



2025 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. In 2025, legislatures introduced more arts related bills compared to previous years. The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) tracked 375 arts and culture bills in 2025. States continued to consider the role of arts and culture in bolstering economic development, improving educational outcomes and supporting public art. Legislation also included proposed changes to state arts agency structure, authority and programs.

This report summarizes 127 of the most important 2025 bills. 24 of these 127 bills were enacted. 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. Because bill language can be useful for policy research purposes regardless of the degree of progression, this report includes enacted and failed bills as well as those at other stages of the legislative process at the time of writing. For key legislative terminology, see the [glossary](#) at the end of the report.

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](#) 7

[Public Art and Public Space](#) 9

[Cultural Districts and Creative Economy](#).....12

[Arts Education](#)17

[Specific SAA Policy Directives](#).....19

[Miscellaneous](#)24

[Recent Trends in State Legislation](#) 25

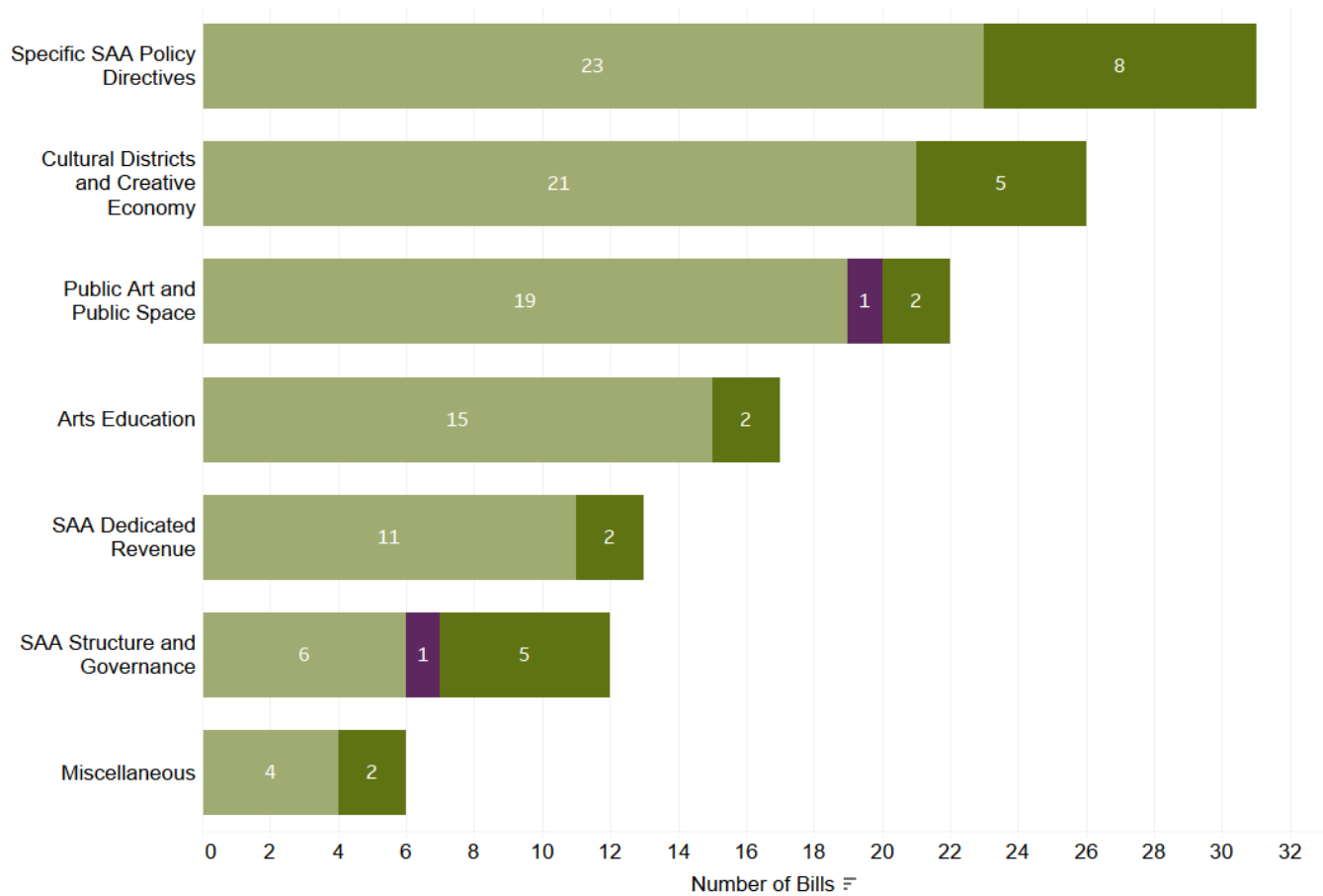
[Glossary](#)..... 27

[For More Information](#)..... 29

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 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.

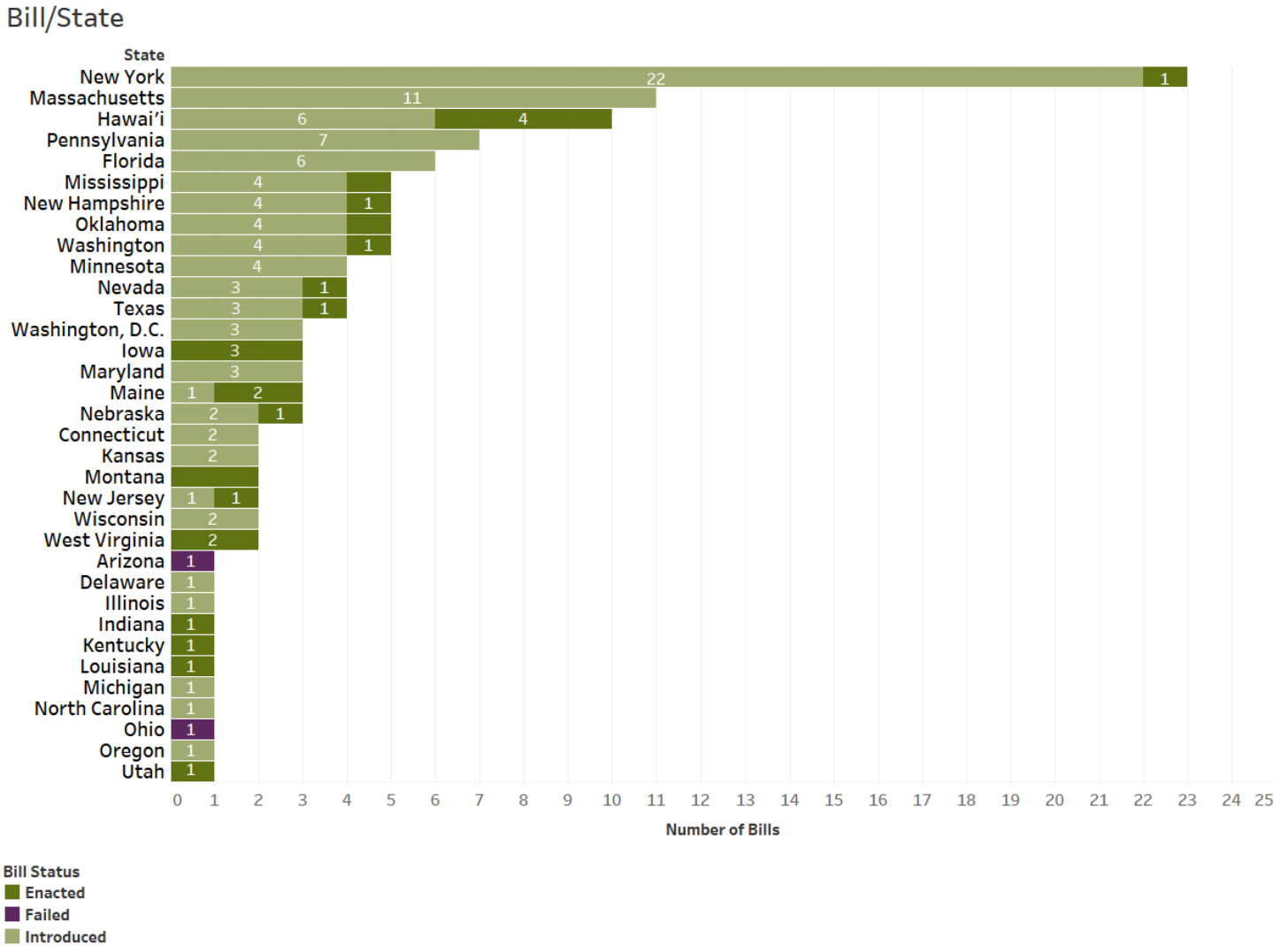
Legislative Status of Bills, Summarized by Category

