



TO: Cultural Education Committee

FROM: Jeffrey Cannell

SUBJECT: Museum Education Act

DATE: April 6, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Action

Does the Board of Regents approve endorsing the Museum Education Act as a Regents Legislative Priority?

Reason(s) for Consideration

For Action. Education Law Section 214 establishes museums as education institutions in the University of the State of New York. The Museum Association of New York has proposed legislation that will provide funding for education programs in museums across the state.

Background Information

The Museum Education Act is a new bill proposed by the Museum Association of New York. The proposed Museum Education Act launches a major partnership between eligible museums, historical societies, zoos, botanical gardens and aquariums and schools, bringing the resources and expertise of New York museum community fully in line with statewide efforts to improve student performance and access to knowledge. It recognizes that museums and other eligible institutions are centers of learning and allows access to much-needed-funding at a time when many of our museums and eligible institutions are struggling to keep their doors open and our schools are struggling to find the funding to transport students to these world-class destination sites. Museums and other eligible institutions would have access to grant funding to conduct curriculum-based educational programs for students and teachers in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve and adults enrolled in continuing education programs.

Recommendation

The Board of Regents should endorse the Museum Education Act as a Regents Legislative Priority.

DRAFT

AN ACT to amend the arts and cultural affairs law in relation to providing educational services aid to eligible museums, historical societies and other cultural institutions to provide funds for institutions that conduct curriculum-based educational programs for students and teachers in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve and adults enrolled in continuing education programs.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Statement of legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds and declares that New York has the greatest museums, historical societies, zoos, botanical gardens and aquariums and cultural arts institutions in the United States, with a wealth of ways to engage children and adults and instill in them a lasting love of learning.

The legislature finds and declares that museums, historical societies, zoos, botanical gardens and aquariums and cultural arts institutions provide vitally important instructional services to the school children of New York State, and that children, in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve and adults enrolled in continuing education programs should have broad and equal access to such services.

The legislature finds that over 1,300 hundred museums, historical societies, zoos, botanical gardens and aquariums and cultural arts institutions in New York State now provide instruction to over six million children, and that these institutions now receive no direct state support to initiate, expand and enhance these educational services through access to museum collections, scholarship and virtual learning,

The legislature finds that museums, historical societies, zoos, botanical gardens and aquariums and cultural arts institutions and collaborating with teachers and schools must design new and innovative museum programs to address such pressing issues as science, anthropology, history and arts literacy and under-resourced schools.

It is the intent of the legislature that New York State provide financial assistance to museums, zoos, botanical gardens and aquariums and other cultural institutions so that they can extend their uniquely valuable educational resources to the children and lifelong learners of the state.

§ 2. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "museum education act".

§ 3. Section 57 of the arts and cultural affairs law law is amended by adding a new sub-section 12 to read as follows: §57.12. Education Grants for Museums. The commissioner shall develop, with consultation and input from representatives from the museum and cultural institution community, and implement a museum education grant program, and shall award, within the amounts appropriated from the general fund for such purpose, competitive grants in accordance with this section for establishing or improving museum education programs in museums designed to improve student performance in public and nonpublic elementary, middle and secondary schools. Such grants will support the production of curricula, acquisition of specialized educational or interpretive skills, acquisition and implementation of technology, preparation of specialized exhibition or public programs that are tailored to elementary, middle and secondary school students, development and delivery of continuing education programs, provision of student transportation and other programs that support the development and delivery of curriculum-based programs in museums with collections.

1. Definitions. As used in this sub-section section.

a. “Eligible institutions” shall mean: (1) nonprofit institutions chartered by the Board of Regents or otherwise incorporated as museums, historical societies, nature centers, zoos, botanic gardens, arboretums and aquariums or operated privately or by municipal or county governments that meet applicable registration standards established by the Board of Regents for museums or historical societies with collections;

(2) private not-for-profit community based organizations including incorporated institutions whose sole or primary purpose is the support of museums, historic sites or historical societies; except that institutions operated by state or federal government agencies shall not be considered eligible under this section.

b. Application process. The governing body or officer of an eligible institution requesting a grant pursuant to this section shall submit an application at such time, in such form, and containing such information, as the commissioner may require. The commissioner shall establish

the criteria and standards by which applications for grants to be awarded pursuant to this section will be evaluated and grants made to eligible institutions. The commissioner is authorized to promulgate regulations for the development and submission of applications for cooperative or collaborative grants, provided a single institution serve as the applicant for such grants and for multi-year grants.

c. Amount of grants. The commissioner shall award grants in an amount not to exceed the allowable costs of the eligible institution as determined by the commissioner, provided that the allowable costs for museum education grants shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars per year for a maximum of three years. Allowable costs shall include, but need not be limited to, the reasonable cost of salaries and fringe benefits, materials and equipment. The commissioner will allocate a minimum of twenty-five percent of the amount appropriated for these grants to award to institutions with an operating budget of between \$10,000 and \$150,000 dollars per year. The commissioner will allocate a minimum of twenty-five percent of the amount appropriated for these grants to award to institutions with an operating budget of between \$151,000 and \$500,000 dollars per year. The commissioner will allocate a minimum of twenty-five percent of the amount appropriated for these grants to award to institutions with an operating budget of between \$500,001 and \$1 million dollars per year. The commissioner will allocate a minimum of twenty-five percent of the amount appropriated for these grants to award to institutions with an operating budget over 1 million dollars per year.

d. Annual Report. On or before March fifteenth two thousand seventeen and by March first of each year thereafter, the commissioner shall submit to the chairs of the senate finance and the assembly ways and means committees, and the director of the budget, a report detailing the implementation of this program, the extent of participation by eligible institutions and schools, the relationship of the programs provided to the school curriculum, and the geographic dispersion of funds and participating institutions.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately