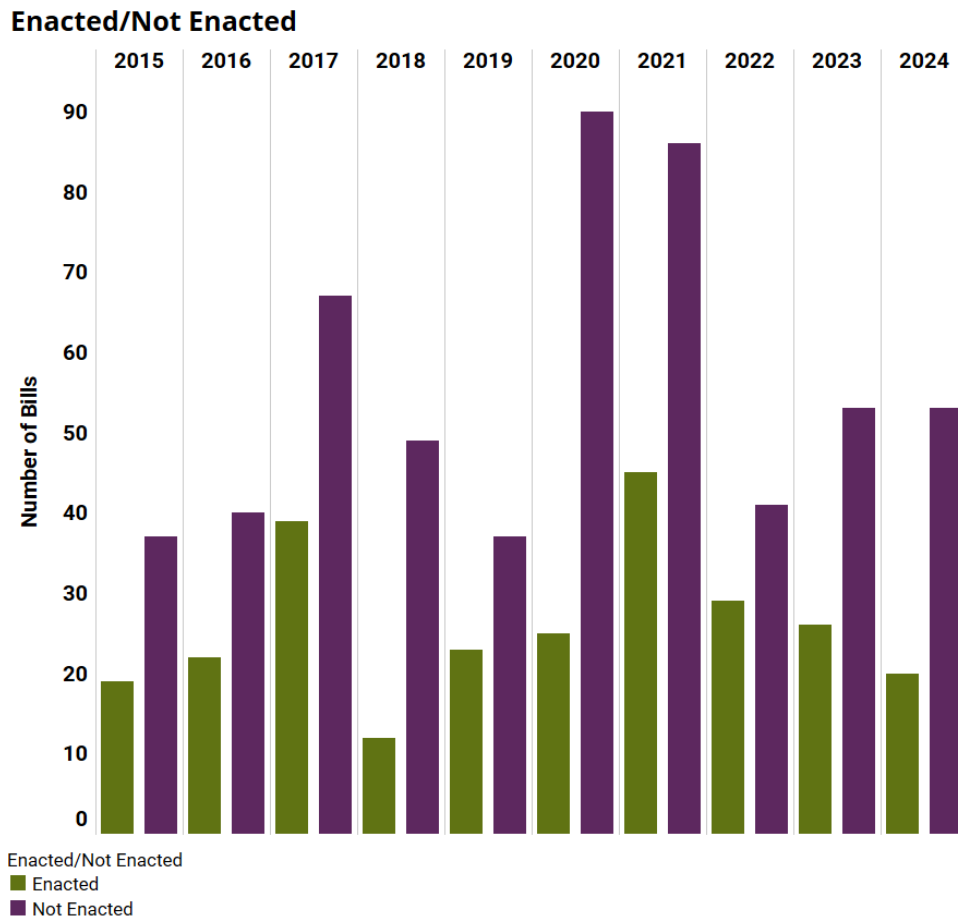
Status: Died in committee

Summary: This act would have established a Rhode Island creative futures fund in the amount of \$18 million. It would have been awarded to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations that are experiencing continued economic harm due to the COVID-19 pandemic and would contribute to the cultural, economic and educational vitality of the state. The fund would have been established with American Rescue Plan Act funds through an appropriation by the general assembly and/or proceeds from a general obligation bond approved by voters. The fund would have been distributed by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and/or the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.