Primary Bill Category



Bill Status
 ■ Enacted
 ■ Failed
 ■ Introduced

Legislative Status of Bills, Summarized by State



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.

The Arizona and New Hampshire legislatures both introduced legislation to eliminate their state arts agencies by abolishing their enabling statutes.¹ While the Arizona bill failed, the New Hampshire bill was modified to preserve the agency but drastically cut its funding. Other states introduced changes to SAA placement, strategic funds and governing councils.

Arizona

[H.B. 2031](#)—Agency Elimination

Summary: This bill was designed to eliminate multiple state boards and commissions. It would have repealed the Arizona Commission on the Arts's funding mechanism and enabling statute.

Status: Failed

Hawai'i

[H.B. 450](#) and [S.B. 582](#)—Relating to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism

Summary: This bill would transfer the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts from the Department of Accounting and General Services to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

Status: Introduced

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](#).

Michigan

[S.B. 0631](#)—Economic Development and Strategic Fund

Summary: This bill would eliminate the Michigan Strategic Fund and Economic Development Corporation, and the arts agency would be moved to the newly created Bureau of Fair Competition and Free Enterprise.

Status: Introduced

Montana

[H.B. 786](#)—Arts Council Chair Authority

Summary: This bill removed the role of chief executive officer from the duties assigned to the Montana Arts Council board chair.

Status: Enacted

¹ Routine budget bills (that do not otherwise modify the authority or operations of the state arts agency) are not generally included in this report. During the 2025 legislative session, however, versions of budget bills in both Kansas and Michigan included \$0 budgets for the state arts agency in those states. Both bills were defeated. Further details about enacted state arts agency budgets in all 56 states and jurisdictions can be found in NASAA's [FY2026 State Arts Agency Revenues Report](#).

Nebraska

[L.B. 356](#)—Revisions to Arts Council Appointment Confirmations

Summary: This bill would eliminate the requirement of Nebraska Arts Council members to be confirmed by the legislature.

Status: Introduced

New Hampshire

[H.B. 1320](#)—New Hampshire State Council on the Arts Funding Study

Summary: This bill would establish a study committee to analyze past, present and potential funding sources for the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. The report would be delivered by November 2026.

Status: Introduced

New Hampshire

[H.B. 2](#)—State Expenditures

Summary: Originally, this budget bill sought to eliminate the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts (NHSCA) and its state statute. After several amendments, the bill preserved the agency but cut funding to NHSCA to \$150,000 per year and left the agency with one full-time position. It also established the Granite Patron of the Arts Fund, a tax credit to encourage private contributions to the agency.

Status: Enacted

New York

[S. 00793](#)—Amend the Rules Pertaining to Council Vacancies

Summary: This bill allows the arts council not to be considered out of compliance with regional representation requirements if a vacancy occurs, as long as the vacancy is filled within a reasonable time and the new appointment moves the council's composition closer to the goal of having at least one member from each of the 10 regions of the state.

Status: Enacted

Oregon

[H.B. 3048](#)—Creation of the Oregon Arts and Cultural Development Office

Summary: This bill would abolish the Oregon Arts Commission (OAC) and the Trust for Cultural Development Board on July 1, 2027. It would transfer the duties and powers of OAC and the trust to the Oregon Arts and Cultural Development Board and the Oregon Arts and Cultural Development Office. The Oregon Arts and Cultural Development Office would be established as a new quasigovernmental agency.

Status: Introduced

West Virginia

[H.B. 2008](#) and [H.B. 2009](#)—Executive Branch Reorganization

Summary: Among other changes, H.B. 2008 placed the Commission on the Arts within the Department of Tourism. H.B. 2009 abolished the Department of Arts, Culture and History and reorganized its sections within the Department of Tourism.

Status: Enacted

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 2025, Hawai'i introduced three different pieces of legislation making changes to special funds; one was enacted, curtailing revenue. Three states considered changes to tourism and transportation funds, one of which would have prohibited the use of funds for arts or cultural strategies in transportation projects. Other states considered modifications to dedicated revenue formulas.

Connecticut

[S.B. 01551](#)—Department of Economic and Community Development Spending on Arts and Humanities Activities

Summary: This bill would specify the amount of revenue to be deposited in the culture and tourism account, and specifies that the account is to provide grants-in-aid to organizations engaging in or promoting the arts, helping to make the state a destination for leisure and business travelers, preserving and promoting historic resources, and interpreting and presenting the state's history and culture.

Status: Introduced

Hawai'i

[H.B. 925](#)—Performing Arts Ticket Revenue

Summary: This legislation would establish the Performing Arts Special Fund to be used by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for the coordination, planning, promotion, marketing and execution of performing arts events. The legislation would mandate collecting revenue equal to a percentage of all ticket sales from concerts held at state venues to be transferred into the Performing Arts Special Fund.

Status: Introduced

Hawai'i

[H.B.1378](#) and [S.B. 1577](#)—Works of Art Special Fund Restriction; Performing Arts Grants Fund

Summary: This bill restricts the use of the Works of Art Special Fund, limiting it to expenditures solely related to the acquisition of works of art (limiting the state arts agency's ability to use the dollars programmatically). The legislation creates a Performing Arts Grants Fund to serve as a container for appropriated dollars and grant funds secured to support performing arts awards.

Status: Enacted

Hawai'i

[H.R. 135](#) and [H.C.R. 141](#)—Hawai'i Cultural Trust Working Group

Summary: This resolution would request the establishment of a working group to study the feasibility of creating a Hawai'i Cultural Trust to preserve and promote Hawai'i's cultural resources. The director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts would be part of this working group.

Status: Introduced

Minnesota

[H.F. 589](#)—Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

Summary: This bill would modify the formula for determining the allocation of money from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to the Minnesota State Arts Board and regional arts councils. More specifically, the bill would require that the amount appropriated from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to the arts agency must be divided by a divisor equal to the number of regional arts councils plus one. The resulting amount would be distributed to the Minnesota State Arts Board for grants and services. The remaining amount would then be distributed, by the Minnesota State Arts Board as fiscal agent, to the regional arts councils on a per capita basis.

Status: Introduced

Minnesota

[H.F. 887](#)—Transportation Arts Funding Prohibition

Summary: This bill would prohibit the use of dedicated funds from the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund or the Trunk Highway Fund for arts or cultural strategies in transportation projects.

Status: Introduced

Nevada

[A.B. 219](#); see also [S.B. 431](#) for other amendments—Use of Live Entertainment Tax Proceeds

Summary: This bill would revise dedicated revenue for the Nevada Arts Council (NAC) from a live entertainment tax. Currently, the Arts Council receives \$150,000 from the live entertainment tax as a continuing appropriation. This bill proposes that the amount distributed to NAC equal one of the live entertainment taxes instead. It also would require NAC to use at least 90% of the amount received to make grants to artists and local arts agencies in the state.

Status: Introduced

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](#)

New Hampshire

[S.B. 633](#)—Establishing a Voluntary Performing Arts Surcharge

Summary: This bill would establish a voluntary surcharge program for New Hampshire performing arts venues with a capacity between 100 and 2,500 persons and with ticket sellers at such venues who charge no more than \$0.50 per ticket, to fund the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.

Status: Introduced

Pennsylvania

[H.B. 48](#)—Arts Registration Plate

Summary: This bill would establish the arts vehicle license plate and the arts promotion fund for the purpose of providing grants for the arts. \$15 of each fee received for the specialty plate would be credited to the fund and appropriated on a continuing basis to Pennsylvania Creative Industries.

Status: Introduced

Pennsylvania

[S.B. 994](#)—Tourism Promotion Fund

Summary: This bill would amend the current tourism promotion fund, which consists of taxes collected from booking agents, to disburse 25% of the fund to Pennsylvania Creative Industries for grant making.

Status: Introduced

Public Art and Public Space

States incorporate art into 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. Relevant public art legislation often proposes policy explicitly related to percent for art programs administered by state and local agencies. Additionally, this section includes legislation that covers symbolism and expression in public space.

In 2025, Nebraska enacted a bill that restricts its percent for art program, while Ohio introduced legislation to eliminate its percent for art program, which ultimately failed. Several other states introduced legislation related to monuments and memorials. States also debated various funding legislation for public art.

Florida

[H.B. 0455](#), [H.B. 1599](#), [S.B. 0496](#) and [S.B. 1816](#)—Historic Florida Monuments and Memorials Act

Summary: This bill would establish that all policies regarding the removal, damage or destruction of historic monuments and memorials fall under the purview of the state, and would declare void all local ordinances, regulations and executive actions by local government regarding the removal, damage or destruction of historic monuments and memorials.

Status: Introduced

Hawai'i

[S.B. 1581](#)—Hawai'i-Japan Pacific Peace Monument

Summary: This bill would establish a Hawai'i-Japan Pacific Peace Monument, to be developed by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts in consultation with stakeholders representing Hawai'i and Japan.

Status: Introduced

Maryland

[H.B. 961](#) and [S.B. 1006](#)—Commissioned Public Art

Summary: This bill would stipulate that an artist may waive their copyright protections in a contract for state public art and would require an entity that commissions state public art to register that art with the Maryland State Arts Council. The bill defines state public art as "public art commissioned for a project that receives state funding, regardless of whether the state funding directly paid for the public art."

Status: Introduced

Maryland

[H.B. 1472](#)—Ten Commandments Monument Display Act

Summary: This bill would authorize the display of a Ten Commandments monument on the grounds of the Maryland State House, with the Maryland State Arts Council consulting.

Status: Introduced

Massachusetts

[H. 3592](#) and [S. 2332](#)—Program for Local Art and Community Engagement Commission

Summary: This bill would establish the Program for Local Art and Community Engagement (PLACE) to promote public art and community engagement in the commonwealth. This program would include the PLACE Commission (including a seat for the Massachusetts Cultural Council executive director) and a PLACE Fund, which would receive 0.5% of the public funds allocated for the construction or renovation of any building or property owned by the commonwealth, not to exceed \$300,000 per construction or renovation project. The bill also outlines duties for Mass Cultural Council, including the administration of the PLACE Commission and fund.

Status: Introduced

Mississippi

[S.B. 2001](#) and [S.B. 2376](#)—National Statuary Hall Selection Commission

Summary: This bill would create the National Statuary Hall Selection Commission to study and make recommendations for the selection of two new historic figures to represent Mississippi in the National Statuary Hall collection at the U.S. Capitol. The Mississippi Arts Commission is represented on the commission.

Status: Introduced

Mississippi

[S.B. 2566](#)—Confederate Flag Removal

Summary: This bill would mandate removal of the depiction of the Confederate flag from the state capitol rotunda and would establish a commission to recommend a suitable replacement. The Mississippi Arts Commission would be on the commission.

Status: Introduced

Nebraska

[L.B. 445](#)—Percent for Art Elimination

Summary: This bill would eliminate the requirement that one percent of the appropriation of construction projects for public buildings be designated to artwork.

Status: Introduced

Nebraska

[L.B. 660](#)—Percent for Art Restriction

Summary: This bill raised the dollar amount for state construction projects (from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million) and remodeling projects (from \$250,000 to \$500,000) to require that one percent of the appropriation be spent on artwork. Additional types of state buildings and projects, such as repair shops, garages and warehouses, were made exempt from this requirement. The maximum amount of money that can be spent on art is now \$300,000. A waiver process for exemption from this requirement was also created.

Status: Enacted

New York

[A. 08618](#)—Fine Art and Monument Defacement

Summary: This bill would prohibit the defacing or damaging of fine art or historical monuments, and outlines penalties.

Status: Introduced

Oklahoma

[H.B. 1843](#)—Community Quality of Life Enhancement Act

Summary: This bill would establish the Community Quality of Life Enhancement Revolving Fund within the Department of Commerce, using a fractional percentage of the state income tax. The fund would be used, in part, for cultural facilities and public art.

Status: Introduced

Oklahoma

[S.B. 162](#)—Capitol Arch Memorial Fund

Summary: This bill establishes the Capitol Arch Memorial Fund, a continuing fund for the purpose of installing and maintaining veteran memorial statues around the state capitol arch.

Status: Enacted

Oklahoma

[S.B. 171](#)—State Capitol Building Maintenance and Preservation

Summary: This bill would amend several provisions related to maintenance of the state capitol building, the Capitol Preservation Commission, and the maintenance and curation of the State and State Capitol Art Collections. The bill would require the Oklahoma Arts Council to acquire, maintain, preserve or restore any state-owned art in the State Art Collection or State Capitol Art Collection that is in storage or on display in the state capitol building and grounds. The Arts Council would be authorized to hold exhibitions and commissions to display art to the general public.

Status: Introduced

Ohio

[H.B. 96](#)—Percent for Art

Summary: This budget bill contained a provision that would have eliminated Ohio's percent for art program. This specific provision was vetoed by the governor.