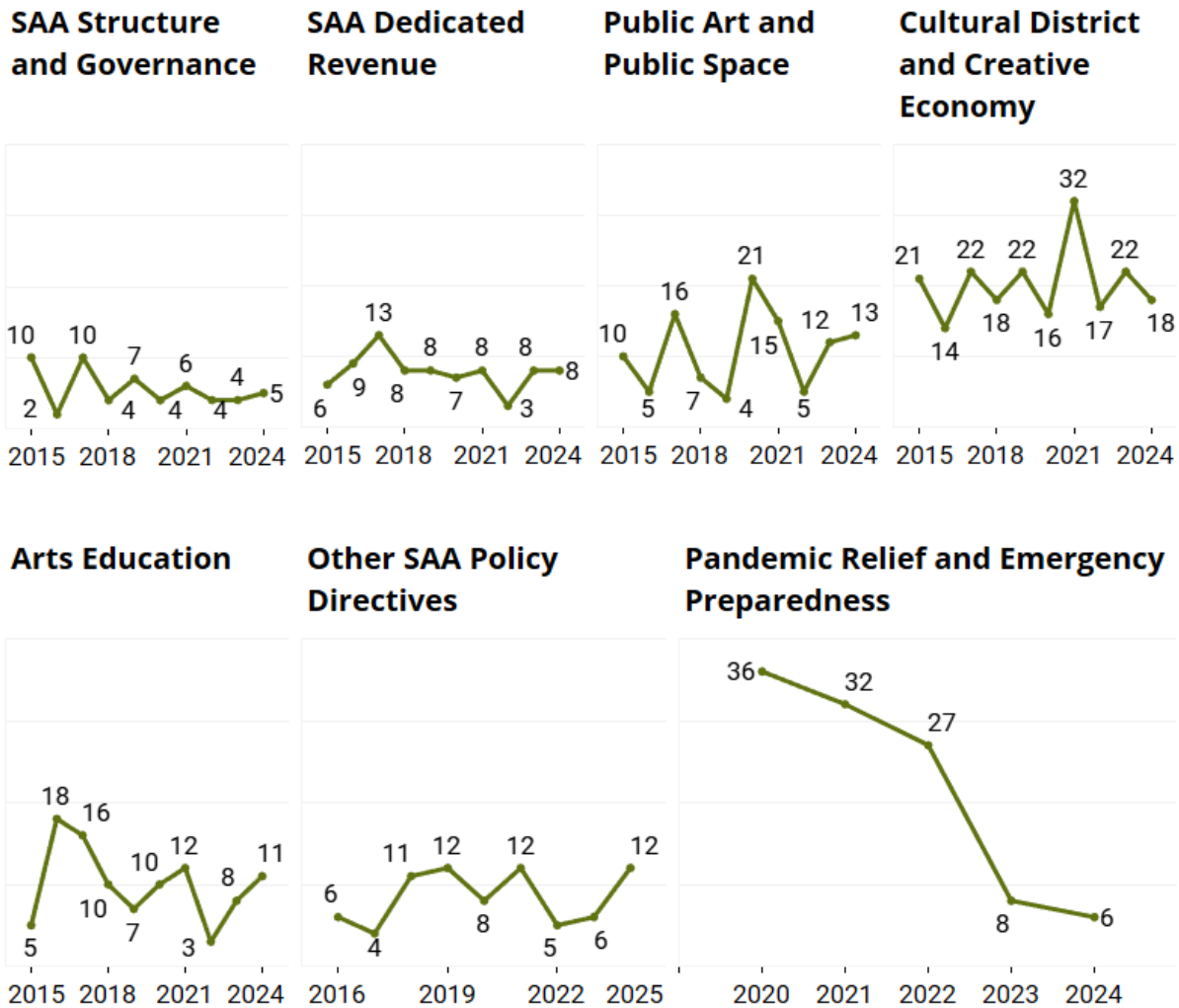
Recent Trends in State Legislation

To provide a longitudinal analysis of state legislative action relative to the arts, data from the 2023 State Legislative Roundup and the eight previous editions of NASAA's annual summary of state arts related legislation are visualized below. This analysis is a useful tool for recognizing trends and tracking the history of cultural policy throughout the country.