Status: Failed

Pennsylvania

[H.B. 489](#)—Public Arts Grant Program

Summary: This bill would establish the Public Arts Grant Program within the Department of Community and Economic Development of the commonwealth for the creation of free and accessible public art that depicts or benefits historically marginalized communities. The bill would authorize the transfer of \$10 million to the Public Arts Fund.

Status: Introduced

Washington

[S.B. 5522](#)—State Capitol Campus Modifications

Summary: Among other provisions, this bill would add the director of ArtsWA to the Capitol Campus Design Subcommittee. The subcommittee is tasked with providing guidance on design and construction, thinking through current restraints and ongoing costs. The subcommittee would also provide guidance and planning for the 10-year Department of Enterprise Services Capitol Campus Capital Plan, and provide recommended timing for ongoing campus facility renewals.

Status: Introduced

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](#).

Cultural Districts and Creative Economy

The 26 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 workforce development, modifying a tax credit program, establishing a film office and modifying the circumstances under which a municipality can restrict the sale of art. Other legislation contemplated grant making to support economic development. One state enacted legislation that expanded the state's sales tax to include new types of services, some of which directly affect arts and cultural organizations.

Connecticut

[H.B. 06881](#)—Study Relating to the Arts

Summary: This act would mandate that the commissioner of Economic and Community Development conduct a study relating to arts, culture and tourism issues in the state, including, but not limited to, investment and participation in such sectors.

Status: Introduced

Delaware

[S.C.R. 109](#)—Opportunities for Delaware Pathways to Support the Creative Economy

Summary: This resolution directs the Delaware Department of Education, in collaboration with the Division of the Arts, Department of Labor and Workforce Development Board, to evaluate and report on opportunities for Delaware Pathways to support the creative economy. Delaware Pathways is a state initiative designed to connect youth to career opportunities through a series of high-quality career and technical education programs. The Division of the Arts will collaborate on data updates and conduct no fewer than two educational sessions with employers regarding how to participate in, and the benefits of participating in, registered apprenticeship. Here is the [final report](#).

Status: Passed

Illinois

[H.B. 2760](#)—Commission on Tourism

Summary: This bill would establish the Commission on Tourism to develop a statewide travel and tourism strategy. The commission would include the chair of the Illinois Arts Council or their designee.

Status: Introduced

Kansas

[H.B. 2038](#) and [S.B. 52](#)—Kansas Film and Digital Media Act

Summary: This bill outlines a tax credit and sales tax exemption that would incentivize film, video and digital media production in Kansas. The program would be administered by secretary of commerce and the Kansas Arts Commission.

Status: Introduced

Kentucky

[S.B. 1](#)—Kentucky Film Office

Summary: This bill establishes the Kentucky film office to promote the film industry in Kentucky and outlines its duties and selection of council members. (No SAA involvement is mentioned.)

Status: Enacted

Louisiana

[H.B. 97](#)—Railroad Avenue Historic Cultural Economic District

Summary: This bill establishes the Railroad Avenue Historic Cultural Economic District to promote economic development and arts and cultural enrichment in the state.

Status: Enacted

Maine

[L.D. 1462](#)—Promoting Artisans and the Creative Economy

Summary: This act stipulates the circumstances under which a municipality can place limits on the sale of artworks.

Status: Enacted

Massachusetts

[H. 224](#) and [S. 160](#)—Improving Accessibility in the Creative Economy

Summary: This bill would establish the Accessibility in the Creative Economy grant program, administered by the Office on Disability. The grant program would support capital improvements and projects to improve access and remove barriers encountered by people with disabilities in applicant for-profit, nonprofit and public organizations throughout the commonwealth that are part of the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences sector.

Status: Introduced

Massachusetts

[H. 3091](#)—Establishing a Tax Credit for Artist Workspace

Summary: This bill would establish a tax credit for the construction of a new building located in a cultural district, or renovation of an existing building located in a cultural district, that provides artists with the work space necessary to produce art.

Status: Introduced

Massachusetts

[H. 3587](#) and [S. 2334](#)—Municipal Creative Space Trust Fund

Summary: This bill would establish the Municipal Creative Space Trust Fund to provide for the creation and preservation of creative space and presentation space in Massachusetts municipalities. The independently audited records of the trust would be submitted in an annual report to Mass Cultural Council.

Status: Introduced

Minnesota

[S.F. 1593](#)—Accessibility Capital Grant Program

Summary: This bill would establish the Accessibility for Arts and Cultural Economy Capital Grant Program to fund necessary arts or cultural facility accessibility renovations to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, and for capital projects at an arts or cultural facility.

Status: Introduced

Mississippi

[S.B. 2424](#)—Entertainment Industry and Workforce Development Task Force

Summary: This act creates the Entertainment Industry and Workforce Development Task Force to examine methods to grow the state's creative economy and increase revenue for and from the entertainment industry. The bill also requires the task force to develop recommendations to the legislature on changes to policy and designated appropriations that would develop the entertainment industry and workforce within the state.

Status: Enacted

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. 1405](#)—Gospel Music Trail

Summary: This bill would require the Division of Tourism of the Mississippi Development Authority to establish a statewide Mississippi "gospel music trail" infrastructure to offer tourists and targeted groups a structured tour of Mississippi gospel music historical sites and performance venues.

Status: Introduced

New Hampshire

[S.B. 522](#)—Reestablishing Commission to Study Economic Impact of Arts and Culture

Summary: This bill would reestablish a commission to study the economic impact of the arts and culture in New Hampshire and would recommend ways in which the state can enhance and expand this sector of the New Hampshire economy. The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts would serve on the commission.

Status: Introduced

New Jersey

[A. 5378](#)—Cultural Arts Incentives Program Modifications

Summary: This bill modifies several provisions of the Cultural Arts Incentives Program, a program that distributes tax credits to cultural arts institutions to incentivize broad-scale capital projects for arts and cultural venues in New Jersey. Modifications include altering the definition of *cultural arts institution* to include entities whose mission addresses cultural, educational or artistic enrichment, rather than it being their primary mission; expanding the scope of eligible cultural arts institution facilities to include national historical parks and related facilities; and eliminating a provision that allows the authority to award additional tax credits under the Cultural Arts Incentives Program to certain nonprofit cultural arts institutions in an amount up to 100% of the institution's operating reserve.

Status: Enacted

New York

[A. 04036](#) and [S. 03037](#)—Prevailing Wage Requirements

Summary: Among other stipulations, this bill would require nonprofit theatres to pay prevailing wages to employees on productions funded by the New York State Council on the Arts or local arts agencies.

Status: Introduced

New York

[A. 07737](#) and [S. 01062](#)—Cultural District Guidelines

Category: Creative Economy

Summary: This bill would direct the New York State Council on the Arts to develop criteria and guidelines for establishing state designated arts and cultural districts.

Status: Introduced

Pennsylvania

[S.B. 928](#)—Film Producer Grant Program

Summary: This bill would establish the Pennsylvania Film Producer Grant Program, administered by Pennsylvania Creative Industries. The appropriations for the program are not outlined.

Status: Introduced

Wisconsin

[A.B. 159](#) and [S.B. 173](#)—Rural Creative Economy Grant Program

Summary: This bill would establish the Rural Creative Economy Grant Program, administered by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. SAA involvement is not mentioned. It stipulates that a grant awarded may not exceed \$50,000 and that the grant recipient must match the amount of the grant with money raised from nonstate sources, and would limit the amount of in-kind match to no more than 25% of the match amount.

Status: Introduced

Washington, D.C.

[B. 26-0472](#)—Vacant Space Art Activation Program Act

Summary: This bill would activate chronically vacant retail space by incentivizing short-term, rent-free leases with arts and cultural organizations. In exchange, the property owner would be exempt from property taxes for the space that is leased for the duration of the agreement.

Status: Introduced

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 2025, NASAA tracked over 20 states and jurisdictions that introduced event ticket legislation, approaching 40 individual proposed bills in total. However, [only one of these tracked bills was enacted](#). In the coming years it is expected that event ticket and venue legislation will continue to increase. For more information, contact [NASAA](#).

Arts Education

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 introduced legislation in 2025 regarding grant funds and arts education requirements. However, one state introduced legislation that removes arts education requirements, and another enacted legislation that removes provisions in the state code related to arts education. Three states introduced legislation affecting state arts schools.

Indiana

[H.B. 1002](#)—State Education Requirements

Summary: Among other sweeping changes to Indiana's education statutes, this new law removes an arts education program that encouraged the delivery of comprehensive arts education by local school districts. It also delegeslates the Indiana School for the Arts. (A directive that public school curricula must include the fine arts is retained.)

Status: Enacted

Maine

[L.D. 1740](#)—Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Education Matching Grant Program

Summary: This bill would establish the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Education Matching Grant Program within the Maine Department of Education to provide grant funding to schools, museums and other entities to support programs that offer hands-on learning experiences in these disciplines for K-12 students in the state.

Status: Introduced

Massachusetts

[H. 4297](#)—Arts Education Funds

Summary: This bill would mandate that one percent of K-12 public education funds be used for new arts education programs.

Status: Introduced

Minnesota

[H.F. 3312](#)—Perpich Center for Arts Education Elimination and Replacement

Summary: This bill would abolish the Perpich Center for Arts Education, a state agency dedicated to supporting arts education across Minnesota, and replace it with the Lola and Rudy Perpich Arts Education Division. The Perpich Center is one of the few state agencies dedicated specifically to arts education, and this legislation proposes restructuring the center and placing it in the Department of Education.

Status: Introduced

Nevada

[S.B. 400](#)—Arts Education Certifications

Summary: This bill establishes specific requirements to teach music and art, detailing qualifications needed to teach these subjects at various school sizes and locations.

Status: Enacted

New Hampshire

[H.B. 283](#)—Adequate Education Criteria

Summary: This bill would remove arts education from the list of subjects that comprise an adequate education in the state.

Status: Introduced

New Jersey

[A. 6043](#)—Performing Arts Education Improvement Grant

Summary: This bill would require the commissioner of education to develop and administer a four-year Performing Arts Education Improvement Grant Program. Grants would be awarded to school districts to bolster educational programming and academic enrichment opportunities in the performing arts. The commissioner would be required to consult with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts regarding the design and administration of the grant program.

Status: Introduced

New York

[A. 06473](#) and [S. 01378](#)—Museum and Cultural Organization Education Grant Program

Summary: This bill would mandate that the commissioner of education develop a Museum and Cultural Organization Education Grant Program, in consultation with representatives from the museum and cultural institution community. This program aims to improve education programs in museums and improve student performance in public schools. These grants would serve under-resourced communities and expand educational services to include museum collections, scholarship and virtual learning.

Status: Introduced

New York

[S. 05154](#)—Arts Education Fund

Summary: This bill would impose a special tax of 3/10 of 1% or \$1.00, whichever is greater, on receipts from the sale of art, antique furniture or antique jewelry at auction. The revenue would be distributed to an arts education fund, allocated to the New York State Council on the Arts to provide assistance for arts education and art supplies at K-12 levels at Title I public schools.

Status: Introduced

New York

[S. 08255](#)—Music Grant Fund

Summary: This bill would rename the Musical Instrument Revolving Fund as the Music Grant Fund. The Music Grant Fund, when allocated to the New York State Council on the Arts, would provide grants to not-for-profit symphony orchestras and/or other not-for-profit musical entities that are

incorporated in the state and that are organized for the purpose of presenting performing arts and education in the performing arts for the benefit of the public. The Musical Instrument Revolving Fund instead focuses more on providing assistance for the lease and purchase of musical instruments and other related property and equipment for nonprofit symphonies.

Status: Introduced

North Carolina

[H. 418](#)—K-5 Performing and Visual Arts Requirement

Summary: This bill would establish a performing and visual arts requirement for elementary education.

Status: Introduced

Oklahoma

[H.B. 1521](#)—Subject-Matter Standards

Summary: Among other provisions, this bill would establish arts education requirements for students who receive alternate diplomas.

Status: Introduced

Oklahoma

[S.B. 18](#)—Repeal of the Oklahoma School for the Visual and Performing Arts

Summary: This bill would repeal the Oklahoma School for the Visual and Performing Arts. The chair of the Oklahoma Arts Council is a member of the school's board.

Status: Introduced

Texas

[H.B. 172](#) and [S.B. 549](#)—Fine Arts Curriculum and Allotment

Summary: This bill would require a student in full-time attendance to receive no less than 225 minutes of fine arts instruction per week, and would make certain appropriations for fine arts education.

Status: Introduced

Washington, D.C.

[B. 26-0137](#)—Strengthening Arts in Schools Amendment Act of 2025

Summary: This bill would establish an arts liaison to provide recommendations to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education regarding the development of updated state level arts standards. The nomination process is not mentioned.

Status: Introduced

Specific State Arts Agency Policy Directives

State legislatures have the authority to enact arts focused policy directives and task state agencies with implementing them. In 2025, seven states and jurisdictions introduced legislation amending—or implicating—grant-making stipulations, four of which were enacted. Other legislation

considered different laureate positions and commissions, including a state bicentennial commission that was enacted and a state song commission that was introduced. One state enacted legislation to require the SAA to study federal efforts to protect artists from artificial intelligence copyright infringement. Another state established a fund to support municipal and nonprofit arts attractions, lifelong arts learning, community arts development, rural arts development, film, and the fulfillment of the SAA's strategic plan.

Florida

[H.B. 1011](#) and [S.B. 1524](#)—Grant Requirements

Summary: This bill would make several amendments to arts and culture grant requirements and would stipulate that grants should not fund programs that are deemed harmful to minors, as defined in the bill. This bill would also make a number of revisions to the duties and composition of the Council on Arts and Culture.

Status: Introduced

Hawai'i

[H.R. 158](#) and [H.C.R. 163](#)—Celebrating Pacific Island Culture and Arts

Summary: This resolution urges the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, in consultation with other agencies, to establish an annual festival in Hawai'i that celebrates the culture and arts of the Pacific region.