Number of Bills Featured in the State Legislative Roundup, by Year (2015-2024)

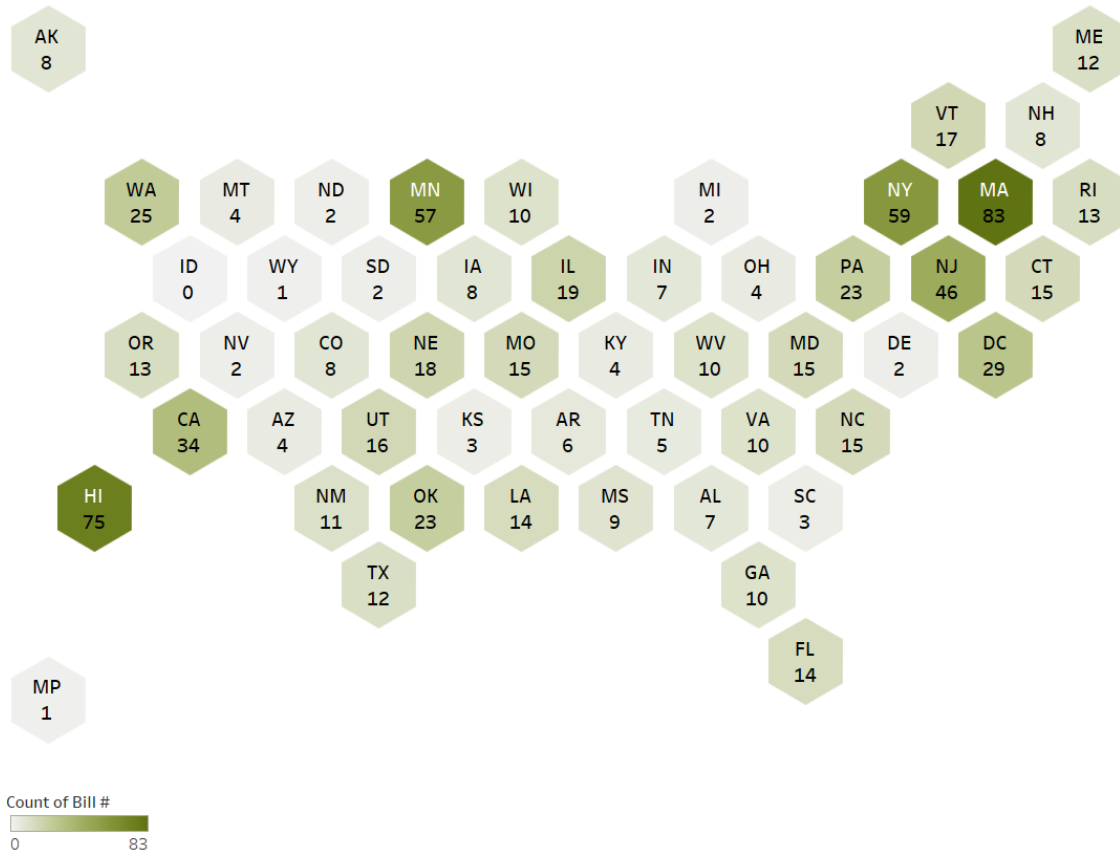


Number of Bills Summarized in the State Legislative Roundup, by Category (2015-2024)



The chart above reflects the standardized bill categories NASAA has used since 2017 to track legislation. To enable a longitudinal comparison of eight 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 roundup in 2015. Additionally, the Public Art category was updated in 2020 to include imagery and art in public spaces, which explains the large increase in legislation that year. The Other SAA Policy Directives category was added in 2016; the Pandemic Relief and Emergency Preparedness category was added in 2020.

Number of Bills Highlighted in the State Legislative Roundup, by State (2015-2024)



For More Information

For more information, contact NASAA Qualitative Research Manager [Shaun Harrison](#), who authored this report in January 2025.

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization. In collaboration with the nation's 56 state and jurisdictional arts councils, we advance the arts as a powerful path to economic prosperity, rural resilience, good health, education success and strong communities in which everyone thrives. NASAA serves as a clearinghouse for data and research about public funding for the arts as well as the policies and programs of state arts agencies. For more information about NASAA and the work of state arts agencies, visit www.nasaa-arts.org.



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