Status: Passed

Iowa

[H.F. 975](#), [S.S.B. 1106](#) and [H.S.B. 221](#)—Economic Development Authority Amendments

Summary: This bill removes the Iowa Cultural Trust and establishes the Arts and Culture Enhancement fund, appropriating \$520,000 per annum into the account. Funds shall be used to support municipal and nonprofit arts attractions, lifelong arts learning, community arts development, rural arts development, film, and the fulfillment of the Iowa Arts Council's strategic plan. This legislation also removes stipulations requiring funds to be used for support grants and community cultural grants and sunsets the Iowa Great Places program.

Status: Enacted

Maine

[L.D. 109](#)—AI Copyright Protection Study

Summary: This bill requires the Maine Arts Commission to study federal and national efforts to protect artists from copyright infringement by businesses and others promoting, creating,

Artificial Intelligence Legislation

In 2025, all U.S. states and jurisdictions introduced AI related legislation, with 28 states and the Virgin Islands enacting over 75 new measures. While only one AI related bill specifically implicated a state arts agency, NASAA continues to track AI related legislation and its impacts on the arts and culture sector. For more information on AI policy, watch the NASAA Learning Series webinar, [The AI State Policy Landscape and Implications for State Arts Agencies](#). For a comprehensive database of AI related legislation, visit the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#).

disseminating or using artificial intelligence software applications, and to study federal and national efforts to monitor the educational use of copyrighted work. In addition to the \$25,000 appropriated for the study, the Arts Commission may accept grants, private contributions and any additional outside funding for the study.

Status: Enacted

Massachusetts

[H. 3590](#) and [H. 3593](#)—Poet Laureate Position

Summary: This bill would establish the poet laureate for the commonwealth of Massachusetts. The bill would stipulate a stipend provided by the Massachusetts Center for the Book. Note: Prior to this bill, Massachusetts established a poet laureate position by [executive order](#); the order requires Mass Cultural Council to administer the position's application and requires the agency's executive director to chair the nominating committee.

Status: Introduced

Massachusetts

[S. 2741](#)—Choreographer Laureate

Summary: This bill would establish the position of choreographer laureate of the commonwealth. The Mass Cultural Council executive director would serve on the nominating committee.

Status: Introduced

Nevada

[S.B. 78](#)—Commission for Cultural and Historic Preservation

Summary: Among other provisions, this bill would establish the Commission for Cultural and Historic Preservation, of which the Nevada Arts Council chair would be a part.

Status: Introduced

New York

[A. 00769](#)—Reporting Requirements for Certain State Funds

Summary: This bill would require the New York State Council on the Arts to provide a written report to the state regarding how funds were utilized during the preceding calendar year and, to the extent possible, to ensure all funds were spent.

Status: Introduced

New York

[A. 02607](#) and [S. 00115](#)—Increasing Access to Resources for Culturally Diverse Arts and Culture Organizations

Summary: This bill would direct the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to engage and support culturally diverse nonprofit arts and culture organizations and organizations that advocate for access, diversity, equity, inclusion, and racial and social justice. It would stipulate that due consideration be given to these organizations when awarding grants. NYSCA would be directed to take such steps as may be necessary and appropriate to encourage public interest in cultural heritage, preservation and development.

Status: Introduced

New York

[A. 04519](#) and [S. 03747](#)—NYC Museum Access Study

Summary: This bill would direct the Department of Economic Development, in conjunction with various departments and offices, including the New York State Council on the Arts, to conduct a study regarding increasing public access to museums in New York City. It would require a report within one year of the effective date.

Status: Introduced

New York

[A. 07033](#) and [S. 06487](#)—Little Yemen Cultural District; [A. 08904](#)—Little Panama Cultural District; [S. 07152](#)—Harlem Renaissance Cultural District

Summary: This bill would empower the New York State Council on the Arts to designate Little Yemen, Little Panama and the Harlem Renaissance Cultural District as cultural districts in New York City.

Status: Introduced

Pennsylvania

[H.B. 428](#)—Pennsylvania Artist Fellowship Grants

Summary: This bill would establish the Pennsylvania Artist Fellowship Grant program within Pennsylvania Creative Industries (PCI). PCI would be appropriated \$2.5 million for the award of grants and \$250,000 for administrative costs associated with the implementation and administration of the program.

Status: Introduced

Pennsylvania

[H.B. 1046](#)—Pennsylvania Poet Laureate

Summary: This bill would establish the Pennsylvania poet laureate and Pennsylvania Poet Laureate Nomination Committee. The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts chair or designee would sit on the committee.

Status: Introduced

Pennsylvania

[H.R. 25](#)—State Song Commission

Summary: This resolution would establish the Pennsylvania State Song Commission to study the history of the state song of the commonwealth, solicit submissions for a new state song and recommend changes to the state song. Pennsylvania Creative Industries would be represented on the commission.

Status: Introduced

Texas

[S.B. 1350](#)—Texas Bicentennial Commission

Summary: This bill details certain stipulations related to the Texas 2036 Bicentennial Commission. The chair of the Texas Commission on the Arts will sit on the Bicentennial Commission, which will

coordinate cultural and heritage programming around the 200th anniversary of Texas independence.

Status: Enacted

Texas

[H.B. 5500](#)—Texas Commission on the Arts Statutes

Summary: This bill would remove requirements related to race, ethnicity and culture from the statutes in the government code regarding the selection of contractors and the distribution of grants.

Status: Introduced

Utah

[S.B. 0161](#)—Cultural and Community Engagement Amendments

Summary: This bill requires the Utah Division of Arts and Museums to administer grant programs to cultural organizations associated with higher education institutions. It also requires the governor to give due consideration to organizational size when appointing members to the Utah Arts and Museums Advisory Board.

Status: Enacted

Washington

[H.B. 1841](#) and [S.B. 5759](#)—Own Your Own Art Program

Summary: Modeled after a similar program in Tasmania, this bill would establish the Own Your Own Art Purchase Program. The program would provide affordable financing through interest-free or low-interest loans to purchase art created by Washington artists or Washington based Indigenous artists. The Washington State Arts Commission would finance and administer the program through fundraising.

Status: Introduced

Washington

[H.B. 1938](#)—Washington Flag Redesign Committee

Summary: This bill would create Washington State Flag Redesign Committee to develop a new state flag design. ArtsWA is represented on the committee.

Status: Introduced

Art Therapy Licensure

As states continue to recognize the importance of the arts for [strengthening health](#), state licensure for art therapists, and the legislation codifying it, is growing. Art therapy is currently a regulated mental health profession in 15 states and the District of Columbia, and art therapists hold professional art therapy licenses in 11 states and jurisdictions. In 2025, NASAA tracked two additional states ([Texas](#) and [Minnesota](#)) that introduced legislation to set professional standards for practicing art therapy in the state, including relating to licensure. For more information on art therapy state licensure requirements, visit the [Art Therapy Credentials Board](#). For more information on art therapy legislation, visit the [American Art Therapy Association](#).

Washington, D.C.

[B. 26-0130](#)—Stability and Equity in Arts Grantmaking Amendment Act

Summary: This bill would establish that operating support award amounts are proportionally tied to organizational expenses. The bill states that since larger, more well-funded organizations have an outside share of expenses as compared to smaller organizations, the legislation places a cap on the maximum award amounts, regardless of an organization's proportional share. Moreover, the bill places a floor on grant awards for organizations to ensure adequate funding to support small and midsize organizations.

Status: Introduced

Miscellaneous

Three pieces of legislation did not fit in the categories detailed above. Nevertheless, these bills are noteworthy for state arts agencies and the arts and culture sector.

Montana

[S.B. 437](#)—Definition of *Sex* and *Gender*

Summary: This bill revises the definitions of *sex* and *gender* within state statute. It revises multiple sections of state code—including the state arts agency's antidiscrimination clause—to reference the new definition.

Status: Enacted

New York

[A. 06234](#), [A. 06295](#) and [A. 06309](#); see also [A. 06296](#)—Arts, Cultural Affairs and Parks Regions

Summary: These bills would establish arts, cultural affairs and parks regions in the state. Each region would establish a council to issue competitive accessibility and sustainability grants within the region. A. 06296 would also establish such regions, as well as establishing grants for capital projects.

Status: Introduced

Washington

[S.B. 5814](#)—Sales Tax Modifications for Arts and Culture organizations

Summary: This bill expands Washington's retail sales tax to include new types of services, some of which directly affect arts and cultural organizations. Per the bill, certain educational activities offered by nonprofits are now considered retail sales, such as workshops, training programs and seminars.

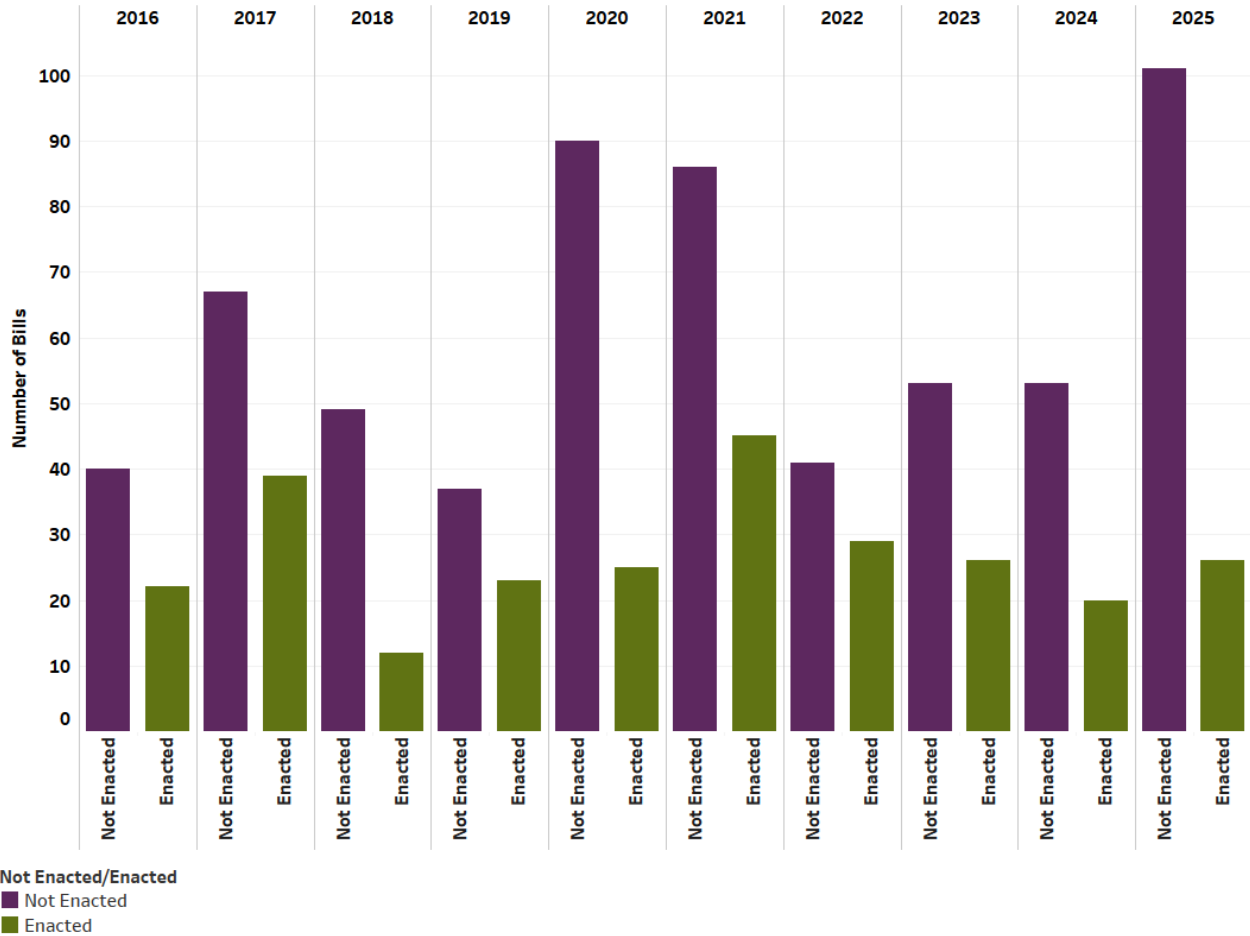
Status: Enacted

Recent Trends in State Legislation

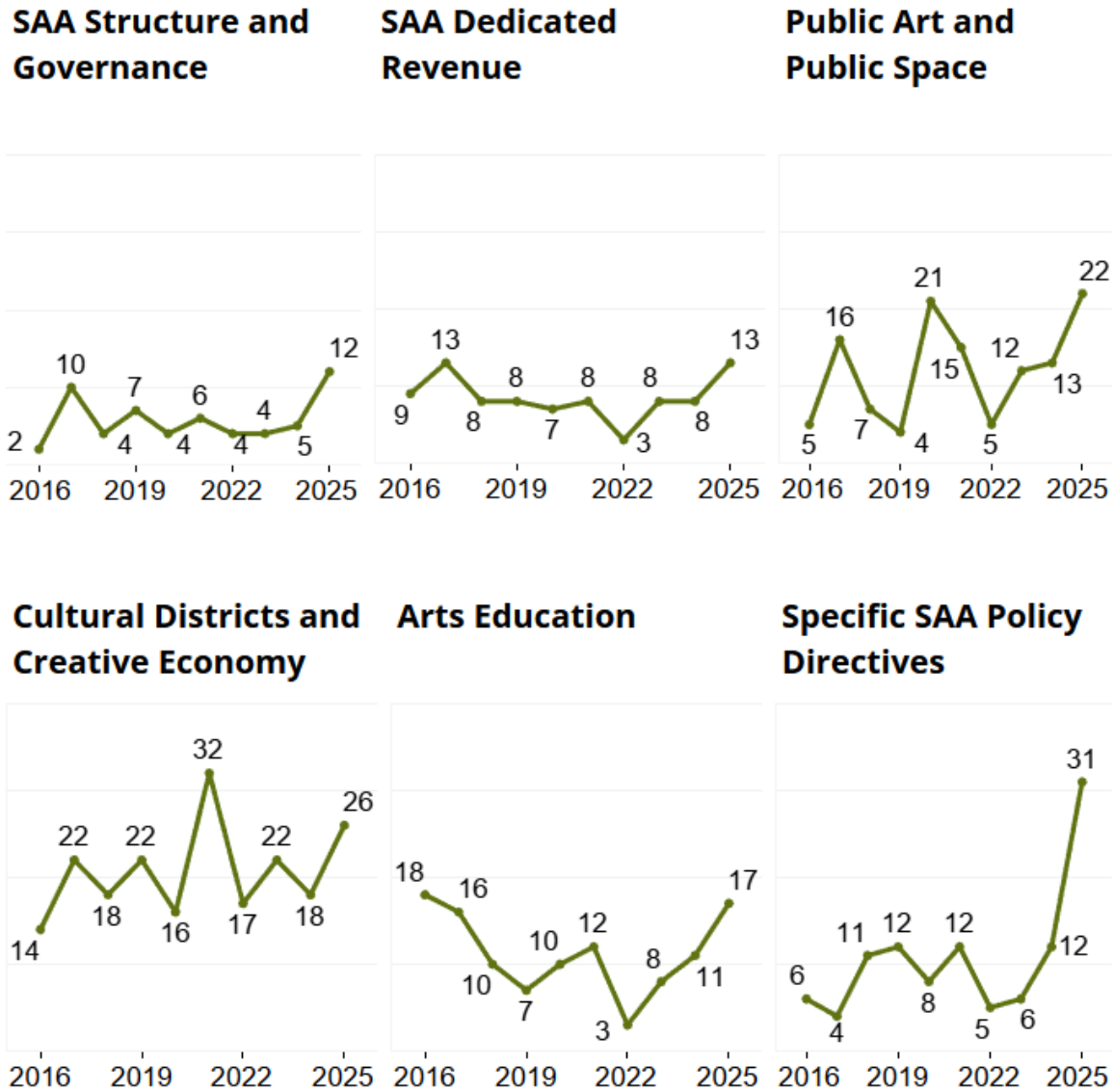
To provide a longitudinal analysis of state legislative action relative to the arts, data from the 2025 State Legislative Roundup and the nine previous editions of NASAA's annual summary of state arts related legislation are visualized below. This analysis is a useful tool for recognizing trends and tracking the history of cultural policy throughout the country.

Number of Bills Featured in the State Legislative Roundup, by Year (2016-2025)

Not Enacted/Enacted

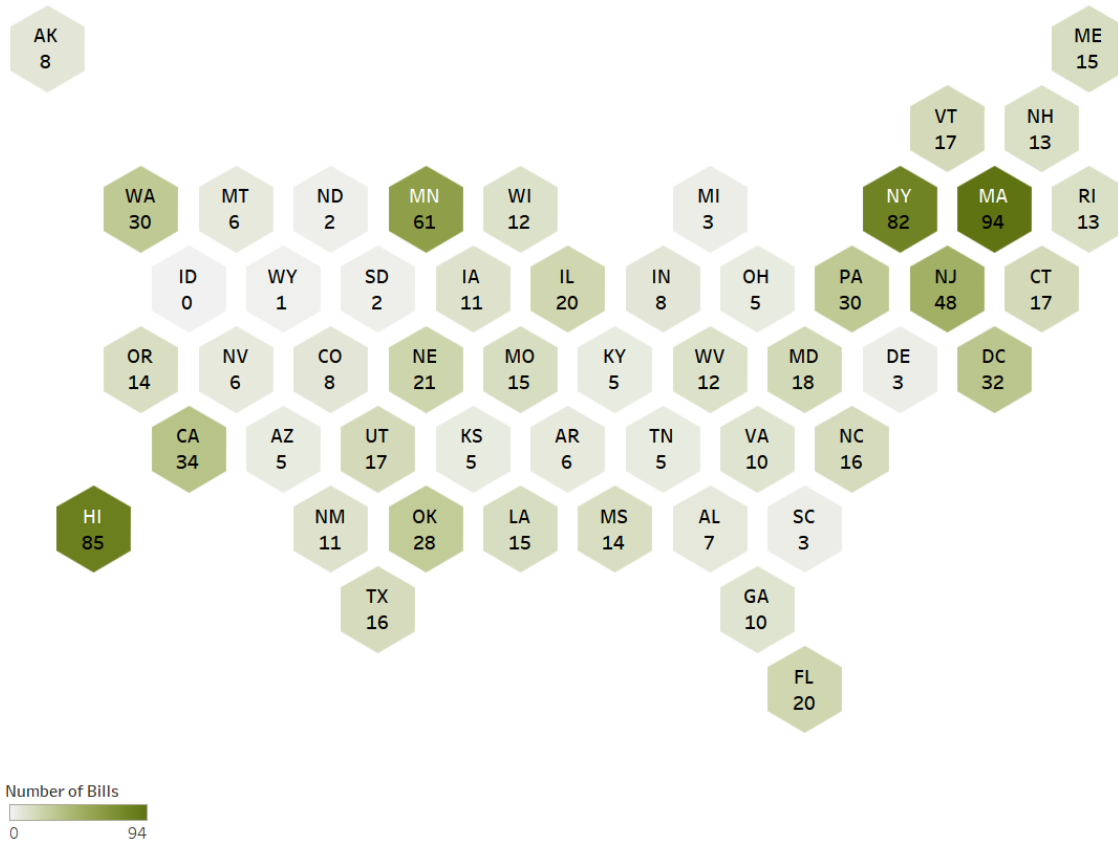


Number of Bills Summarized in the State Legislative Roundup, by Category (2015-2025)



The chart above reflects the standardized bill categories NASAA has used since 2017 to track legislation. NASAA has amended some of the categories since it first published the Legislative Roundup in 2015. To enable a longitudinal comparison of 11 years of state legislative research, NASAA recategorized some bills from the 2016 and 2015 roundup reports. 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, and was renamed Specific SAA Policy Directives in 2026.

Number of Bills Highlighted in the State Legislative Roundup, by State (2015-2025)



Glossary

Typically, the basic life cycle of a state bill is as follows:

1. A bill is introduced.
2. The bill is assigned to a committee. The committee votes to kill the bill (i.e., the bill dies in committee) or votes to send it to the full chamber of the state legislature for a debate and vote.
3. Legislators debate the bill and vote.
4. If the bill is approved, it then goes to the other chamber, where the process is repeated.
5. If the bill is amended during consideration by the other chamber, it goes to a conference committee to resolve the differences between the two chambers' versions.
6. The bill is sent to the governor, who either signs or vetoes the bill. If the governor signs the bill, it becomes law. If the governor vetoes the bill, the legislators may sustain or override the veto.

There are of course exceptions and variations, but most states follow this general process. To simplify this process, NASAA uses the following terms to reflect the status of a bill:

Enacted: A bill is enacted when it has been signed by the governor and has become law.

Failed: A bill fails when it is voted on and rejected.

Introduced: A bill is introduced when it has been formally presented in least one chamber of the state legislature. For this report, NASAA classifies all bills that were not enacted or did not fail as introduced.

Passed: Since resolutions (see below) typically do not require the governor's signature, they are passed rather than enacted. NASAA notes resolutions that were passed when appropriate.

Resolution: A resolution is a mechanism for legislative expression that is typically nonbinding. Examples often include establishing task forces or making a statement on a public issue.

For More Information

For more information, contact NASAA Qualitative Research Manager [Shaun Harrison](#), who authored this report in March 2026.

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.



NASAA's work is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

© 2026 National Assembly of State Arts Agencies



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](#).



www.nasaa-arts.org